

Terminology-Motor Vehicle Lighting-SAE J387 JUL83

SAE Information Report
Completely Revised July 1983

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Report of the Lighting Committee, approved March 1969, completely revised July 1985.

Scope—The following are definitions of common terms used in SAE Standards and Recommended Practices pertaining to motor vehicle lighting.

Accurate Rated Bulb—A seasoned bulb operated at design mean spherical candlepower and having its filament(s) positioned within ± 0.25 mm, and with its pins oriented within ± 5 deg, of nominal design positions. Rated bulbs shall be seasoned at rated voltage for 1% of their design life or 10 h maximum.

Bulb—An indivisible assembly which contains a source of light and which is normally used in a lamp.

Centroid of a Lens Area—The geometric centroid of a plane area which is perpendicular to the axis of reference of the vehicle and upon which the projection of the functional lighted lens area falls. As an example: The axis of reference for lamps mounted on the front and rear of a vehicle is the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

Device—Any piece of equipment or mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function.

Lamp—A divisible assembly which contains a bulb or other light source and sometimes an optical system such as a lens and/or a reflector, and which provides a lighting function.

Light—Visible radiant energy.

Multiple Compartment Lamp—A device which gives its indication by two or more separately lighted areas which are joined by one or more common parts, such as a housing or lens.

Multiple Lamp Arrangement—An array of two or more separate lamps on each side of the vehicle which operate together to give a signal.

Unit—An indivisible assembly which provides a mechanical, electrical, or lighting function, for example, sealed beam unit or flasher.

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