

INFORMATION BULLETIN



January 5, 2024

MERCEDES-BENZ BLUE-GREEN MARKER LAMPS

The CHP Commissioner has granted an Experimental Equipment Permit (EEP) that allows Mercedes-Benz to outfit their DRIVE PILOT-equipped vehicles with blue-green (i.e., turquoise) Automated Driving System (ADS) Marker Lamps for the specific purpose of studying how other road-users interact with the blue-green ADS Marker Lamps. The EEP exempts Mercedes-Benz DRIVE PILOT-equipped vehicles retrofitted with blue-green ADS Marker Lamps from the provisions of Sections 24003 and 25950 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), and sets forth the following conditions:

- Mercedes-Benz shall comply with all autonomous vehicle regulations outlined in Section 38750 CVC.
- Test vehicles must be owned by Mercedes-Benz, and must have a properly licensed and qualified human operator, who is employed by Mercedes-Benz, in the driver seat at all times of operation and testing.
- The ADS Marker Lamps must meet the performance, color, materials, mounting height, and activation requirements outlined in SAE Standard J3134 (SAE Recommended Practice for marker lamps on ADS-equipped vehicles), as published in May 2019.
- The ADS Marker Lamps may be installed within a housing containing other CVC required or permitted lighting devices only if the regulatory function of the other devices is not impaired.
- No part of the ADS Marker Lamps may be optically combined with any other required or permitted lighting devices.
- The incorporation and use of the ADS Marker Lamps are limited to Mercedes-Benz manufactured test vehicles, and the lamps shall not be activated at any time DRIVE PILOT is not engaged, except for static testing or demonstration purposes.
- Mercedes-Benz vehicles equipped with ADS Marker Lamps for use during the permit period may remain equipped with the lamps for the entirety of the vehicle's operational life span; however, the lamps must be disabled in the event this permit is not renewed or extended, or if legislative or regulatory changes prohibiting their use are enacted in California.



- The use of the ADS Marker Lamps is prohibited beyond the permit period unless there is a renewal of the permit or there is a legislative or regulatory change enacted allowing the use of the lamps.
- A copy of the EEP shall be carried at all times in Mercedes-Benz test vehicles equipped with the ADS Marker Lamps and shall be presented to law enforcement upon request.

The EEP only applies to Mercedes-Benz DRIVE PILOT-equipped vehicles. These vehicles will be easily identifiable, when operating in autonomous mode, with blue-green lights illuminated on the steering column, dashboard, headlamp assemblies, taillamp assemblies, and side-view mirrors. Officers are also reminded that, when in autonomous mode, the human occupant becomes a fallback-ready user and is not considered a driver. Therefore, the human occupant does not have to comply with several provisions of the CVC (refer to the Information Bulletin [IB] titled, Interaction with SAE Level 3 Autonomous Vehicles, for further clarification).

Additional information on the Mercedes-Benz DRIVE PILOT may be found on Mercedes-Benz' website at: <https://www.mbusa.com/en/owners/manuals/drive-pilot>.

Questions regarding this IB should be directed to the Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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