



Vehicle Safety Inspection Program Bulletin

ASED-029

Date: March 09, 2022
Bulletin: All Inspection Station Personnel
From: Automotive Safety Enforcement Division
RE: **Pulsating High Mount Stop Lamp (3rd Brake Light)**

Many vehicles are now being manufactured or retrofitted with *Pulsating High Mount Stop Lamps*, sometimes referred to as the “**3rd brake light**” by many people. These lights do not specifically contradict Maryland regulations or laws which prohibit “*Flashing Stop Lamps*”, as they “*Pulse*” the lamp rather than “*Flash*” it.

A high mount stop lamp so equipped, when activated, will pulsate 3-5 times, then burn steady as long as the stop/brake lights are illuminated indicating braking of the vehicle. The left and right stop lamps shall only illuminate steadily and are prohibited from pulsating during operation.



The prohibition against primary stop lamps pulsating are not applicable to motorcycles as motorcycles are not required to be equipped with *High Mount Stop Lamps*, and therefore do pulse the primary stop lamps prior to the steady illumination of the vehicle brake light if so equipped.

*If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact ASED at:
410-768-7388 or MSP.ASED@maryland.gov*