



### Vehicle Accessories vs. Highway Traffic Act

This article contains questions and answers pertaining to add-on vehicle accessory products. We have gleaned the information from an OPP circulation, which is condensed from the Highway Traffic Act.

Q: Are blue lights legal? (Includes fog lights, windshield nozzle lights, and indicator lights).

A: **No.** Regulation states: "One on each side of the front which shall display a white or amber light only and one on the rear of the vehicle shall display a red light only ". All lights that face forward are classified as headlights. [Sec 142(6) HTA]

Q: Is the colour red allowed to the front of the vehicle?

A: **No.** Unless you're an emergency vehicle no red lights of any kind are allowed to shine to the front. [Sec 62(15) HTA]

Q: Are coloured license plate lights legal?

A: **No.** "White light only" [Sec 62(19) HTA]

Q: I have a decal across the front of my windshield, near the top portion, is this legal?

A: **Yes and No,** "As long as the decal is not too long or wide. If your view is obstructed in anyway it's illegal. In other words keep it at the same height as the original factory sun block and you'll be ok. [Sec 73(1) HTA]

Q: I bought my car used and it came with tinted windows, are they legal?

A: This section does not allow any tint of any kind on the front windshield or drivers or passenger side windows. If an officer stops you and he/she can clearly see the inside of the vehicle it is highly unlikely you will receive a ticket. [Sec 73(3) HTA]

Q: I altered my muffler and my vehicle is quite louder than stock. Is that ok?

A: If you have done anything to your vehicle that has caused it to be substantially louder then you could be held liable for either one of two violations Sec 75(1) HTA Improper muffler or Sec. 75(4) Unnecessary Noise.

Q: I've lowered my car/truck, is there a limit as how close to the ground it can be?

A: **No,** there is no specific height limit that law enforcement deals with. If the vehicle has been lowered professionally and you have purchased special rims and tires to go along with such alterations, it should be acceptable. If however you lowered your vehicle and any part of the front or rear tires touch any part of body or frame then it is illegal. Your plates will be pulled, the vehicle must be towed at your expense and you'll receive a summons charging you with Operation of an Unsafe Vehicle.

Q: My parents own the car that I drive simply for insurance purposes. Can they be held liable for violations that I incur?

A: **Yes and No.** Aftermarket equipment violations cannot only be laid against the driver, but also the registered owner of the motor vehicle as well.



Q: I've changed or removed the pollution control equipment (i.e. catalytic converter) that came stock on my vehicle, what can happen now?

A: If you are stopped and it is discovered that there has been tampering with the pollution control equipment, you can be charged under the Environmental Protection Act. Officers from the EPA and specially trained police officers will issue a summons to violators with a court date.