

**FEB 17 2012**

2/11/2012

Mr. Randy Reid, Chief  
NHTSA  
Office of Defect Investigation (NVS-216 nlm)  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
West Building  
Washington DC 20590

Re: High Intensity blue automobile headlights are a hazard


Dear Mr. Reid:

Thank you for your letter (attached).

Regardless of the research I feel sure that as the sheer number of cars with HID lights proliferates there is going to eventually be an overwhelmingly negative effect on drivers. Two or three cars with HIDs coming at me I can deal with.

Fifty cars coming at me with HIDs-----NO WAY. There will be road rage, accidents, and protest. Best to deal with this now when it is a small problem, because it will be a very big and expensive problem to fix pretty soon. Its all about numbers, not research.



Des Moines, IA 



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

February 02, 2012

[REDACTED]

Des Moines, IA [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm  
Ref. No. 10430733

Thank you for your correspondence concerning motor vehicle headlights. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received your correspondence. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

You have concerns regarding the newer, bright headlamps with a blue tint, which may include high intensity discharge (HID), or light emitting diode (LED) headlamps. You state that the light from these headlamps is too intense and want them banned.

NHTSA has a safety standard for lamps, reflective devices and associated equipment. The purpose of this standard is to reduce crashes and injuries by providing adequate illumination of the roadway and by enhancing the visibility of motor vehicles on public roads. For headlamps, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 contains intensity and color requirements in order to balance seeing distance needs while limiting glare to other drivers.

Older technology halogen headlamps do have a yellow tint as opposed to the more recently introduced HID and LED headlamps which produce a whiter color with a slight blue tint. Some consumers have associated this whiter color with glare and in response, NHTSA conducted research to further our understanding of the subject. In 2008, we compiled a summary of our research which included the impact of glare on older drivers. A copy of this report is on our NHTSA web site at, [www.nhtsa.gov/Research/Human+Factors/Headlighting](http://www.nhtsa.gov/Research/Human+Factors/Headlighting).

One of the conclusions that we found was that glare with a bluish tint may cause more discomfort, but it does not decrease a glared drivers seeing distance. Additionally, the agency has taken actions against importers of HID retrofit kits. These kits may not be manufactured or imported into the United States because they facilitate the installation of HID light sources into lamps that were designed for use with halogen bulbs.

★★★★★  
**NHTSA**  
[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq) or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems).

Sincerely,



Randy Reid, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

[REDACTED]  
Des Moines, Iowa

DES MOINES IA 503

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