

Flashing Amber Lamp Application & Permit Information

The information in the document replaces all previously issued Flashing Amber Lamp Application Permit and Device Information documents. This information is based on the Vehicle Inspection & Standards Policy Directive for Flashing Amber Lamp Permits and is subject to change.

The purpose of this document is to provide clear language information on the flashing amber lamp procedure, permit conditions and vehicle allowances that may be considered by Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement as part of the application.

Persons electing to make application for a flashing amber lamp permit must review this information and ensure that any submitted application is legitimate, that all application requirements are met and all additional information is provided.

Owners of vehicles used primarily for the business of security operations under the Security Services Act, must make application directly to the Security Programs Branch for consideration of vehicle equipment including flashing amber lamps. CVSE will not consider any permit issuance for security vehicles.

Intent of Amber Flashing Lamps

For vehicles that must be located or parked on highway for legitimate purposes with no viable option of moving the vehicle off-highway, the overall intent of supplementary or additional flashing amber lamp devices on a vehicle - outside of existing regulatory allowances - is to identify a **stationary** vehicle that may be a hazard to other road users or pedestrians. There is **NO INTENT EXPRESSED** or **IMPLIED** that a flashing amber lamp provides any measure of safety for workers or persons in proximity to the stationary vehicle.

Vehicle Marking

The PRIMARY, PREDOMINANT or TYPE OF USE of the vehicle must be clearly defined and indicated on the vehicle for the specified purpose. Vehicle marking must be plainly visible to and easily identifiable by other road users and pedestrians.

Definitions

In this document and for flashing amber lamp permits:

“Highway” means (a) every highway within the meaning of the *Transportation Act*, every road, street, lane or right of way designed or intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles, and every private place or passageway to which the public, for the purpose of the parking or servicing of vehicles, has access or is invited, but does not include an industrial road.

“Official Vehicle” means a vehicle that is displaying flashes of amber light

- (a) in accordance with any limits or conditions set out by the director or delegate of Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE);
- (b) while vehicle is stopped on or on the side of a highway; and
- (c) while the vehicle’s components are being operated, or a member of the vehicle’s crew is working, on or on the side of the highway.

“Tow car” means a motor vehicle used exclusively for towing or rendering assistance to other motor vehicles or to vehicles suffering from a defect or disability in their means of locomotion.

“Policy of Vehicle Use” means a defined and comprehensive business policy document developed by the applicant that is intended to ensure the safety of those individuals who drive the amber lamp equipped vehicle(s) and to provide guidance regarding the proper use of the amber lamp devices and equipped vehicle(s). Policy of Vehicle Use content may include (but is not limited to):

- (a) how the vehicle equipped with amber flashing lamps will be used;
- (b) safety rules and use of additional safety equipment;
- (a) limitations of both vehicle use and amber lamp equipment activation;
- (b) driver guidelines, authorizations, training & accident reporting; and
- (c) vehicle maintenance & pre-trip safety inspections;

Acceptance of a submitted Policy of Vehicle Use is at the determination of CVSE. The policy content and merit will be considered based on the application and requested amber lamp usage.

Vehicles

Companies or individuals using vehicles that are identified in the British Columbia Motor Vehicle Act Regulations Division 4.28 (5)(6), 4.29, 4.30 or Commercial Transport Act Regulations Division 8.04 such as:

- Highway maintenance equipment being used on a highway during highway maintenance or construction;
- Snow removal equipment;
- Sand spreading equipment;
- Implements of Husbandry;
- Pilot Car; and
- Tow Car as defined in the British Columbia *Motor Vehicle Act*.

Will NOT be considered for any permit because regulations already govern the flashing amber lamp allowance and / or usage.

Examples for consideration of a flashing amber permit are vehicles that are primarily used for:

- Inspection or repair of utilities or permanently affixed assets along highways;
- Highway traffic control at designated worksites or for sanctioned events;

- Highway or land surveying;
- By-law enforcement or animal control;
- On-site seaport, ferry terminal or airport purposes; and
- Armored transportation;

Examples of vehicles that will **NOT** be considered for flashing amber device permits are:

- Household goods moving vehicles;
- General delivery vehicles;
- General trades' vehicles;
- Mobile mechanical repair vehicles;
- Service vehicles that do not meet the definition of a tow car;
- Commercial vehicles not used on highway worksites;
- Commercial vehicles that transit between off highway or industrial work locations;
- Non-business or private vehicles; and
- Vehicles not registered in British Columbia (BC).