CLEARANCE, MARKER, AND IDENTIFICATION LAMPS FOR VEHICLES (AFTER MARKET)

COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS83-41

Effective Date for New Production from January 1, 1941

A RECORDED VOLUNTARY STANDARD OF THE TRADE

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1940
PROMULGATION

of
COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS83–41
for
CLEARANCE, MARKER, AND IDENTIFICATION LAMPS
FOR VEHICLES
(AFTER MARKET)

On January 11 and 12, 1940, at the instance of the Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association, a general conference of representative manufacturers, distributors, regulatory officials, testing laboratories, and users of clearance, marker, and identification lamps for vehicles (after market) adopted a recommended commercial standard for this commodity. Those concerned have since accepted and approved for promulgation by the United States Department of Commerce, through the National Bureau of Standards, the standard as shown herein.

The standard is effective for new production from January 1, 1941.

Promulgation recommended.  
I. J. Fairchild,  
Chief, Division of Trade Standards.

Promulgated.  
Lyman J. Briggs,  
Director, National Bureau of Standards,

Promulgation approved.  
Jesse H. Jones,  
Secretary of Commerce.
CLEARANCE, MARKER, AND IDENTIFICATION LAMPS FOR VEHICLES
(AFTER MARKET)¹

COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS83-41

EXPLANATORY

As the art of motor-vehicle lighting is a continually developing one, these specifications are necessarily of a current character and are subject to revision from time to time. They are intended to apply primarily to sample equipments submitted by the manufacturer to the testing laboratory for original approval but may be applied to equipments purchased on the open market or to equipments taken at random from regular production. Should the first sample fail to pass one or more of the test requirements, two more samples may be tested and if two out of the three samples comply with each of the requirements, the equipment shall be considered to be satisfactory.

PURPOSE

1. The purpose is to establish standard specifications and methods of test for clearance, marker, and identification lamps (after market) for the guidance of manufacturers, distributors, and users.

SCOPE

2. This standard covers the requirements and methods for construction, vibration and shock, dust, moisture, corrosion, and photometric tests of clearance, marker, and identification lamps.

DEFINITIONS

3. "Clearance lamps" are lamps on the left and right side of the front and rear of a vehicle, which show to the front and rear, respectively, to mark the extreme sides of the vehicle.

4. "Side marker lamps" are lamps on the left and right side near the front and rear of a vehicle, which show to the side, to mark the sides of the vehicle.

5. "Combination clearance and side marker lamps." A combination clearance and side marker lamp is a single lamp which fulfills the requirements of both a clearance lamp and a side marker lamp.

¹ The term “after market” shall be construed to mean any equipment or device manufactured for accessory installation on a vehicle; provided, however, it shall not be construed to mean any equipment or device regularly installed on or furnished for new vehicles by the vehicle manufacturer, and provided further, that it shall not be construed to include genuine replacements of original equipment.

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If the photometric requirements can be met with one lens, the lamp shall be deemed satisfactory.

6. "Identification lamps" are groups of three lights in a horizontal row, spaced not less than 6 nor more than 12 inches apart, measured from center to center of lens, mounted near the top of the center of the front and rear of the permanent structure of the vehicle, which show to the front and the rear, respectively, to identify a certain type of vehicle.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

7a. The light from front clearance and identification lamps and all side marker lamps, except those mounted on or near the rear, shall be yellow or amber.

7b. A yellow or amber lens shall be a lens the color of which, under service conditions, employing a light source having the quality of International Commission on Illumination illuminant A (incandescent lamp at 2,848° K), has a value of \( y \) which is not greater than 0.429 nor less than 0.398, and a value of \( z \) not greater than 0.007, \( y \) and \( z \) being trichromatic coefficients derived on the basis of the 1931 ICI standard observer and coordinate system.

7c. Standard (1) light-limit and (2) dark-limit glasses representing respectively (1) the pale and green limits and (2) the red limit for yellow lenses may be obtained from the Electrical Testing Laboratories, East End Avenue and 79th Street, New York City.

7d. A yellow lens shall not be acceptable if it is paler or greener than the light-limit standard, or redder than the dark-limit standard when the lens and the standards are illuminated by incandescent-lamp light.

7e. The light from rear clearance lamps, rear identification lamps and rear side marker lamps shall be red.

7f. A red lens shall be a lens the color of which, under service conditions, employing a light source having the quality of International Commission on Illumination illuminant A (incandescent lamp at 2,848° K), has a value of \( y \) not greater than 0.335, and a value of \( z \) not greater than 0.002, \( y \) and \( z \) being trichromatic coefficients derived on the basis of the 1931 ICI standard observer and coordinate system.

7g. Standard light-limit glasses (or lenses) representing the pale and yellow limits for red lenses may be obtained from the Electrical Testing Laboratories, East End Avenue and 79th Street, New York City. (No standard dark-limit glasses are required for the red, since the minimum candlepower requirements should eliminate lenses which are too dark.)

7h. A red lens shall not be acceptable if it is paler or yellower than the light-limit standard, when the two are illuminated by incandescent-lamp light.

8. Screws, if used in place of spring retainer rings, shall be of stainless steel or nonferrous metal.

9a. All wiring shall conform to SAE standard specifications known as type No. 1 or better, of electrical conductivity not less than the equivalent of No. 16 AWG (B & S) gage solid copper wire.

9b. If any wire is provided by the manufacturer, all lamps shall be provided with sufficient wire, as specified, not less than 6 inches in length for splicing purposes, where necessary.
LAMP BULBS

10. Lamp bulbs used in clearance, marker, and identification lamps shall be of American manufacture. The physical and electrical characteristics of the bulbs used in clearance, marker, and identification lamps shall be in accordance with the current standard SAE or SEMA specifications for such bulbs.

SAMPLES FOR TEST

11. Sample clearance, marker, and identification lamps submitted for laboratory test shall be representative of the lamps as regularly manufactured and marketed. Each sample shall include all accessory equipment peculiar to the lamp and necessary to operate it in normal manner. The vibration and shock, moisture, and dust tests shall be made on the same sample in that order.

12. All bulbs used in photometric tests shall be selected for accuracy in accordance with the Standard SAE Specifications covering lamp bulbs and be operated at their rated mean spherical candlepower during the tests. Unless otherwise specified, the lamp bulbs used in the tests shall be supplied by the laboratory and shall be representative of standard bulbs in regular production. Where special bulbs are specified, they shall be submitted with the devices and the same or similar bulbs used in the tests and operated at their rated mean spherical candlepower.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

13. All laboratory tests shall be made by a recognized, impartial engineering laboratory having all facilities and equipment necessary to make accurate physical and optical tests herein specified in accordance with established laboratory practices.

VIBRATION AND SHOCK TEST

14a. A sample unit, mounted as would obtain in service, shall be bolted to the anvil end of the table of the vibration rack and vibrated approximately 750 times per minute through a distance of ½ inch. The table shall be spring mounted at one end and fitted with steel calks on the under side of the other end. These calks are to make contact with the steel anvil once during each cycle at the completion of the fall. The rack shall be operated under a spring tension of 60 to 70 pounds. This test shall be continued for 1 hour.

14b. The unit shall then be examined. Any unit showing evidence of material physical weakness, loosening, or rupture of parts shall be considered to have failed. Failure of the bulb shall not be considered as failure of the unit.

14c. It is recommended that for the purpose of standardizing the vibration and shock test, the testing machine shall be made substantially in accordance with the drawing, figure 1.
15a. A sample unit shall be mounted in its normal operating position with any drain holes open and subjected to a precipitation of 0.1 inch of water per minute, delivered at an angle of 45 degrees from a nozzle with a solid-cone spray. During the moisture test the lamp shall revolve about its vertical axis at a rate of 4 rpm. This test shall be continued for 12 hours. The water shall then be turned off and the unit permitted to drain for 1 hour.

15b. The unit shall then be examined. Any accumulation of more than $\frac{1}{2}$ ml of water in the unit, or warpage or shrinkage of the lens shall constitute a failure.
DUST TEST

16a. A sample unit with any drain hole closed shall be mounted in its normal operating position, at least 6 inches from the wall, in a box measuring 3 feet in all directions, containing 10 pounds of fine powdered cement in accordance with ASTM Specification C9–38. At intervals of 15 minutes, this dust shall be agitated by compressed air or fan blower by projecting blasts of air for a 2-second period in a downward direction into the dust in such a way that the dust is completely and uniformly diffused throughout the entire cube. The dust is then allowed to settle. This test shall be continued for 5 hours.

16b. After the dust test, the exterior surface shall be cleaned, and if the maximum candlepower is within 10 percent of the maximum as compared with the condition after the unit is cleaned inside and out, it shall be considered adequately dust tight.

CORROSION TEST

17a. A sample unit, including mounting bracket, if any, shall be subjected to a 20-percent salt-spray solution for a period of fifty (50) hours consisting of two (2) periods of 24 hours' exposure and 1 hour's drying each, at a temperature of 95° F (35° C).

17b. There shall be no evidence of undue or excessive corrosion immediately after the above test has been completed.

PHOTOMETRIC TEST

18a. All beam candlepower measurements shall be made with the center of light at a distance of 4 feet from the photometer screen. In measuring distances and angles, the incandescent filament shall be taken as the center of light. In the case of clearance and identification lamps, the lamp axis shall be taken as the horizontal line through the light source and parallel to what would be the longitudinal axis of the vehicle if the lamp were mounted in its normal position on the vehicle. In the case of side marker lamps, the lamp axis shall be taken as the horizontal line through the light source 90 degrees to what would be the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

18b. The lamps shall meet the current photometric requirements 2 of the IES, SAE, and SEMA (Illuminating Engineering Society, Society of Automotive Engineers, and Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association).

MARKING AND LABELING

19. Each clearance, marker, and identification lamp manufactured and sold as conforming to this standard shall bear a distinctive designation prominently and permanently indicating the trademark of the manufacturer duly applied for or registered under the laws of the United States, or the trade name or other distinctive model, designation, or other means of identification.

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2 The 1939 photometric requirements of the IES, SAE, and SEMA are as follows:
On the lamp axis, the intensity shall be at least 0.5 cp.
In the horizontal plane, through the lamp axis from 10 degrees to the left to 10 degrees to the right, the intensity shall be at least 0.3 cp.
In the horizontal plane, through the lamp axis from 30 degrees left to 30 degrees right, the intensity shall be at least 0.1 cp.
In the vertical plane, through the lamp axis, from 5 degrees above to 5 degrees below, the intensity shall be at least 0.3 cp.
20. In order to provide the purchaser with a ready means for distinguishing between clearance, marker, and identification lamps which meet the requirements of this standard and those which do not, the Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association has adopted the wording quoted below for labels or statements on cartons. The mark "SEMA-APPROVED" on the lamps, is based upon tests on samples and reexaminations by a recognized impartial engineering laboratory. It illustrates a method of certifying that these items comply with the commercial standard.

This Clearance, Marker, or Identification Lamp, marked SEMA-APPROVED, is certified by the Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association and by the manufacturer as conforming to Commercial Standard CS83-41.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The standard is effective for new production from January 1, 1941.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The following individuals comprise the membership of the standing committee, which is to review, prior to circulation for acceptance, revisions proposed to keep the standard abreast of progress. Each association nominated its own representatives. Comment concerning the standard and suggestions for revision, may be addressed to any member of the committee or to the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, which acts as secretary for the committee.

Manufacturers:

H. B. Donley (chairman), Columbus Metal Products, Inc., 767 North 4th St., Columbus, Ohio. Representing Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association.

A. B. Dettmer, K-D Lamp Co., 610 West Court St., Cincinnati, Ohio. Representing Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association.


R. N. Falge, Guide Lamp Division, General Motors Corp., Anderson, Ind. Representing Society of Automotive Engineers.

William F. Little, Electrical Testing Laboratories, East End Ave. at 79th St., New York, N. Y. Representing Society of Automotive Engineers.

Distributors:

W. E. Blanchard, National Automobile Dealers Association, 154 Bagley Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

G. B. Cornwell, Sears, Roebuck & Co., Homan Ave. & Arthington St., Chicago, Ill. Representing Mail Order Association of America.


Users:

Charles G. Morgan, Jr., American Trucking Associations, Inc., 1013 16th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.


Alternate: Earl Allgaier.
HISTORY OF PROJECT

Pursuant to a request on July 18, 1938, from the Safety Equipment Manufacturers Association (then known as the MEMA Light and Signal Group) for the cooperation of the National Bureau of Standards in the establishment of commercial standards for nine items of lamps and signal equipment for vehicles (after market), preliminary conferences of all interested manufacturers were held in Detroit on September 22 and 23, 1938, and again on March 1 and 2, 1939, in order to adjust the drafts to suit the consensus of producers.

The proposed standards, as adjusted by the preliminary manufacturers’ conferences, were then submitted to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and other key organizations for advance consideration and recommendations. Following receipt of these recommendations, a general conference was held in Washington, D. C., on January 11 and 12, 1940, to which all interested producers, distributors, users, regulatory bodies, and testing laboratories were invited. The report of the general conference was circulated on February 20, 1940.

On April 8, 1940, copies of the Recommended Commercial Standards as adopted by the general conference, including recommendations of two subcommittees appointed by the conference, were circulated to all concerned for written acceptance. Upon receipt of written acceptances from a preponderant majority, announcement was issued on July 10, 1940, that the standards would become effective for new production from January 1, 1941.
ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL STANDARD

If acceptance has not previously been filed, this sheet properly filled in, signed and returned will provide for the recording of your organization as an acceptor of this commercial standard.

Date ____________________________

Division of Trade Standards,
National Bureau of Standards,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Having considered the statements on the reverse side of this sheet, we accept the Commercial Standard CS83-41 as our standard of practice in the

Production ¹ Distribution ¹ Use ¹

of clearance, marker, and identification lamps.

We will assist in securing its general recognition and use and will cooperate with the standing committee to effect revisions of the standard when necessary.

Signature of individual officer -----------------------------

(In ink)

(Kindly typewrite or print the following lines)

Name and title of above officer -----------------------------

Organization ---------------------------------------------

(Fill in exactly as it should be listed)

Street address ---------------------------------------------

City and State ---------------------------------------------

¹ Please designate which group you represent by drawing lines through the other two. Please file separate acceptances for all subsidiary companies and affiliates which should be listed separately as acceptors. In the case of related interests, trade papers, colleges, etc., desiring to record their general approval, the words "in principle" should be added after the signature.
TO THE ACCEPTOR

The following statements answer the usual questions arising in connection with the acceptance and its significance:

1. Enforcement.—Commercial standards are commodity specifications voluntarily established by mutual consent of those concerned. They present a common basis of understanding between the producer, distributor, and consumer and should not be confused with any plan of governmental regulation or control. The United States Department of Commerce has no regulatory power in the enforcement of their provisions, but since they represent the will of the interested groups as a whole, their provisions through usage soon become established as trade customs, and are made effective through incorporation into sales contracts by means of labels, invoices, and the like.

2. The acceptor's responsibility.—The purpose of commercial standards is to establish for specific commodities nationally recognized grades or consumer criteria and the benefits therefrom will be measurable in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Instances will occur when it may be necessary to deviate from the standard and the signing of an acceptance does not preclude such departures; however, such signature indicates an intention to follow the commercial standard where practicable, in the production, distribution, or consumption of the article in question.

3. The Department's responsibility.—The major function performed by the Department of Commerce in the voluntary establishment of commercial standards on a Nation-wide basis is fourfold: first, to act as an unbiased coordinator to bring all interested parties together for the mutually satisfactory adjustment of trade standards; second, to supply such assistance and advice as past experience with similar programs may suggest; third, to canvass and record the extent of acceptance and adherence to the standard on the part of producers, distributors, and users; and fourth, after acceptance, to publish and promulgate the standard for the information and guidance of buyers and sellers of the commodity.

4. Announcement and promulgation.—When the standard has been endorsed by a satisfactory majority of production or consumption in the absence of active, valid opposition, the success of the project is announced. If, however, in the opinion of the standing committee or the Department of Commerce, the support of any standard is inadequate, the right is reserved to withhold promulgation and publication.
ACCEPTORS

The organizations and individuals listed below have accepted this standard as their standard of practice in the production, distribution, and use of clearance, marker, and identification lamps. Such endorsement does not signify that they may not find it necessary to deviate from the standard, nor that producers so listed guarantee all of their products in this field to conform with the requirements of this standard. Therefore, specific evidence of conformity should be obtained where required.

ASSOCIATIONS

American Transit Association, New York, N. Y.
Arkansas, Associated Motor Carriers of, Little Rock, Ark.
Michigan Trucking Association, Detroit, Mich.
National Standard Parts Association, Detroit, Mich. (In principle.)
Safety Equipment Manufacturer’s Association, Inc., New York, N. Y.

FIRMS

A. G. Sales Co., Inc., New York, N. Y. (In principle.)
Adley Express Co., Inc., New Haven, Conn.
Aetna Motor Products Co., Boston (Dorchester), Mass.
Anthes Force Oil Co., Fort Madison, Iowa.
Appleton Electric Co., Chicago, Ill.
Approved Patents Corporation, New York, N. Y.
Arrow Safety Device Co., Medford, N. J.
Atlantic Greyhound Corporation, Charleston, W. Va.
Autocar Co., The, Ardmore, Pa.
Bendix Aviation Corporation, Bendix Products Division, New York, N. Y.
Bolser Corporation, The, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Carlton Lamp Corporation, Union City, N. J. (In principle.)
Casco Products Corporation, Bridgeport, Conn.
Central Co-operative Wholesale, Superior, Wis.
Coleman Motors Corporation, Littleton, Colo.
Colorado, State Highway Department of, Traffic Division, Denver, Colo. (In principle.)
Columbus Metal Products, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.
Connecticut, State Motor Vehicle Department of, Hartford, Conn.
Connecticut Telephone & Electric Corporation, Meriden, Conn.
Crescent Co., The, Pawtucket, R. I.
Dallas, Better Business Bureau of, Dallas, Tex. (In principle.)
Detroit Testing Laboratory, The, Detroit, Mich. (In principle.)
Dietz Co., R. E., New York, N. Y. (In principle.)
Divco-Twin Truck Co., Detroit, Mich.
Dixie Motor Coach Corporation, Dallas, Tex.
Economy Electric Lantern Co., Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.
Electrical Testing Laboratories, New York, N. Y. (In principle.)
Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., The, Akron, Ohio.
Hunt & Co., J. R., Baltimore, Md.
Idaho, State of, Boise, Idaho.
K-D Lamp Co., The, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Kilborn-Sauer Co., The, Fairfield, Conn.
Lancaster Lens Co., The, Lancaster, Ohio.
Machine Reporter Corporation, Portland, Oreg.
Maryland Casualty Co., Baltimore, Md. (In principle.)
McKee Glass Co., Jeannette, Pa.
Mercury Motors, Inc., Fort Smith, Ark.

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Miller Co., The A. J., Bellefontaine, Ohio.
Minnesota Department of Highways, St. Paul, Minn.
Moreland Motor Truck Co., Los Angeles, Calif.
National Transportation Co., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.
Nebraska State Railway Commission, Lincoln, Nebr.
Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Packard Properties, Inc., General Accessories Division of, New York, N. Y.
Patzig Testing Laboratories, Des Moines, Iowa.
Peltier Glass Co., The, Ottawa, Ill.
Perfection Motor Products Co., The, Bridgeport, Conn.
Premier Signal Co., Bellevue, Ohio.
Protectall Motor Signal, Inc., Syracuse, N. Y.
Purdue University, Engineering Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind. (In principle.)
Reo Motors, Inc., Lansing, Mich.
S&M Lamp Co., Los Angeles, Calif.
Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill.
Sunshine Bus Lines, Inc., Dallas, Tex.
Tennessee Department of Safety, Nashville, Tenn.
Tripple Manufacturing Co., Chicago, Ill.
U. S. Metal Products Co., New York, N. Y.
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Chicago, Ill. (In principle.)
Unity Manufacturing Co., Chicago, Ill.
Virginia, Division of Motor Vehicles of, Richmond, Va. (In principle.)
Walter Motor Truck Co., Ridgewood, L. I., N. Y.
Washington, State of, Olympia, Wash.
Western Auto Supply Co., Kansas City, Mo.
Wisconsin, Motor Vehicle Department of, Madison, Wis.
Yankee Metal Products Corporation, Norwalk, Conn.

U. S. GOVERNMENT

Agriculture, U. S. Department of, Office of Plant & Operations, Washington, D. C.
Foreign & Domestic Commerce, Bureau of, Electrical Division, Washington, D. C. (In principle.)
Panama Canal, The, Transportation Division, Supply Department, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.
Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.
War Department, Washington, D. C.
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

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Notice.—Those interested in commercial standards with a view toward accepting them as a basis of every-day practice may secure copies of the above standards, while the supply lasts, by addressing the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.