

215.20 REQUIRED LIGHTING EQUIPMENT - BICYCLES.

The motor vehicle law requires every bicycle when used on a highway at night¹ to be equipped with [a lighted lamp² on the front thereof, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 300 feet in front of the bicycle] [a reflex mirror or lamp on the rear, exhibiting a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the bicycle].³

A violation of this law is negligence within itself.⁴

1. A bicycle is a "vehicle" under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-129(a). The definition of "night" includes the periods specified in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-129(a)(1) and (2).

2. The statute uses "lamp" not "light" -a usage which purists may wish to retain. See *Bigelow v. Johnson*, 303 N.C. 126, 277 S.E.2d 347 (1981), in which a flashlight was held not to comply with the requirements of the statute.

3. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-129(e).

4. See *Miller v. Enzor*, 17 N.C. App. 510, 195 S.E.2d 86 (1973) (proximate cause presented question for jury).