# V87 - Rear visibility marking on vehicles (Rear marking plates, Conspicuity markings, White or silver bands)

## Information Bulletin

### Purpose

This bulletin summarises the requirement for rear visibility markings on certain vehicles.

### Introduction

Vehicle lighting, including reflectors, is regulated by Australian Design Rules, vehicle standards regulations and in-service maintenance standards.

Prescribing minimum requirements for vehicle lighting supports good road safety outcomes by ensuring vehicles have appropriate lighting for use in low light conditions and that vehicles are clearly visible to other road users.

### Rear marking plates

Rear marking plates are retroreflective yellow and red plates intended to show the presence of a heavy vehicle when viewed from the rear by reflection from a light source on an approaching vehicle.

The requirement to fit rear marking plates applies to motor vehicles with a gross vehicle mass over 12 tonnes and to trailers with a gross trailer mass over 10 tonnes. Urban service buses fitted with hand grips or similar equipment for standing passengers to hold are exempt from this requirement.

Fitment of rear marking plates must be in accordance with the national "Vehicle Standards Bulletin 12 Rear Marking Plates" as published by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

### Conspicuity markings

Conspicuity markings are retroreflective outline markers intended to show the contoured presence of a heavy vehicle when viewed from the front (white), side (red or yellow) and rear (red or yellow) by reflection from a light source on an approaching vehicle.

In Australia, fitting conspicuity markings is optional. Where fitted, conspicuity markings must comply with United Nations Regulation 48.

# White or silver bands

Vehicles with flat body designs (i.e. tray body) that are at least 2.2m wide and less than 300mm in body height measured at the rear of the vehicle are required to display white or silver bands across the width at the rear to warn approaching vehicles of its presence.

Current regulations accepts rear marking plates in lieu of white or silver bands.

# Exemption

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles has issued an exemption to allow conspicuity markings to be fitted in lieu of fitting rear marking plates and white or silver bands on the condition that the conspicuity markings comply with United Nations Regulation 48 – see attached Copy of Gazette Notice G43 dated 25 October 2017.

Additionally, the exemption refers to "***Vehicle Standards Bulletin 12 Rear Marking Plates***" as the prescribed standard for rear marking plates instead of a previous standard prescribed in *Regulation 34 of the Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations 2003*.

The exemption is intended to align with the exemption issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and to provide for national consistency.

# Combined Rear marking plates, Conspicuity markings and White or silver bands

A vehicle may be fitted with rear marking plates, conspicuity markings and white or silver bands as long as their fitment complies with the relevant standards.

# "Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle" sign

Under NT road law, this sign may be displayed at the rear of a vehicle or vehicle combination that is over 7.5 metres in length. The rear marking plate exemption does not exempt from the requirement to display this sign.

# More Information

### Australian Trucking Association

Technical Advisory Procedure – Heavy vehicle visibility
http://www.truck.net.au/resource-library/tap-heavy-vehicle-visibility

### National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

Vehicle Standards Guides 11 - Fitting of additional reflectors and conspicuity markings
Vehicle Standards Guides 29 – Rear marking plates and "Do not overtake turning vehicle" signs
https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/vehicle-standards-and-modifications/vehicle-standards-guides

*Copy of* **Gazette G43, dated 25 October 2017**

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

*Motor Vehicles Act*

**EXEMPTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS**

**Rear Marking Plate Exemption**

I, SIMON PHILLIP SAUNDERS, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to section 59(2) of the *Motor Vehicles Act* exempt from the provisions of Rules 33(5), 59 and 119 of Schedule 6 (Australian Vehicle Standards Rules) of the *Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations* and Regulation 34 of the *Motor Vehicle (Standards) Regulations* the following three classes of vehicle:

1. a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle mass over 12 tonnes;
2. a trailer with a gross trailer mass over 10 tonnes; and
3. a vehicle at least 2.2 metres wide and has a body with a vertical measurement under 300 millimetres at the rear, measured from the lowest point of the body above ground level to the highest point.

This exemption is subject to the condition that the vehicle is:

a) fitted with Rear Marking Plates complying with *"Vehicle Standards Bulletin 12 Standards for Rear Marking Plates"* as published by the Vehicle Safety Branch of the Western Australian Department of Planning and Infrastructure; or
b) fitted with Conspicuity Markings complying with the requirements of *"Australian Design Rule 13 Installation of Lighting and Light-signalling Devices on other than L-Group Vehicles"*.

*Note:*

*i) A bus fitted with hand grips or similar equipment for standing passengers to hold is exempt from the requirement to display Rear Marking Plates.*

*ii) This exemption does not exempt from the requirement for certain vehicles to display a "Do not overtake turning vehicle" sign.*

Dated 17 October 2017

Simon Phillip Saunders

Registrar of Motor Vehicles