

Correct as at 17th May 2026. It may be superseded at any time.

Extract taken from: In-service certification (WoF and CoF) > Unclassified vehicles > Lighting > Rear reflectors

4-13 Rear reflectors

Reasons for rejection

Mandatory equipment

1. A vehicle is:

- a) not fitted with at least one rearward-facing reflector on each side, or
- b) fitted with a rearward-facing reflector that is not in a pair.

2. A retrofitted reflector is fitted at a height from the ground exceeding 1.5m (or 2.1m where fitting below 1.5m is not practicable due to the shape of the bodywork of the vehicle).

3. A reflector is not positioned to the rear of the vehicle.

4. A retrofitted pair of reflectors is not:

- a) symmetrically mounted, or
- b) mounted as far towards each side of the vehicle as is practicable.

Condition

5. A mandatory reflector's ability to reflect light is affected by excessive:

- a) fading, or
- b) scratching or other damage.

6. A mandatory reflector is obscured.

Performance

7. The reflected light from a mandatory reflector is not visible from 100m.

8. The reflected light from a reflector is not red.

Note 1 Definitions

Reflector means a discreet item of lighting equipment that is designed to reflect incident light back towards the light source, but does not include reflective material (such as reflective tape).

Reflective material means any material that is designed to reflect incident light back towards the light source, and includes reflective tape, but does not include a reflector.

Note 2

A vehicle originally manufactured with a rear reflector arrangement that differs from what is required or permitted in this section may retain the original rear reflectors provided they remain fitted in their original position and perform as intended by the vehicle manufacturer.

Summary of legislation

Applicable legislation

- [Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Lighting 2004](#)

Mandatory equipment

1. A vehicle must be fitted with one or more pairs of rearward-facing reflectors at a height from the ground not exceeding 1.5m, or if this is not practicable due to the shape of the bodywork of the vehicle, not exceeding 2.1m.
2. A rearward-facing reflector must be positioned to the rear of the vehicle.
3. A reflector must be of an area that allows it to reflect light to improve the visibility of the vehicle to other road users, but it must not cause them undue dazzle or discomfort.
4. A retrofitted pair of reflectors must be symmetrically mounted as far towards each side of the vehicle as is practicable.

Condition

5. A mandatory reflector must be in good condition and not be obscured.

Performance

6. A reflector must operate in a way that is appropriate for the reflector and the vehicle.
7. A reflector must reflect white light as substantially red light.
8. A reflector must provide sufficient light reflection to fulfil its intended purpose.