

Audax Australia - Lighting

The lighting requirements are basically very simple:

- (a) two independent front lights and two independent rear lights must be available for use (i.e. attached to the bicycle or carried);
- (b) one of each must be fixed to the bicycle or to a secure accessory (eg a rack or saddle bag);
- (c) at night or at times of low visibility at least one front light (of fixed beam) and one rear light must be illuminated;
- (d) a rear red reflector must be permanently fixed to the bicycle; and
- (e) a reflective vest (or equivalent for a rider of a recumbent) must be carried and must be worn at night or at times low visibility.

The purpose of the lighting requirements is to ensure:

Visibility	The rider must be able to be seen by other traffic.
Legality	The Ride Rules encompass all relevant requirements, including the Australian Road Rules.
Enforceability	Lighting rules must be easily enforceable.
Clarity	The rules must be unambiguous and easily understood.
Redundancy	No lighting system is perfectly reliable. Breakages, malfunctions and failed batteries occur only too frequently. Backup systems are required.

Points to note:

- (a) Lights that are **visible** and comply with the road rules, i.e. clearly visible from at least 200 metres from in front or from the rear of the bicycle as applicable (50 metres for reflectors) may not be sufficient for *effectively* lighting a road where there are no street lights.
- (b) **Independent** means that both the front lights cannot be powered from the same power source or use a single mount. Likewise both rear lights cannot be powered from the same power source or use a single mount. The single mount requirement does not preclude the use of a space bar to which both lights are mounted, it is intended to prevent, for example, a rider having one light mounted on the handle bar and a second identical light in a pocket/bag with the intention of attaching it to the same mount as the first light. The same source can power a front and a rear light.
- (c) Front lights must have a constant beam setting and must be used.
- (d) The Ride Rules do not designate the colour of the lights, but the Australian Road Rules state that the front light must be white and the rear light must be red.
- (e) A rear reflector can be part of a taillight, so long as it can be seen from a distance of 50 metres.
- (f) **Night** is the period between sunset on one day and sunrise on the next day.

- (g) Low light conditions (around dawn and dusk) are also dangerous. It is recommended that lights be turned on well before darkness and kept on into full light.
- (h) The lighting requirements apply on any ride where any part of the maximum permitted time for the ride is at night
- (i) These requirements are seen as being a basic minimum. Ankle reflectors and bright clothing are also strongly recommended. In addition, most experienced Audax riders will carry more than two lights for front and for rear. Riders should also ensure that they have adequate power supplies (spare batteries or guaranteed access to them) and spare globes.

Basically, the Ride Rules extend the Australian Road Rules. In addition to the reflector and primary lights required under the Road Rules, on Audax rides supplementary lights must be carried (both front and back), as well as a reflective vest (or equivalent).

The Ride Rules **require** a Ride Organiser to disqualify any rider who does not meet the lighting requirements and give authority to delegate this power to support officials. As proper lighting is seen as fundamental to rider safety, no discretion is allowed. The Ride Organiser is not required to provide support to any rider who has been disqualified.

Lighting inspections will be carried out before all rides which may incorporate night riding. Riders who do not meet the lighting requirements will not be permitted to start.

A guidance note on reflective garments can be found [here](#).