

# Vehicle Modifications

Many vehicle accessories are street legal but some may not be so take a minute and read this over to see what is and what is not legal.

Accessory	Legislation	Rule / Interpretation	Rationale
Can I display a novelty plate on the front of my vehicle?	The License Plate Display Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2004 Saskatchewan discontinued the requirement to display a front license plate on passenger vehicles.</li> <li>With some restrictions novelty, souvenir, collector and vanity plates may be displayed on the front of a vehicle.</li> <li>License plate must be firmly secured, Visible &amp; legible at all times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements &amp; restrictions can be accessed at <a href="http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca">www.qp.gov.sk.ca</a></li> <li>Select "Freelaw" and then select "The Licence Plate Display Regulations"</li> <li>Plates that are reflectorized are recommended. If a vehicle is stranded or disabled on a highway the plate will reflect the lights of an oncoming vehicle.</li> </ul>
Are neon license plate lamps permitted?	Sections 38 (2) &6 (e) of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License plate lamp must emit a white light.</li> <li>No additional lamp or equipment that impairs the effectiveness of the required lamps are permitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License plate must be able to be seen from a distance of 100 meters.</li> <li>White light enhances the visibility of the license plate during low light conditions</li> </ul>
Are license plate covers permitted?	Section 192(6) TSA	No obstruction (covers) permitted that prevents any character from being accurately photographed by a red light camera system.	Red light camera systems that detect drivers passing through red lights at intersections may not be able to accurately photograph a license plate that has a cover. Glare etc from the cover may have an affect.
When are bumpers required?	Section 50 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires passenger cars to be equipped with front &amp; rear bumpers.</li> <li>Requires trucks less than 4500 GVWR to be equipped with front bumper only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bumpers are placed a specific heights to help protect pedestrians if hit by a vehicle.</li> <li>Front and rear bumpers absorb some of the crash impact and reduce intrusion, thus reducing collision damage and personal injury.</li> <li>Bumper width must be equal to the vehicle track. Full width tire to tire of vehicle</li> </ul>
What are legal bumper heights?	Sections 50 (1), (2), (3) of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On passenger cars bumper height must be between 380 and 560 millimeters above the road surface.</li> <li>On trucks the lowest part of the bumper cannot be more than 750 millimeters above the road surface.</li> <li>Bumpers must have a vertical surface of at least 100 millimeters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bumpers are placed a specific heights to help protect pedestrians if hit by a vehicle.</li> <li>Bumpers absorb some of the crash impact thus reducing collision damage and personal injury.</li> <li>Bumper height standards increase the likelihood of bumpers contacting when two vehicles collide.</li> </ul>
Can the height of a vehicle be raised or lowered?	Sections 21, 22, 25, 32, 34, 35, 37 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to bumper height requirements above, and lamp height requirements as follows:</li> <li>Headlamps must be between 535 and 1400millimeters from the road surface to the centre of the lamp.</li> <li>Brake, Signal and Tail lamps must be between 350 and 2110 millimeters from the road surface.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must also maintain steering geometry within manufacturer's range.</li> <li>If raising or lowering a vehicle it must be done in accordance with industry accepted practice. i.e. hockey pucks between the frame and body mounts are not acceptable, nor are extended spring shackles.</li> </ul>
Are front and rear suspension tower braces permitted?		These are permitted as these are commonly used to enhance (beef-up / stiffen) the suspension / unibody	Provides additional stability in unibody vehicles when high load in corners.

<p><b>Are tail light and headlamp covers permitted</b></p>	<p>Sections 6 (e) &amp; 31 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations Canadian Auto Manufacturing Stds also apply.</p>	<p>Head lamp and tail lamp covers of any type are not permitted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covers reduce the size and impair the effectiveness of the lamps and reflectors required by the regulations.</li> <li>• Covers reduce the amount of light transmitted in some cases by over 30%. Reduction of light decreases the amount of time a driver has to react to an object.</li> <li>• Ensures optimum visibility to other road users</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are clear tail lamp lenses permitted?</b></p>	<p>Sections 34, 35, 37, 72 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations. Canadian Auto Manufacturing Stds</p>	<p>Signal lamps must emit either amber or red light. Brake lamps (not bulbs) must be red. Tail lamps (not bulbs) and the required retro reflective reflectors (usually a part of the red lamp lens) must be red. Side marker lamps (not bulbs) and side retro-reflective reflectors must be red. Clear tail lamp covers only permitted where all of the above requirements are met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually the clear tail lamp lens does not include side marker lamps or any <b>red</b> retro-reflective reflectors as required.</li> <li>• Identifies the rear of the vehicle.</li> <li>• Ensures optimum visibility to other road users.</li> <li>• Red lamps and retro-reflective reflectors are international standards and must be distinguishable at specific distances.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are colored (blue, green etc.) or high intensity headlamp bulbs permitted?</b></p>	<p>Sections 6 &amp; 31 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations. Canadian Auto Manufacturing Stds also apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All headlamps must be <b>WHITE</b> in color as defined by Society of Automotive Engineers. White lamps have been tested to meet all headlamp requirements.</li> <li>• Maximum wattage allowed in a headlamp is 70 watts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue and green lamps are designated for use on emergency vehicles only.</li> <li>• Red lamps to front are reserved for emergency vehicles and school bus warning lamps.</li> <li>• High intensity bulbs may assist the driver of the vehicle but are blinding to oncoming traffic.</li> <li>• Colored bulbs give a distorted headlamp pattern, which may prevent the driver from seeing a person or object at the road edge or starting to cross the road.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are under-car glow lamp kits permitted?</b></p>	<p>Section 6 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.</p>	<p>No vehicle driven on a highway shall be equipped with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a lamp that emits a white light facing to the rear;</li> <li>a lamp that emits a red light facing to the front;</li> <li>a lamp that emits a blue or green light.</li> <li>equipment that detracts from required lighting.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White light shining to the rear could be mistaken by a motorist as approaching the front instead of the rear of another vehicle.</li> <li>• Red light shining to the front could be mistaken by a motorist as approaching the rear instead of the front of another vehicle. Lamps that emit a blue or green light are for use on emergency vehicles only.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are fog and auxiliary driving lamps permitted?</b></p>	<p>Section 33 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be focused at least as low and as far to the right as the low beam headlamps.</li> <li>• Must not be mounted any higher than the headlamps.</li> <li>• Must comply with permitted lamp colors (blue, green and red prohibited) and must be approved for street use.</li> </ul>	<p>Restricted use and aiming avoids reduction of visibility for oncoming drivers.</p>
<p><b>Does a windshield with cracks and damage need to be replaced?</b></p>	<p>Section 64 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations</p>	<p>The windshield shall not have any crack that goes through both layers of glass or any <b>two cracks</b> extending from one edge to another and passing through the area swept by the windshield wipers. If a damaged area is greater than 51.20 millimeters in diameter in the area swept by the windshield wipers the windshield must also be replaced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These standards ensure the driver's visibility is not obstructed and that the windshield is structurally sound, which is important in modern vehicles where the windshield is an integral part of the unibody design that directs forces (energy) away from the driver in a crash.</li> <li>• A damaged windshield reduces load carrying capacity of the windshield. Important in roll over situations.</li> <li>• If applicable allows air bag to operate properly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Is after-market window tinting or decals permitted on a window</b></p>	<p>Section 64 – 66 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After market window tinting, sunscreen or reflective material is not permitted on the windshield or the front side windows of the vehicle.</li> <li>• Window tinting is permitted on any window located behind the driver's head providing outside mirrors provide the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After market material may lower the level of light transmission through the windshield which could affect a driver's ability to see unlit objects and pedestrians in low light conditions and increase the probability of a collision.</li> <li>• The application of a film the glass</li> </ul>

		<p>driver with a clear view to the rear of the vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The windshield must be free of decals greater than 51.20 millimeters in diameter in the area swept by the windshield wipers</li> </ul>	<p>changes the characteristics of automotive glass, including how the glass shatters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dark film on the windows of a vehicle may jeopardize a police officer's safety.</li> <li>Decals larger than this may obstruct the driver's view.</li> </ul>
<b>Is one windshield wiper permitted?</b>	Section 68 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	Vehicle must have at least one windshield wiper that sweeps at least 70% of the total area of the windshield	Required to provide clear view to the driver when operating in poor weather conditions.
<b>Are hood scoops or cool air intakes permitted?</b>		Permitted providing the system (scoop) does not interfere with the driver's visibility	
<b>Are less restrictive flow (loud) mufflers / exhaust systems or noise enhancing attachments permitted</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 18 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations</li> <li>Section 15 of the TSA</li> <li>Section 1106 Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicle must be equipped with a muffler and exhaust system that reduces noise level to national standards.</li> </ul>	Emission of any loud or unnecessary noise from a motor vehicle is prohibited. Less restrictive exhaust systems may not meet exhaust emission standards. Permitted dB levels vary according to engine size. The maximum dB level allowed for any passenger vehicle, motorcycle, or truck engine is 84 dB.
<b>Are after-market exhaust headers permitted?</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headers are permitted providing the rest of the exhaust system, including legal mufflers, is in compliance.</li> <li>An unrestricted exhaust system is not permitted</li> </ul>	Less restrictive exhaust systems may not meet exhaust emission standards. Permitted dB levels vary according to engine size. The maximum dB level allowed for any passenger vehicle, motorcycle, or truck engine is 84 dB.
<b>Can a vehicle be equipped with a nitrous oxide system?</b>	Section 29-(8) (b) of The Vehicle Administration Act.	The nitrous oxide system must be sealed and vented to the exterior of the vehicle. The vent must be located at a point that is higher than the nitrous oxide container.	Nitrous oxide poses a high risk of suffocation. If not vented properly a leak could result in suffocation and death. Inhaling impairs a person's motor control and co-ordination, can cause nausea, vomiting, disorientation, and reduced fertility. Note: Insurance coverage can be denied if it is established that the vehicle was racing at the time of an accident.
<b>Are wide tires or smooth slicks permitted?</b>	Section 52 & 71 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fender, mud flap or body overhang that reduces the rearward projection of gravel, mud, water and snow from each tire is required. This must extend the full width of the tire.</li> <li>A tire on a passenger vehicle must have 2/32nds of tread depth across the face of the tire, and the tire must be approved for highway use, slicks are not.</li> </ul>	Protects motorist visibility that could otherwise be reduced from spray from another vehicle. Tread depth on the tire provides traction during adverse weather conditions, and dissipates heat, water, snow etc.
<b>Are vehicles required to have door handles?</b>	Section 55 of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations	Doors must have a means of being opened from the inside and the outside, but this does not necessarily have to be a door handle. A remote release or switch is acceptable.	In the event of collision or emergency there must be a method of escape from the vehicle.
<b>Can the shift handle be changed on a manual transmission?</b>	Section 19 (1) of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	If more than 3 forward gears, the shift pattern must be displayed in view of the driver	Reverse and first gears are not always in the same position in all vehicles. An operator could put the vehicle in the wrong gear and cause an accident. i.e. forward instead of reverse.
<b>Can a smaller steering wheel be installed?</b>	Section 25 (4) of The Vehicle Equipment Regulations.	A steering wheel must be at least 330 mm in diameter. This is minimum of 13 inches across. Horn must be maintained and be in the reach of the driver.	Must maintain the mechanical advantage of the steering wheel. A small steering wheel could cause a delay in a turn resulting in a vehicle crash.

<p><b>Can I install an interior lamp kit? (neon bulbs etc.)</b></p>	<p>Section 214(2) of the TSA</p>	<p>Interior lamps are not specifically addressed but distractions to other road users are not permitted. If a lamp kit is installed the emitted light should not reduce the driver's vision and not emit light that can be seen by other road users while the vehicle is moving.</p>	<p>Lights that reduce the driver's vision, or are a distraction to other motorists may contribute to an accident</p>
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**Notes:**

For additional information please contact SGI, Vehicle Standards and Inspection at 775-6188 or toll free 1-800-667-8015 and ask for extension 6188.

There are some special allowances for vintage (predate current year by 30 years or more) vehicles and modified vintage (manufactured before 1958) vehicles. For information on either of these two vehicle types please contact Vehicle Standards and

Inspection at the numbers shown above.