

Flashing Amber Light Permit and Device Information

Background

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the [flashing amber light permit application](#) procedure, permit conditions, vehicle allowances and types of devices that may be considered.

The overall intent of supplementary or additional flashing amber light 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. More specifically, for vehicles that must be located or parked on highway for legitimate purposes with no viable option of moving the vehicle off-highway. In addition, the PRIMARY use of the vehicle must be clearly defined for this purpose. Some examples for consideration are vehicles that are primarily used for:

- inspection or repair of utilities along highways;
- highway maintenance or construction;
- highway traffic control at designated worksites;
- highway or land surveying; or
- animal control.

Vehicles used primarily in seaports or airports may also be considered.

Additional flashing amber devices are not intended for use on private security, household goods moving or general delivery vehicles.

Permits

- Issued by CVSE on application of companies or individuals for vehicles requiring amber flashing lights on vehicles that are not 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*.
- [Applications](#) must clearly indicate the reasons for amber flashing light equipment, the primary vehicle use and the vehicle type. Consideration for permit issuance, permit allowances, permit conditions and device type / number / location is on a case by case basis.
- All conditions as stated on each permit issued must be followed at all times. Non-compliance with conditions or requirements may result in permit cancellation and / or enforcement action.
- When any amber light equipment is activated by a company or individual issued a permit for traffic control purposes, all conditions and requirements outlined in the [British Columbia Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Traffic Control Manual for Work on Roadways](#) document in addition to any specific conditions applied to the permit.

Definitions

360 Degrees Warning Device

- A device that projects a light in a horizontal 360-degree arc. It will appear to project a regularly repeating pattern of flashes to an observer positioned at a fixed location. Its function is to inform other highway users to stop, yield right-of-way, or to indicate the existence of a hazardous condition.

Class 2 Warning Device

- Primary warning device for use on authorized maintenance and service vehicles to warn of traffic hazards such as an accident, slow moving service truck, etc. Will display SAE certification of W3-2 or W5-2.

Class 3 Warning Device

- Primary warning device for use on vehicles that are authorized to display flashing warning lamps for identification only. Will display SAE certification of W3-3 or W5-3.

Directional Flashing Optical Warning Device – Arrow board

- A device that produces a repetitive flash of light which is directionally aimed and will project a flashing beam signal over a minimum area from 20 degrees right to 20 degrees left on a horizontal plane and from 10 degrees up to 10 degrees down on a vertical plane. The flashes of light may be a repetitive signal. If a non-repetitive signal is used it shall be a block of repetitive signals that have been characterized.
- A flashing light bar or sequential flashing light bar is NOT considered a directional flashing optical warning device or arrow board.

Examples of 360 Degree Multiple Flashing Amber Light Devices



Multiple Strobes



Rotating / Strobe Combination



Multiple LED



Multiple Rotating



Multiple Rotating

Traffic Control Vehicles

- Maximum one per vehicle with permit
- Must be SAE Class 2 or 3 Warning Device approved – W2-2, W2-3, W5-2, W5-3
- Must be visible from all directions outside vehicle – 360 degrees

Other Vehicles

- Allowances and installation based on vehicle type or design
- Must be SAE Class 2 or 3 Warning Device approved – W2-2, W2-3, W5-2, W5-3

Examples of 360 Degree Single Flashing Amber Light Devices



Single Rotating



Single Strobe



Single LED

Traffic Control Vehicles

- Maximum two per vehicle with permit
- Must be SAE Class 2 or 3 Warning Device approved – W2-2, W2-3, W5-2, W5-3
- Must be visible from all directions outside vehicle – 360 degrees

Other Vehicles

- Allowances and installation based on vehicle type or design
- Must be SAE Class 2 or 3 Warning Device approved – W2-2, W2-3, W5-2, W5-3

Directional Flashing Optical Warning Device – Flashing Arrow Board

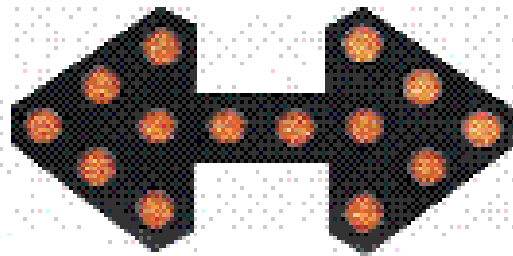
- Maximum of one unit per vehicle with permit
- Must be SAE Class 2 or 3 Warning Device approved – W2-2, W2-3, W5-2, W5-3
- A flashing light bar or sequential flashing light bar is NOT considered a directional flashing optical warning device or arrow board
- When activated, device must only be visible to one direction of traffic

Flashing arrow board type, location, minimum size, minimum number of panel lamps, legibility distance, maximum speed zone use and device display type must be in compliance with [Section 2.2.3.3 - Flashing Arrow Boards](#) – as stated in the [British Columbia Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Traffic Control Manual for Work on Roadways](#).

Examples of Directional Flashing Warning Optical Device













Solid Panel



Cut-away Panel

Examples of Directional Flashing Warning Optical Device Displays

Operating Mode	Panel Display (Type C panel illustrated)		
I. At least one of the three following modes shall be provided:	(Right arrow shown; left is similar)		
Flashing Arrow	 Move/Merge Right		
Sequential Arrow			
	Move/Merge Right		
Sequential Chevron			
	Move/Merge Right		
II. The following mode shall be provided: Flashing Double Arrow	 Move/Merge Right or Left		
III. The following mode shall be provided: Flashing Caution	 Caution	or	 Caution