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Media release

Caution on the use of side and rear retro-reflective material on public transport

The Traffic Law Enforcement, Licensing and Security Department would like to warn motorists on the use of side and rear retro-reflective material (contour or strip marking), especially public transport, goods and mining vehicles.

General requirements for retro-reflective material

In terms of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act no. 93 of 1996) contour or strip marking means yellow side and rear retro-reflective material that shall comply with SABS ECE R104 "Uniform provisions concerning the approval of retro-reflective markings for heavy and long vehicles and their trailers":

Every retro-reflector required to be fitted to a vehicle or load in terms of these regulations shall not be lower than 300 millimetres and not higher than one comma five metres from ground level, measured to the centre of the retro-reflector: The following must be adhered;

- Goods vehicle with a gross vehicle mass exceeding 3500 kilograms; shall be permanently affixed with contour markings on the side and the rear of such vehicle and the rear contour markings may not be affixed more than 600 millimetres from the lower part of the body of such vehicle.
- goods vehicle with a length of more than 7 metres shall be permanently affixed with contour markings.
- A trailer or caravan first registered on or after 1 January 2004 be permanently affixed with side and rear contour markings.
- A bus first registered from 1 July 2004 shall be permanently affixed with side and rear markings.
- Any midibus or bus operating in terms of an operating licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the National Land Transport Transition Act (NLTTA), shall from 04 September 2006, be permanently affixed with side and rear markings

- A minibus operating in terms of an operating licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the NLTTA, first registered on or after 04 September 2006, and operating in terms of an operating licence, be permanently affixed with side and rear markings as.

If, due to the design of the vehicle, it is impossible to fit retro-reflectors on the sides of the body of such vehicle at the prescribed height, the retro-reflectors shall be fitted as near as possible to such height.

Unlawful use of reflector or reflective material

No person shall operate on a public road a vehicle whilst a reflector or reflective material fitted to such vehicle does not reflect a -

- Yellow colour to the side of such vehicle,
- A motor vehicle manufactured, built or imported by a registered manufacturer, builder or importer may have a red retro-reflector fitted at the side towards the rear of such motor vehicle.

Benefits of retro reflective signs

Retro-reflective signs provide a double bonus for the public – they are illuminated by motorists' headlights, making them more visible. Reflectors could prevent many of the crashes involving heavy vehicles.

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Yours sincerely

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER