

# Illegal Bulb Danger!

**Overwattage bulbs to fit DOT headlamps are illegal and dangerous. Candlepower will not sell them. Here's why!**

Overwattage bulbs are completely illegal. There's no exception for bulbs marked "Off road use only." All bulbs for DOT headlamps must comply with DOT standards and be marked "DOT," or they're illegal to import or sell. Some companies push illegal bulbs, figuring they won't get in trouble because they're thousands of miles away. That leaves their North American distributors as the targets for DOT enforcement. The penalty for selling illegal bulbs is up to \$5,000 per bulb up to a maximum of eight million dollars.

Overwattage bulbs for DOT headlamps are not offered by reputable companies. They're poorly made by no-name companies with sloppy quality control. They're much more likely to explode like a grenade, which usually destroys the expensive headlamp. When the customer gets a stiff bill for new headlamps, he's going to be very angry at whoever sold him the bulbs. It's not worth the expense and damage to your reputation.

The beam pattern produced by DOT headlamps does not respond well to overwattage bulbs. They make headlamps throw far too much glare into the eyes of other drivers. In bad weather, the user of overwattage bulbs also blinds himself—the extra light reflects brightly off of rain, fog and snow, back into his eyes. Extra glare is dangerous not only because of the obvious safety hazard, but because road rage is on the rise. It's not wise to anger other road users by throwing extra glare at them.

Of course, the other drivers on the road aren't the only ones who count on replacement bulbs meeting the standard. The engineers who created the vehicle's electrical system did, too; they designed the switches, wires, sockets and control computers to handle specific amounts of electrical power. Overloading the electrical system with overwattage bulbs can easily cause severe, costly damage to

the vehicle, or even a deadly fire. And since extra watts mean extra heat, plastic headlamp parts can be deformed, burnt or melted by overwattage bulbs.

A significant improvement in headlamp performance can be attained without breaking the law. High efficiency bulbs, such as **Candlepower Bright Light, Super Bright Light or Bright Light Blue** bulbs, offer brighter, whiter light without any of the safety or legal hazards of overwattage bulbs. Often, cars come from the factory with headlamp wiring that is too thin. Installing relays and heavy gauge wiring together with high efficiency bulbs usually makes the customer very happy, and provides a much safer, more attractive profit incentive to the distributor than he can get with overwattage bulbs.

**About those bulbs that claim to produce "100 watts of light from just 55 watts of power..."**

The watt is a measure of electrical power, not of light intensity. This kind of "pretend high intensity bulb" tries to imitate the whiter light color of a higher wattage bulb, with colored coatings on the bulb glass. But whiter color doesn't mean more light or better seeing, and because colored coatings reduce total light output, most of these bulbs produce less light than the law allows. Just as everybody loses with too much light, everybody loses with not enough light.

At **Candlepower**, we're dedicated to excellence. All our headlight bulbs conform to the technical standards. So when you choose **Candlepower** bulbs, your customer will have all the right amounts of light in all the right places. His vehicle won't catch fire, his headlamps won't melt, and he won't be blinding and enraging other drivers or himself. And your reputation will be better for it.

We're happy to answer your technical questions. Just ask us!

## Technical bulletin: overwattage bulbs.

**Overwattage headlamps—not a bright idea.**

A headlamp will give safe performance with a replacement bulb, but only if the replacement bulb is of the correct wattage. When you choose **Candlepower** bulbs, you'll have all the right amounts of light in all the right places.



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