

FAQs on Lighting and Visibility on Agricultural Vehicles

RSA

What are the lighting and visibility requirements for agricultural tractors and self-propelled agricultural equipment? These machines must be equipped with full lighting systems i.e. side lamps, head lamps, rear lamps, stop lamps, direction indicators, amber beacons and number plate lighting at all times and not just during **lighting up hours***. For further details see our booklet on Revised Standards for Agricultural Vehicles [here](#).

What are the revised lighting and visibility requirements for agricultural trailers and interchangeable towed equipment?

- Agricultural trailers and interchangeable towed equipment must be equipped with side lamps, rear lamps, stop lamps, indicators and number plate lighting. They must also be fitted with a marker lamp on their right-hand side if, when coupled to an agricultural tractor, the overall length of the combination *is more than 10 m*.
- Agricultural trailers with a DGVW over 3,500 kg must also be fitted with reflective rear markings. If these trailers form part of a combination of vehicles that is **over 10 m. long**, they must also have reflective side markings.
- A rear **'LONG VEHICLE'** marking must be fitted to a combination of vehicles **over 13 m. long**.
- The reflective and **'LONG VEHICLE'** marking requirements do not apply to pieces of interchangeable towed equipment that can carry more than three times their own unladen weight, e.g. slurry tankers, fertiliser or manure spreaders, grain chaser bins, etc.

Are there any lighting or visibility exemptions for older tractors or trailers?

Yes. Vintage tractors or machinery, i.e. manufactured or first registered 30 years ago are exempt from having to be equipped with a full lighting system, e.g. side lamps, head lamps, rear lamps, stop lamps, direction indicators and number plate lighting provided they are being used **during daylight hours only***. This also applies to the trailers being towed by them.

*Daylight hours means any time outside 'lighting-up' hours. Lighting up' hours is a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise the next day.

Are all tractors required to be fitted with a flashing amber

beacon? Yes. Since 01 January 2016 all tractors are required to be fitted with a flashing amber beacon and have it switched on when in use. Vintage vehicles do not require beacons if they are only taking part in vintage rallies or being used for display purposes.

I have a pre-1980 agricultural tractor and regularly use it on the public road. It has lights fitted. Do the lighting laws mean I no longer require to have lights fitted or working?

No. You must keep the lighting and reflectors fitted to your existing vehicles well maintained in a clean and efficient condition so they can be used at any time.

Do lighting regulations apply to interchangeable towable equipment e.g. baler, crop sprayer, grass rake that have no lights?

Yes. However such equipment will only need lights if when attached to a tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine it blocks the lighting and reflectors fitted to the front or rear of the tractor or self-propelled agricultural machine itself.

Do agricultural trailers and towed equipment require number plate lighting?

Yes, unless they are vintage.

Can I fit 'modern UN/ECE' specification marker lamps and reflective markings to older trailers?

Yes.

How do I achieve compliance with the revised lighting and visibility standards?

You should contact the original manufacturer or authorised Irish distributor. If the original manufacturer is no longer in business, you could contact an alternative manufacturer of similar equipment. They may be able to examine the vehicle and advise what work is required if any to achieve compliance.