

INDUSTRIAL TESTING LABORATORY

Rules Regarding Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles
(FMVSS 108 and CMVSS 108)**49 CFR 571.3**

Motorcycle means a motor vehicle with motive power having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

Motor-driven cycle means a motorcycle with a motor that produces 5-brake horsepower or less.

49 CFR 571.108 (FMVSS 108)

S5.1.1.7 A motorcycle turn signal lamp need meet only one-half of the minimum photometric values specified in Table 1 and Table 3 of SAE J588 NOV84 Turn Signal Lamps.

S5.1.1.21 A motor-driven cycle whose speed attainable in 1 mile is 30 mph or less need not be equipped with turn signal lamps. (*not true for Canada*)

S5.1.1.22 A motor-driven cycle whose speed attainable in 1 mile is 30 mph or less may be equipped with a stop lamp whose effective projected luminous lens area is not less than 3 1/2 square inches and whose photometric output for the groups of test points specified in Figure 1 is at least one-half of the minimum values set forth in that figure.

S5.1.1.25 Each turn signal lamp on a motorcycle manufactured on and after January 1, 1973, shall have an effective projected luminous area of not less than 3 1/2 square inches.

S7.9 Motorcycles. Each motorcycle shall be equipped with a headlighting system designed to conform to the following requirements.

S7.9.1 A motorcycle manufactured before September 1, 2000, may be equipped with--

(a) A headlighting system designed to conform to SAE Standard J584 Motorcycle Headlamps April 1964, or to SAE Standard J584 April 1964 with the photometric specifications of Figure 32 and the upper beam aimability specifications of paragraph S7.9.3; or

(b) One half of any headlighting system specified in S7.1 through S7.6 which provides both a full upper beam and full lower beam. Where more than one lamp must be used, the lamps shall be mounted vertically, with the lower beam as high as practicable.

Rules Regarding Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles

S7.9.2 A motorcycle manufactured on or after September 1, 2000, shall be equipped with--

(a) A headlighting system designed to conform to SAE Standard J584 Motorcycle Headlamps April 1964 with the photometric specifications of Figure 32 and the upper beam aimability specifications of paragraph S7.9.3; or

(b) A headlighting system that conforms to S7.9.1(b).

S7.9.3 The upper beam of a multiple beam headlamp designed to conform to the photometric requirements of Figure 32 shall be aimed photoelectrically during the photometric test in the manner prescribed in SAE Standard J584 OCT93 Motorcycle Headlamps.

S7.9.4 Motorcycle headlamp modulation system.

S7.9.4.1 A headlamp on a motorcycle may be wired to modulate either the upper beam or the lower beam from its maximum intensity to a lesser intensity, provided that:

(a) The rate of modulation shall be 240 [plusmn]40 cycles per minute.

(b) The headlamp shall be operated at maximum power for 50 to 70 percent of each cycle.

(c) The lowest intensity at any test point shall be not less than 17 percent of the maximum intensity measured at the same point.

(d) The modulator switch shall be wired in the power lead of the beam filament being modulated and not in the ground side of the circuit.

(e) Means shall be provided so that both the lower beam and upper beam remain operable in the event of a modulator failure.

(f) The system shall include a sensor mounted with the axis of its sensing element perpendicular to a horizontal plane. Headlamp modulation shall cease whenever the level of light emitted by a tungsten filament light operating at 3000[deg] Kelvin is either less than 270 lux (25 foot-candles) of direct light for upward pointing sensors or less than 60 lux (5.6 foot-candles) of reflected light for downward pointing sensors. The light is measured by a silicon cell type light meter that is located at the sensor and pointing in the same direction as the sensor. A Kodak Gray Card (Kodak R-27) is placed at ground level to simulate the road surface in testing downward pointing sensors.

(g) When tested in accordance with the test profile shown in Figure 9, the voltage drop across the modulator when the lamp is on at all test conditions for 12 volt systems and 6 volt systems shall not be greater than .45 volt. The modulator shall meet all the provisions of the standard after completion of the test profile shown in Figure 9.

(h) Means shall be provided so that both the lower and upper beam function at design voltage when the headlamp control switch is in either the lower or upper beam position when the modulator is off.

S7.9.4.2(a) Each motorcycle headlamp modulator not intended as original equipment, or its container, shall be labeled with the maximum wattage, and the minimum wattage appropriate for its use. Additionally, each such modulator shall comply with S7.9.4.1 (a) through (g) when connected to a headlamp of the maximum rated power and a headlamp of the minimum rated power, and shall provide means so that the modulated beam functions at design voltage when the modulator is off.

Rules Regarding Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles

(b) Instructions, with a diagram, shall be provided for mounting the light sensor including location on the motorcycle, distance above the road surface, and orientation with respect to the light.

S7.9.5 Each replaceable bulb headlamp that is designed to meet the photometric requirements of paragraph S7.9.1(a) or paragraph S7.9.2(a) and that is equipped with a light source other than a replaceable light source meeting the requirements of paragraph S7.7, shall have the word ``motorcycle'' permanently marked on the lens in characters not less than 0.114 in. (3 mm) in height.

S7.9.6 A headlamp system shall be installed on a motorcycle in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph.

S7.9.6.1 The headlamp system shall be located on the front of the motorcycle.

S7.9.6.2 (a) If the system consists of a single headlamp, it shall be mounted on the vertical centerline of the motorcycle. If the headlamp contains more than one light source, each light source shall be mounted on the vertical centerline with the upper beam no higher than the lower beam, or horizontally disposed about the vertical centerline and mounted at the same height. If the light sources are horizontally disposed about the vertical centerline, the distance between the closest edges of the effective projected luminous lens area in front of the light sources shall not be greater than 200 mm (8 in.).

(b) If the system consists of two headlamps, each of which provides both an upper and lower beam, the headlamps shall be mounted either at the same height and symmetrically disposed about the vertical centerline or mounted on the vertical centerline. If the headlamps are horizontally disposed about the vertical centerline, the distance between the closest edges of their effective projected luminous lens areas shall not be greater than 200 mm (8 in.).

(c) If the system consists of two headlamps, one of which provides an upper beam and one of which provides the lower beam, the headlamps shall be located on the vertical centerline with the upper beam no higher than the lower beam, or horizontally disposed about the vertical centerline and mounted at the same height. If the headlamps are horizontally disposed about the vertical centerline, the distance between the closest edges of their effective projected luminous lens areas shall not be greater than 200 mm (8 in.).

Rules Regarding Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles

Minimum Projected Lens Area Requirements FMVSS 108 S5.3.1.1 - Requires SAE Visibility					
Vehicle	Function	# Cavities or Lamps	HV - in ² (cm ²)	45° L/R - in ² (cm ²)	Section
Motor-Driven Cycle Max ≤30 mph	I	Not Required		-	S5.1.1.21
	S	1	3.5 (22.6)	-	S5.1.1.22
	T	1	-	2 (12.5)	SAE J585e
Motorcycle or Motor-Driven Cycle Max >30 mph	I	1	3.5 (22.6)	-	S5.1.1.25
	S	1	7.8 (50)	-	S5.1.1.26(a)
			5.8 (37.5)	2 (12.5)	SAE J586 FEB84
		2 or more	3.4 ea / sum 7.8 (22 ea / sum 50)	-	S5.1.1.26(b)
			3.4 ea / sum 5.8 (22 ea / sum 37.5)	2 (12.5)	SAE J586 FEB84
	T	1	-	2 (12.5)	SAE J585e

Rules Regarding Motorcycles and Motor Driven Cycles

The following pages are taken from FMVSS 108 Version October 1, 2003

FIGURE 32—MOTORCYCLE AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLE HEADLAMP PHOTOMETRIC REQUIREMENTS
Luminous Intensity (Candela)

Test Points (deg.) Up / Down Left / Right		Motorcycle	Motor-Driven Cycle	Motor-Driven Cycle with Single Lamp System
Lower Beam				
1.5U	1R to R	1400-MAX	1400-MAX	
1.5U	1R to 3R			1400-MAX.
1U	1.5L to L	700-MAX	700-MAX	700-MAX.
0.5U	1.5L to L	1000-MAX	1000-MAX	1000-MAX.
0.5U	1R to 3R	2700-MAX	2700-MAX	2700-MAX.
1.5D	9L and 9R	700-MIN		
2D	0.0R	7000-MIN	5000-MIN	4000-MIN.
2D	3L and 3R	4000-MIN	3000-MIN	3000-MIN.
2D	6L and 6R	1500-MIN	1500-MIN	1500-MIN.
2D	12L and 12R	700-MIN		
3D	6L and 6R	800-MIN	800-MIN	
4D	0.0R	2000-MIN	2000-MIN	1000-MIN.
4D	4R	12500-MAX	12500-MAX	12500-MAX.
Upper Beam				
2U	0.0R	1000-MIN		
1U	3L and 3R	2000-MIN	2000-MIN.	
0.0U	0.0R	12500-MIN	10000-MIN.	
0.5D	0.0R	20000-MIN	20000-MIN.	
0.5D	3L and 3R	10000-MIN	5000-MIN.	
0.5D	6L and 6R	3300-MIN	2000-MIN.	
0.5D	9L and 9R	1500-MIN		
0.5D	12L and 12R	800-MIN		
1D	0.0R	17500-MIN	15000-MIN.	
2D	0.0R	5000-MIN	5000-MIN.	
3D	0.0R	2500-MIN	2500-MIN.	
3D	6L and 6R		800-MIN.	
3D	9L and 9R	1500-MIN		
3D	12L and 12R	300-MIN		
4D	0.0R	1500-MIN		
4D	0.0R	7500-MAX	7500-MAX.	
ANYWHERE	ANYWHERE	75000-MAX	75000-MAX.	

TABLE III—REQUIRED MOTOR VEHICLE LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

[All Passenger Cars and Motorcycles, and Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles, Trucks, Buses and Trailers of Less Than 80 (2032) Inches (mm) Overall Width]

Item	Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses	Trailers	Motorcycles	Applicable SAE standard or recommended practice (See S5 for subreferenced SAE materials)
Headlamps	See S7	None	See S7.9	J566 January 1960.
Taillamps	2 red	2 red	1 red	J585e, September 1977.
Stoplamps	2 red	2 red	1 red	SAE J586, February 1984.
High-mounted stoplamp.	1 red	Not required	Not required	J186a, September 1977.
License plate lamp.	1 white	1 white	1 white	J587, October 1981.
Parking lamps	2 amber or white	None	None	J222, December 1970.
Reflex reflectors ..	4 red; 2 amber	4 red; 2 amber	3 red; 2 amber	J594f, January 1977.
Intermediate side reflex reflectors.	2 amber	2 amber	None	J594f, January 1977.
Intermediate side marker lamps.	2 amber	2 amber	None	J592e, July 1972.
Side marker lamps.	2 red; 2 amber	2 red; 2 amber	None	J592e, July 1972.
Backup lamp	1 white	None	None	J593c, February 1968.
Turn signal lamps	2 red or amber; 2 amber	2 red or amber	2 amber; 2 red or amber.	SAE J588, November 1984.
Turn signal operating unit. ^{3&4}	1	None	1	J589, April 1964.
Turn signal flasher	1	None	1	J590b, October 1965.
Vehicular hazard warning signal operating unit.	1	None	None	J910, January 1966.
Vehicular hazard warning signal flasher.	1	None	None	J945, February 1966.

TABLE IV—LOCATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

[All Passenger Cars and Motorcycles, and Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles, Trucks, Trailers, and Buses of Less than 80 (2032) Inches (MM) Overall Width]

Item	Location on—		Height above road surface measured from center of item on vehicle at curb weight
	Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, trailers, and buses	Motorcycles	
Headlamps	On the front, each headlamp providing the lower beam, at the same height, 1 on each side of the vertical centerline, each headlamp providing the upper beam, at the same height, 1 on each side of the vertical centerline, as far apart as practicable. See also S7.	See S7.9	Not less than 22 inches (55.9 cm) nor more than 54 inches (137.2 cm).
Taillamps	On the rear—1 on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable.	On the rear—on the vertical centerline except that if two are used, they shall be symmetrically disposed about the vertical centerline.	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 72 inches.
Stoplamps	On the rear—1 on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable.	On the rear—on the vertical centerline except that if two are used, they shall be symmetrically disposed about the vertical centerline.	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 72 inches.
High-mounted stoplamp.	On the rear, on the vertical centerline [See S5.1.1.27, S5.3.1.8, and Table III], effective September 1, 1985, for passenger cars only.	Not required	See S5.3.1.8 for passenger cars. Not less than 34 inches for multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses.

TABLE IV—LOCATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT—Continued

[All Passenger Cars and Motorcycles, and Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles, Trucks, Trailers, and Buses of Less than 80 (2032) Inches (MM) Overall Width]

Item	Location on—		Height above road surface measured from center of item on vehicle at curb weight
	Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, trailers, and buses	Motorcycles	
License plate lamp	At rear license plate, to illuminate the plate from the top or sides.	At rear license plate	No requirement.
Parking lamps	On the front—1 on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable.	Not required	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 72 inches.
Reflex reflectors	On the rear—1 red on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable. On each side—1 red as far to the rear as practicable, and 1 amber as far to the front as practicable.	On the rear—1 red on the vertical centerline except that, if two are used on the rear, they shall be symmetrically disposed about the vertical centerline. On each side—1 red as far to the rear as practicable, and 1 amber as far to the front as practicable.	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 60 inches.
Backup lamp	On the rear	Not required	No requirement.
Turn signal lamps	At or near the front—1 amber on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable. On the rear—1 red or amber on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height, and as far apart as practicable.	At or near the front—1 amber on each side of the vertical centerline at the same height, and having a minimum horizontal separation distance (centerline of lamps) of 16 inches. Minimum edge to edge separation distance between lamp and headlamp is 4 inches. At or near the rear—1 red or amber on each side of the vertical centerline, at the same height and having a minimum horizontal separation distance (centerline to centerline of lamps) of 9 inches. Minimum edge to edge separation distance between lamp and tail or stop lamp is 4 inches, when a single stop and taillamp is installed on the vertical centerline and the turn signal lamps are red..	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 83 inches.
Side marker lamps	On each side—1 red as far to the rear as practicable, and 1 amber as far to the front as practicable.	Not required	Not less than 15 inches.
Intermediate side marker lamps.	On each side—1 amber located at or near the midpoint between the front and rear side marker lamps.	Not required	Not less than 15 inches.
Intermediate side marker reflectors.	On each side—1 amber located at or near the midpoint between the front and rear side marker reflectors.	Not required	Not less than 15 inches, nor more than 60 inches.

>NOTE: (1) The term *overall width* refers to the nominal design dimension of the widest part of the vehicle, exclusive of signal lamps, marker lamps, outside rearview mirrors, flexible fender extensions, and mud flaps, determine with doors and windows closed, and the wheels in the straight-ahead position.

This supersedes the interpretation of the term "overall width" appearing in the FEDERAL REGISTER of March 1, 1967 (32 FR 3390).

(2) Paragraph S3.1 and Tables I and III of § 571.108 as amended (32 FR 18033, Dec. 16, 1967), specify that certain lamp assemblies shall conform to applicable SAE Standards. Each of these basically referenced standards subreferences both SAE Standard J575 (tests for motor vehicle lighting devices and components) which in turn references SAE Standard J573 on bulbs, and SAE Standard J567 on bulb sockets.

(3) Paragraph C of SAE Standard J575 states in part: "Where special bulbs are specified, they should be submitted with the devices and the same or similar bulbs used in the tests and operated at their rated mean spherical candlepower." The Administrator has determined that this provision of SAE Standard J575 permits the use of special bulbs, including tubular-type bulbs, which do not conform to the detailed requirements of Table I of SAE Standard J573. It follows that the sockets for special bulbs need not conform to the detailed requirements of SAE Standard J567. These provisions for special bulbs in no way except the lamp assemblies from meeting all performance requirements specified in Federal Standard No. 108, including those specified in the basically referenced SAE Standards, and in the subreferenced SAE Standard J575.

[41 FR 35522, Aug. 23, 1976]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 571.108, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.