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Guidance

MOT special notice 05-26: approved LED replacement bulbs in halogen headlamps

From 14 October 2026, approved LED replacement (LEDr) bulbs fitted in halogen headlamps will be allowed in class 3, 4, 5 and 7 MOT tests.

Applies to England, Scotland and Wales

This special notice tells you about a change to the MOT inspection manual: cars and passenger vehicles. Approved LED replacement (LEDr) bulbs in compatible halogen headlamp units may now be accepted at MOT. Issued by Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)
Link to DVSA webpage

It explains:
- what to check for when inspecting a headlamp unit
- what the new approval stickers look like
- when to fail a headlamp

This change only applies to class 3, 4, 5 and 7 vehicles with existing halogen headlamp units that have been converted to use with LED bulbs.

Guidance
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Published 13 October 2026

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What's changing
The MOT inspection manual: cars and passenger vehicles will be updated on 14 October 2026. From this date, MOT testers must accept ECE approved LED replacement (LEDr) bulbs in compatible halogen headlamp units.

This change only applies to class 3, 4, 5 and 7 vehicles with existing halogen headlamp units that have been fitted with ECE approved LED replacement bulbs.

It does not apply to:
- class 1 and class 2 motorcycles
- halogen headlamp units that have been converted to use with high intensity discharge (HID) bulbs
- full LED headlamp unit replacements

How to check if an LEDr bulb is approved
ECE approved LED replacement products come with a secure approval sticker. The sticker must be permanently fixed to the vehicle so it can be seen easily during an MOT test.

When you test a vehicle that has LED replacement bulbs fitted in halogen headlamps, you only need to check that the approval sticker is there.

You do not need to check the ECE approval number, approval markings, or manufacturer details against any databases, documentation or records.
What the approval sticker looks like

The approval sticker must include:
- category (for example, H11 LEDr)
- variant
- rated voltage
- ECE approval number
- manufacturer's name
- a security feature such as a hologram

Manufacturers may produce different sticker designs (for example, size, shape and colour) as long as they contain the required information and security features.

You will be able to see an example of an approval sticker in section 4.1.4 of the MOT inspection manual from 14th October.
section 4.1.4 of the MOT inspection manual from 14 October

When to fail a headlamp
You must fail the headlamp if an LED replacement bulb is fitted and:
- there's no sticker
- you cannot read the sticker
- the sticker looks like it's been tampered with
- the sticker clearly does not match the bulb fitted

Select the major defect **light source and lamp not compatible**.