

Side Reflectors

UPDATE: September 2022

Original Release: June 2021



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Caravan Industry Association of Australia's RVMAP Technical Team have identified a growing trend in issues relating to side reflectors not being correctly placed on various recreational vehicles.

Australian Design Rule (ADR) 13/00 and Vehicle Standards Bulletin 1 (VSB 1) state that side reflectors are required to be fitted between 250mm and 900mm height from the ground (or 1200mm when grouped with any lamps).

Side reflectors shall have a spacing of no more than 3000mm between adjacent reflectors.

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

The same applies to motorized vehicles over 6000mm in length and for when the vehicle is less than 6000mm in length, then a single side reflector may be fitted within the first third and/or within the last third of the overall vehicle length.

Side reflectors are required to have a clear field of view over angles of 45° forwards and rearwards and 10° above and below horizontal." This applies to all vehicles.



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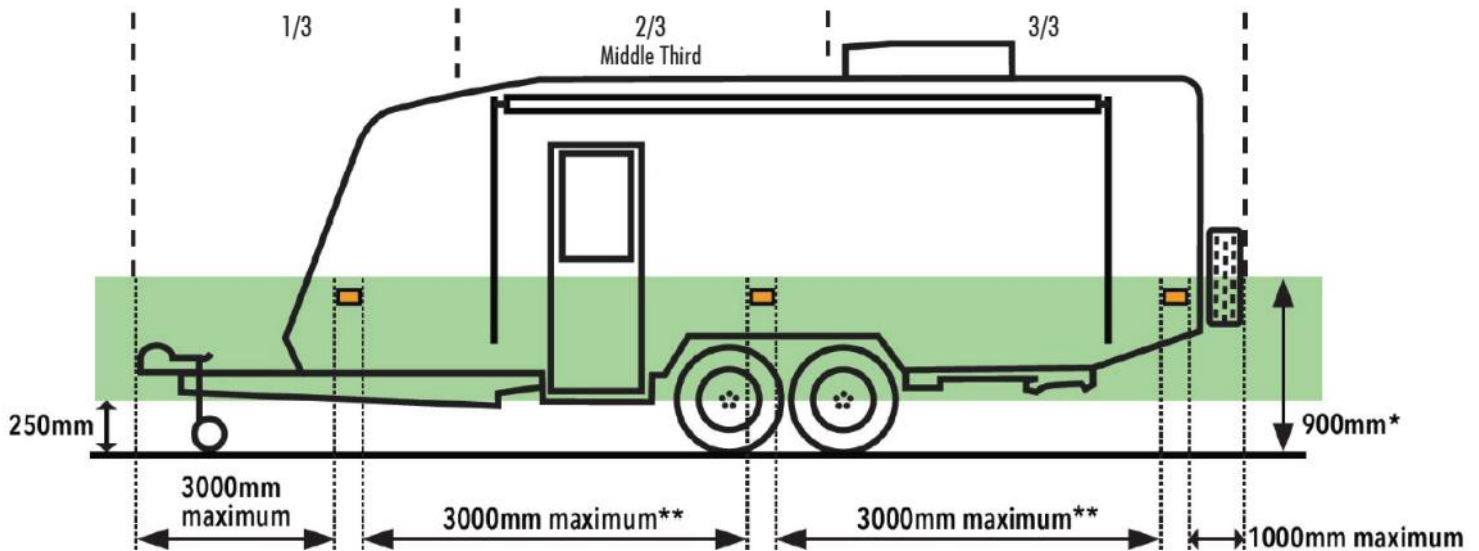
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The following diagrams further illustrate these information.



* May be increased to 1200mm if grouped with the side marker lamp. May be increased to 1500mm if the bodywork doesn't allow for fitment of the reflector below 900mm or 1200mm as applicable.

** May be increased to 4000mm if the structure makes it impossible to keep within 3000mm.



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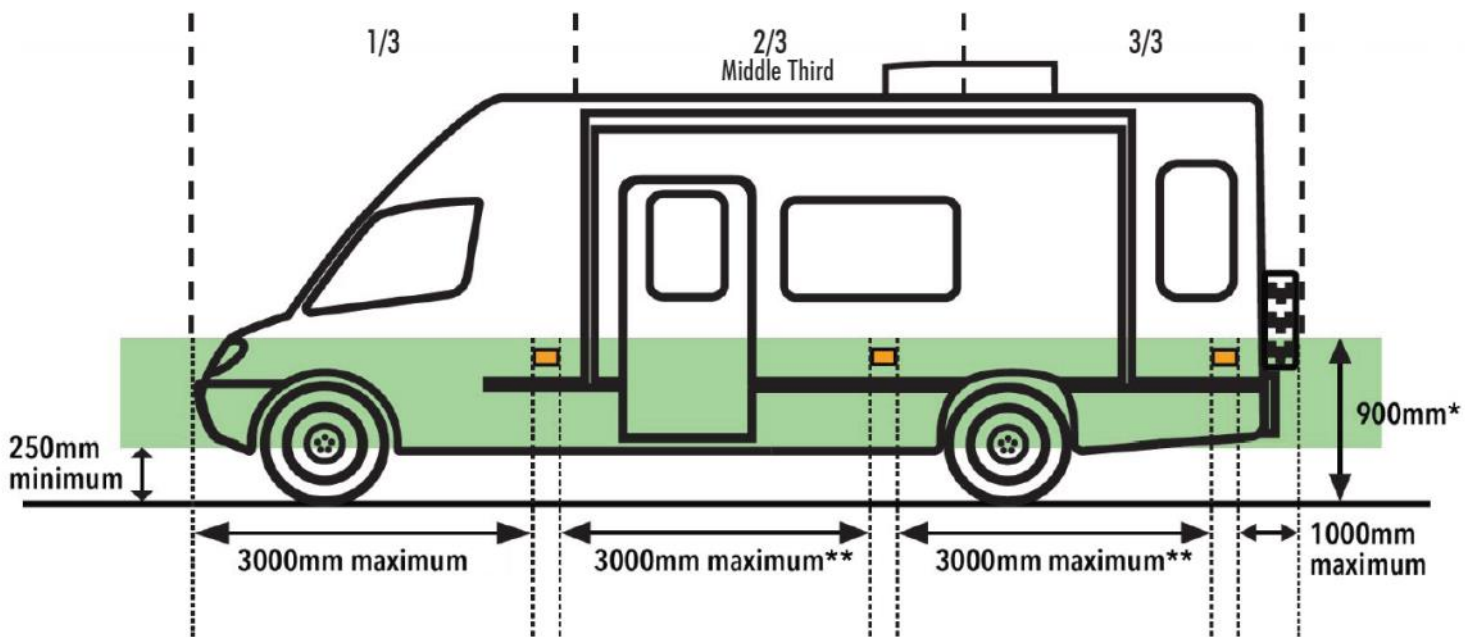
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* May be increased to 1200mm if grouped with the side marker lamp. May be increased to 1500mm if the bodywork doesn't allow for fitment of the reflector below 900mm or 1200mm as applicable.

** The 3000mm spacing requirement only applies to vehicles with GVM exceeding 3.5 tonnes (NB,NC). May be increased to 4000mm if the structure makes it impossible to keep within 3000mm.



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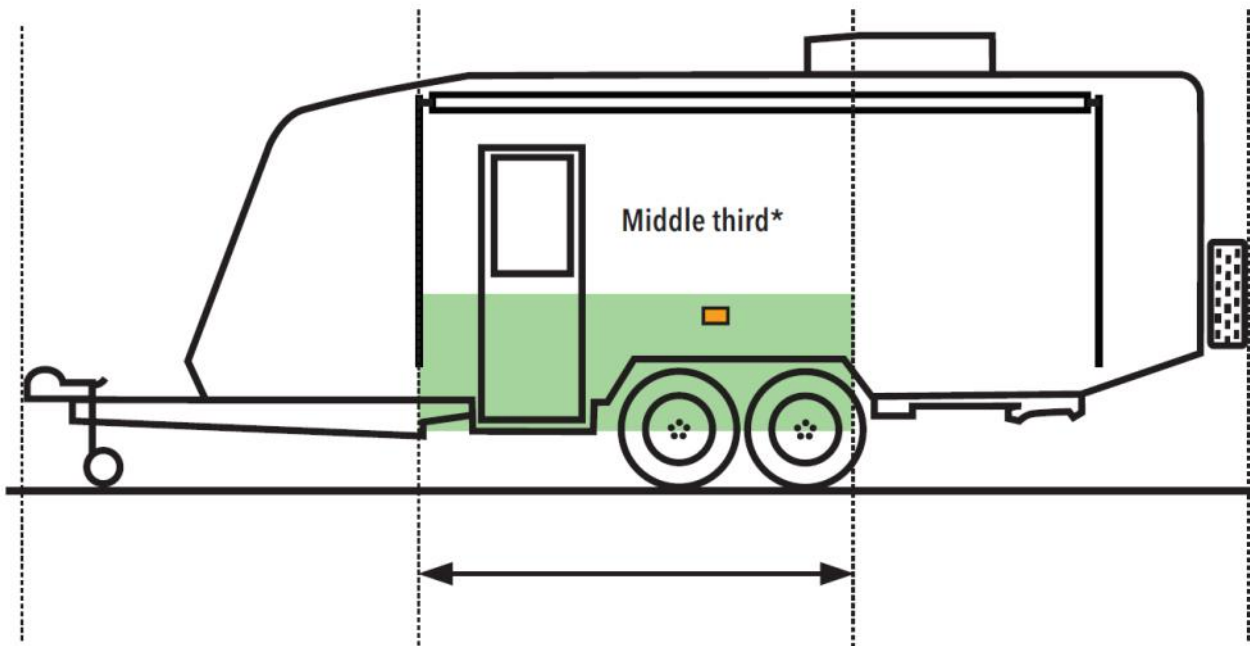
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*At least one reflector must be fitted to the middle third of the Recreational Vehicle, keeping in mind that the foremost reflector must be no more than 3000mm from the front of the Recreational Vehicle.

Problem areas to look out for include:

- Height of reflectors – always measured from the ground to the top of the reflective surface.
- Spacing between adjacent reflectors – measured from the nearest edges of the reflective surfaces.
- Reflectors being obscured by awning arms or other equipment.
- Not having a reflector in the middle 1/3 of the vehicle length – this can occur even if the spacing distances are correct.



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Recommendation:

To ensure that side reflectors are fitted correctly, it is recommended that accredited business review [ADR 13](#) and [VSB1](#) to familiarise with the requirements of side reflectors on recreational vehicles.

Where the installation of equipment or accessories for operational reasons invalidates the compliance of reflectors originally fitted, additional reflectors must be fitted as high as possible to maintain compliance. Full details can be found in ADR 13 Clause 8.1.

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

September 2022 Update: Information on Additional Reflectors added



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