

# Side Marker Lamps (Amber)

July 2021



RVMAP™

Caravan Industry Association of Australia's RVMAP Technical Team has identified a growing trend in issues relating to side marker lamps (amber) not being correctly placed on various recreational vehicles.

## Towable Vehicles

ADR 13/00 and VSB 1 state that amber side marker lamps are required to be fitted between 250mm and 1500mm height from the ground with a spacing of no more than 3000mm between adjacent lamps.

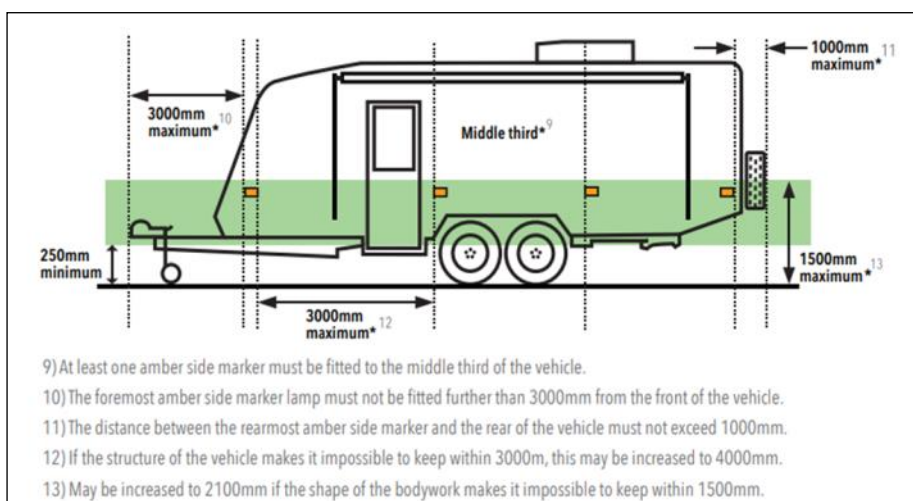
For towable vehicles, with length longer than 6000mm, the forward-most side marker lamp is required to be fitted within 3000mm from the front (coupling) of the towable vehicle and the rearmost side marker lamp within 1000mm from the rear of the towable vehicle, including rear overhang and bumper equipment. At least one side marker lamp shall be fitted within the middle third of the overall length.

Side marker lamps are optional on a towable vehicle that does not exceed 6000mm in length. However, if fitted, it is sufficient to have a single side marker lamp fitted within the first third and/or within the last third of the overall length. Alternatively, the full side marker lamp position and location specifications may be used.

**Note:** The Overall length measurement includes any overhanging body structure or permanently mounted equipment (e.g., bumper equipment, spare tyres, bike rack, etc.).

Side marker lamps are required to have a clear field of view over angles of 45° forwards and rearwards and 10° above and below horizontal."

The diagram opposite is an illustration of the above information.



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## Motorised Vehicles

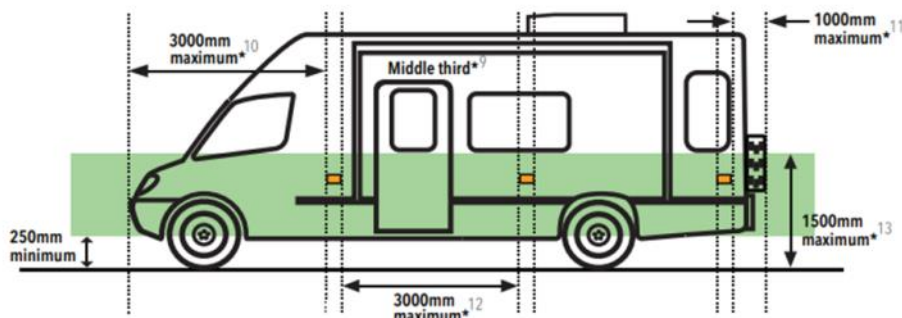
For motorised vehicles over 6000mm in length, side marker lamps are required to be fitted between 250mm and 1500mm height from the ground with a spacing of no more than 3000mm between adjacent lamps. Furthermore, the forward most side marker lamp is required to be fitted within 3000mm from the front of the vehicle and the rearmost side marker lamp within 1000mm from the rear of the vehicle, including rear overhang and bumper equipment. At least one side marker lamp shall be fitted within the middle third of the overall length.

Side marker lamps are optional on a vehicle that is less than 6000mm. However, if fitted, it is sufficient to have a single side marker lamp fitted within the first third and/or within the last third of the vehicle's overall length. Alternatively, the full side marker lamp position and location specifications may be used.

Note: The Overall length measurement includes any overhanging body structure or permanently mounted equipment (e.g., bumper equipment, spare tyres, bike rack, etc.).

Side marker lamps are required to have a clear field of view over angles of 45° forwards and rearwards and 10° above and below horizontal.

The diagram opposite is an illustration of the above information.



- 9) At least one amber side marker must be fitted to the middle third of the vehicle.
- 10) The foremost amber side marker lamp must not be fitted further than 3000mm from the front of the vehicle.
- 11) The distance between the rearmost amber side marker and the rear of the vehicle must not exceed 1000mm.
- 12) If the structure of the vehicle makes it impossible to keep within 3000mm, this may be increased to 4000mm.
- 13) May be increased to 2100mm if the shape of the bodywork makes it impossible to keep within 1500mm.



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## Problem areas to look out for include:

- Height of lamps – always measured from the ground to the top of the apparent surfaces.
- Spacing between adjacent lamps – measured from the nearest edges of the apparent surfaces.
- Visibility - Lamp being obscured by equipment such as awning arm, roof rack arm, etc.
- Not having a lamp in the middle third of the vehicle length – this can occur even if the spacing distances between adjacent lamps are correct.

## Recommendation:

To ensure that side marker lamps are fitted correctly, it is recommended that accredited businesses review [ADR 13](#) and [VSB 1](#) to familiarize with the requirements of side marker lamps on recreational vehicles.

Alternatively, an easy-to-read poster can be purchased from the RVMAP catalogue, Item # C-11A (*A1 Compliance Poster – Lamps and Reflectors*).

Download the current RVMAP Merchandise Catalogue and Order Form from the [RVMAP Portal](#) or by using the download buttons below:

RVMAP MERCHANDISE  
CATALOGUE

RVMAP MERCHANDISE  
ORDER FORM

Any questions in relation to this information can be emailed to [rvmmap@caravanindustry.com.au](mailto:rvmmap@caravanindustry.com.au)



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