

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Regulations 1988, No. 31*

Regulations under the *Motor Vehicles Act*

I, ERIC EUGENE JOHNSTON, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, hereby make the following Regulations under the *Motor Vehicles Act*.

Dated 27 June 1988.

E.E. JOHNSTON
Administrator

AMENDMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES (STANDARDS) REGULATIONS

1. PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS

The Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations are in these Regulations referred to as the Principal Regulations.

2. INTERPRETATION

Regulation 4 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

(a) by omitting the definition of "air brake test pressure" and substituting the following:

"'air brake test pressure', in relation to a compressed air brake system, means a pressure of 650 kilopascals;"

* Notified in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette* on 1 July 1988.

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- (b) by inserting after the definition of "brake system" the following:

"'converter dolly' means a pig trailer, consisting of a fifth wheel assembly, a drawbar and an axle group, designed and used to convert a semi-trailer to a dog trailer;"

- (c) by omitting from the definition of "dog trailer" the words "dolly trailer" and substituting "converter dolly";

- (d) by omitting the definition of "dolly trailer";

- (e) by omitting from the definitions of "fifth wheel", "fifth wheel assembly" and "fifth wheel kingpin" the words "dolly trailer" (wherever occurring) and substituting "converter dolly";

- (f) by omitting the definition of "forward projection";

- (g) by omitting the definition of "overall axle spacing" and substituting the following:

"'overall axle spacing' means, in relation to -

- (a) a rigid motor vehicle, articulated vehicle or component vehicle of a vehicle combination - the distance between the centre of the foremost axle and the centre of the rearmost axle of the rigid motor vehicle, articulated vehicle or component vehicle; and

- (b) axle groups which are adjacent to each other when any 2 component vehicles of a vehicle combination, including a rigid motor vehicle or an articulated vehicle, are coupled together - the distance between the centre of the foremost axle of the rearmost axle group of the leading vehicle and the centre of the rearmost axle of the foremost axle group of the trailing vehicle;"

- (h) by omitting the definition of "polarized clear-bore brake coupling" and substituting the following:

"'polarized brake coupling' means a brake coupling designed so that the supply (emergency) brake line cannot be connected to the control brake line and the control (service) brake line cannot be connected to the supply line;"

- (j) by omitting from the definition of "road train" -

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- (i) ", other than a twenty metre double combination, of not less than 17 metres in length" and substituting "longer than 17.5 metres"; and
- (ii) "a rigid vehicle" and substituting "a rigid motor vehicle";
- (k) by inserting after the definition of "tow coupling overhang" the following:
"tow coupling pivot" means the centre about which the drawbar of a trailer is able to rotate about the towing attachment when the trailer is attached to the towing attachment of a vehicle;"
- (m) by omitting the definition of "towing pivot";
- (n) by omitting from the definition of "turning circle" the words "the radius" and substituting "the diameter";
- (p) by omitting from the definition of "turntable" the words "dolly trailer" and substituting "converter dolly";
- (q) by omitting the definition of "twenty metre double combination"; and
- (r) by omitting the definition of "wide profile tyre" and substituting the following:

"wide single tyre" means a single pneumatic tyre with a tyre section width of not less than 375 millimetres."

3. REGULATORY OFFENCES

Regulation 5A of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting "9,";
- (b) by omitting "13," and substituting "13, 13A,";
- (c) by omitting "34,"; and
- (d) by omitting "or 46" and substituting ", 46, 47, 48 or 49".

4. AXLE REQUIREMENTS OF RIGID MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

Regulation 7 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting from subregulation (2)(a) -

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- (i) subparagraph (iii) and substituting the following:
 - "(iii) a triaxle group;"; and
 - (ii) "that semi-trailer; and" and substituting "that semi-trailer;"; and
- (b) by omitting from subregulation (2)(b) subparagraph (ii)(C) and substituting the following:
 - "(C) a triaxle group; and
- (c) where the trailer is a converter dolly -
 - (i) a single axle; or
 - (ii) a tandem axle group."

5. REPEAL OF REGULATION 9

Regulation 9 of the Principal Regulations is repealed.

6. REPEAL AND SUBSTITUTION

Regulation 11 of the Principal Regulations is repealed and the following substituted:

"11. TYRE AND AXLE MASS LIMITS

"(1) On a vehicle, other than -

- (a) a motor omnibus referred to in subregulation (3); or
- (b) a pig trailer referred to in subregulation (4),

the allowable loads carried on a tyre or an axle group shall be the manufacturer's gross axle load limit, the manufacturer's maximum rim load and the manufacturer's maximum tyre load, as the case may be, for that tyre or axle group or the appropriate value specified in subregulation (2) for that tyre or axle group, whichever is the lesser.

"(2) For the purposes of subregulation (1), the mass carried on -

- (a) a single tyre shall not exceed, where the tyre is fitted to -
 - (i) a single steer axle - 3 tonnes; or
 - (ii) an axle, other than a single steer axle, and the tyre is a wide single tyre - 3.35 tonnes;

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- (b) a single axle shall not exceed, where the single axle is -
 - (i) a steer axle - 6 tonnes;
 - (ii) fitted with single tyres having a tyre section width of less than 375 millimetres - 6 tonnes;
 - (iii) fitted with wide single tyres - 6.7 tonnes; or
 - (iv) fitted with dual tyres or 4 or more single tyres - 9 tonnes;
- (c) a tandem axle group, not including a twin-steer axle group, shall not exceed where -
 - (i) both axles are fitted with dual tyres - 16.5 tonnes;
 - (ii) one axle is fitted with dual tyres and the other is fitted with single tyres - 13 tonnes;
 - (iii) both axles are fitted with single tyres - 11 tonnes; or
 - (iv) both axles are fitted with wide single tyres - 13.3 tonnes;
- (d) a twin-steer axle group shall not exceed -
 - (i) where a load sharing system is fitted - 11 tonnes; or
 - (ii) in any other case - 10 tonnes;
- (e) a triaxle group shall not exceed, where each axle is fitted with -
 - (i) dual tyres - 20 tonnes;
 - (ii) wide single tyres - 20 tonnes; or
 - (iii) single tyres or a combination of single and dual tyres - 15 tonnes; and
- (f) any other axle group not specifically referred to in this regulation - 20 tonnes.

"(3) For the purposes of this regulation, the mass carried on the single axle of a motor omnibus fitted with dual tyres operating on an urban route shall not exceed 10 tonnes.

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"(4) In respect of a pig trailer, other than a converter dolly, the mass carried on -

- (a) a single tyre shall not exceed 2.7 tonnes;
- (b) a tandem axle group shall not exceed, where -
 - (i) both axles are fitted with dual tyres - 16.5 tonnes;
 - (ii) one axle is fitted with dual tyres and the other is fitted with single tyres - 12 tonnes;
 - (iii) both axles are fitted with single tyres - 10 tonnes; or
 - (iv) both axles are fitted with wide single tyres - 12 tonnes; and
- (c) a triaxle group shall not exceed, where each axle is fitted with -
 - (i) dual tyres - 20 tonnes;
 - (ii) single tyres or with a combination of single and dual tyres - 15 tonnes; or
 - (iii) wide single tyres - 18 tonnes.

"(5) For the purposes of this regulation, unless approved, a retractable axle shall not be taken into account in determining the maximum mass permitted under this regulation to be carried on an axle or axle group."

7. LADEN MASS OF VEHICLES AND VEHICLE COMBINATIONS

Regulation 12 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting "The laden mass of a vehicle or vehicle combination shall not exceed -" and substituting "Subject to subregulation (2), the laden mass of a vehicle or vehicle combination shall not exceed the lesser of -";
- (b) by omitting from paragraph (b)(ii) "a vehicle combination" and substituting "an articulated vehicle or a vehicle combination";
- (c) by omitting paragraph (c) and substituting the following:

"(c) in respect of -

- (i) a rigid motor vehicle, an articulated vehicle or component vehicle of a vehicle combination, which has an overall axle

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spacing within a limit specified in Column 1 of the Table - the mass specified in Column 2 of the Table opposite the limit so specified; or

- (ii) axle groups adjacent to each other where 2 component vehicles are coupled together which have an overall axle spacing within a limit specified in Column 1 of the Table - the mass specified in Column 2 of the Table opposite the limit so specified.";

(d) by omitting "whichever is the lesser.";

(e) by inserting before the Table the following:

"(2) The laden mass of a trailer of a vehicle combination (not being a road train) comprising a rigid motor vehicle and the trailer shall not exceed the laden mass of the rigid motor vehicle."; and

(f) by omitting from the Table -

| | | |
|-------|------|-------|
| "9.75 | 10.0 | 41.9" |
|-------|------|-------|

and substituting the following:

| | | |
|-------|------|--------|
| "9.75 | 10.0 | 42.3 |
| 10.0 | | 43.2". |

8. MAXIMUM LENGTH OF VEHICLES

Regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

(a) by omitting from the Table -

- (i) "Forward projection of a rigid motor vehicle other than a motor omnibus 8.3 plus the amount, if any, by which the rigid motor vehicle exceeds an overall length of 11 metres";

- (ii) "Articulated vehicle 17"

and substituting the following:

"Articulated vehicle 17.5";

- (iii) "Semi-trailer, excluding a projection contained within an arc having a radius of 1.9 metres and centred at the point of articulation"

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and substituting the following:

"Semi-trailer, excluding a projection contained within an arc centred at the point of articulation as determined in accordance with the diagram in Schedule 5"; and

- (iv) "Vehicle combination, other than a twenty metre double combination, consisting of only one trailer 17"

and substituting the following:

"Rigid motor vehicle and trailer combination (not being a road train) 17.5

"Dog trailer excluding the drawbar or projection contained within an arc centred at the point of articulation as determined in accordance with the diagram in Schedule 5"; and 12.5

- (b) by omitting subregulation (3).

9. NEW REGULATION

The Principal Regulations are amended by inserting after regulation 13 the following:

"13A. FORWARD AND OTHER PROJECTIONS

"(1) The forward projection of -

- (a) a rigid motor vehicle shall be not greater than 8.3 metres plus the amount, if any, by which the vehicle exceeds an overall length of 11 metres; and
(b) a dog trailer or semi-trailer shall be not greater than that determined in accordance with subregulation 2(b).

"(2) For the purposes of -

- (a) subregulation (1)(a), forward projection means the maximum distance from the axle group centre of the rearmost axle group of a rigid motor vehicle to the front end of the vehicle, including the load, if any, on the vehicle; and

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- (b) subregulation (1)(b), forward projection means that part of the loading space of a dog trailer or semi-trailer forward of the point of articulation and includes a projection beyond the loading space of the trailer contained within an arc having a radius, not longer than 1.9 metres, centred at the point of articulation."

10. REAR OVERHANG

Regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting from paragraph (a) "a rigid motor vehicle" and substituting "a rigid motor vehicle, but subject to paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (g),";
- (b) by omitting from paragraph (b) "3.2 metres" and substituting "3.7 metres"; and
- (c) by omitting from paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (g) ", subject to paragraph (a)".

11. TOW COUPLING OVERHANG

Regulation 16 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting "The tow coupling" and substituting "Subject to regulation 15, the tow coupling"; and
- (b) by omitting from paragraph (a) "rigid motor vehicle" (first occurring) and substituting "rigid motor vehicle used in a vehicle combination with an overall length longer than 17.5 metres".

12. REPEAL AND SUBSTITUTION

Regulations 17 and 18 of the Principal Regulations are repealed and the following substituted:

"17. LOCATION OF TOW COUPLING PIVOT

"The horizontal distance from the rearmost point of a vehicle to its tow coupling pivot shall not exceed 300 millimetres.

"18. TOWING OF PIG TRAILERS

"A pig trailer shall not have provision for a towing attachment at its rear end."

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13. DRAWBAR LENGTH

Regulation 19 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

(a) by omitting paragraph (a) and substituting the following:

"(a) a converter dolly shall not exceed 5 metres or be less than 3 metres;" and

(b) by omitting from paragraph (b) "other than a dog trailer referred to in paragraph (a) -".

14. DRAWBAR ANGLE

Regulation 20 of the Principal Regulations is amended by omitting "hinge" (wherever occurring) and substituting "pivot".

15. EXCEPTIONS TO PROJECTING LOADING REQUIREMENTS

Regulation 23(1)(a) of the Principal Regulations is amended by omitting "overall length" and substituting "overall length (including the loading or equipment)".

16. BRAKE LINE COUPLINGS OF ROAD TRAIN

Regulation 30 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

(a) by omitting ", clear-bore"; and

(b) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) The brake coupling and the brake coupling arrangement of the supply (emergency) and control (service) brake lines of 2 component vehicles of a road train shall comply with Australian Standard 'D8 - Hose Couplings for Use with Vacuum and Air Pressure Braking Systems on Prime Movers, Trailers and Semi-Trailers'".

17. HEADING TO PART IX

The heading to Part IX of the Principal Regulations is amended by omitting "DOLLY TRAILERS" and substituting "CONVERTER DOLLIES".

18. TOW COUPLINGS

Regulation 32 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

(a) by omitting from paragraph (a) "is not less than" and substituting "is not more than"; and

(b) by omitting from paragraph (c) "on or after 1 January 1985," and "- 1978".

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19. REPEAL OF REGULATION 34

Regulation 34 of the Principal Regulations is repealed.

20. HEADING TO DIVISION 2 OF PART IX

The Principal Regulations are amended by omitting the heading to Division 2 of Part IX and substituting the following:

"Division 2 - Converter Dollies".

21. CONVERTER DOLLIES USED IN ROAD TRAINS

Regulation 40 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting "dolly trailer" and "dolly trailer's" (wherever occurring) and substituting "converter dolly" and "converter dolly's" respectively; and
- (b) by omitting paragraph (a)(ii) and substituting the following:

"(ii) the drawbar of that converter dolly is attached to the chassis of the dolly converter through a flexible coupling which allows the drawbar to pivot vertically about a transverse horizontal axis; and"

22. DEFENCE WHERE EXCESS LOADING WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS

Regulation 44 of the Principal Regulations is amended -

- (a) by omitting "It shall be a defence to a prosecution" and substituting "(1) It shall be a defence to a prosecution";
- (b) by omitting paragraph (b) and substituting the following:

"(b) have not exceeded by more than the lesser of -

- (i) in the case of a single steer axle - .25 tonnes;
- (ii) in the case of a single axle other than a single steer axle - .5 tonnes;
- (iii) any other axle group - one tonne; or
- (iv) 10% of the gross vehicle mass or gross combination mass specified in that regulation."; and

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(c) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) Notwithstanding subregulation (1)(b)(iii), but subject to subregulation (3), where the offence referred to in subregulation (1) is in respect of a vehicle combination being used solely to carry livestock reference to one tonne in subregulation (1)(b)(iii) shall, in the case of a triaxle group, be read as 2.6 tonnes.

"(3) Subregulation (2) does not apply -

(a) where the laden mass of a dog trailer of the vehicle combination in respect of which the offence relates exceeds that permitted by regulation 11 by more than, where the trailer is fitted with -

(i) a triaxle group and a tandem axle group - 3.6 tonnes; or

(ii) a triaxle group and a single axle group - 3.1 tonnes;

(b) where the laden mass of an articulated vehicle forming part of the vehicle combination in respect of which the offence relates exceeds that permitted by regulation 11 by more than, where the semi-trailer is fitted with a triaxle group and the prime mover is fitted with -

(i) single axles - 3.35 tonnes;

(ii) a single steer axle and tandem axle group - 3.85 tonnes; or

(iii) a twin-steer axle group and a tandem axle group - 4.6 tonnes;

(c) where the laden mass of the vehicle combination in respect of which the offence relates exceeds that permitted by regulation 11 and the sum of the additional mass limits specified in subregulation (1) in respect of each axle group of the vehicle combination; or

(d) in respect of an offence committed after 1 July 1993."

23. TURNING CIRCLE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Regulation 45 of the Principal Regulations is amended by omitting subregulation (1) and substituting the following:

"(1) A rigid motor vehicle, articulated vehicle or a vehicle combination, other than an articulated omnibus or a road train, shall not have a turning circle greater than 25 metres."

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24. NEW REGULATIONS

The Principal Regulations are amended by inserting after regulation 46 the following:

"47. REAR MARKER PLATES

"(1) A motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle mass greater than 12 tonnes shall have, in accordance with Schedule 6, securely affixed to each side of the rear of the motor vehicle a rear marking plate as prescribed in -

(a) paragraph (1); or

(b) where approved, paragraph (4),

of that Schedule.

"(2) Subregulation (1) does not apply to a motor omnibus operating solely on public streets on which street lighting is installed.

"48. ELECTRICAL CONNECTORS FOR VEHICLE COMBINATIONS

"A vehicle combination shall be fitted with electrical connectors which comply with Australian Standard 2513 'Electrical Connectors for Trailer Vehicles'.

"49. MAXIMUM PROJECTION OF MIRRORS

"(1) Subject to subregulation (2), a rear vision mirror affixed to the side of a vehicle shall not project more than 150 millimetres beyond the maximum permitted width of the vehicle.

"(2) A rear vision mirror affixed to the side of the vehicle which has a manufacturer's gross vehicle mass of 8.5 tonnes or more may project more than 150 millimetres beyond the maximum permitted width of the vehicle provided the mirror -

(a) does not project more than 230 millimetres beyond; and

(b) is capable of retracting to less than 150 millimetres of,

the maximum permitted width of the vehicle."

25. SCHEDULE 2

Schedule 2 of the Principal Regulations is amended by omitting from the heading "Maximum mass in kilograms per millimetre" and substituting "Maximum mass in kilograms per 25 millimetres".

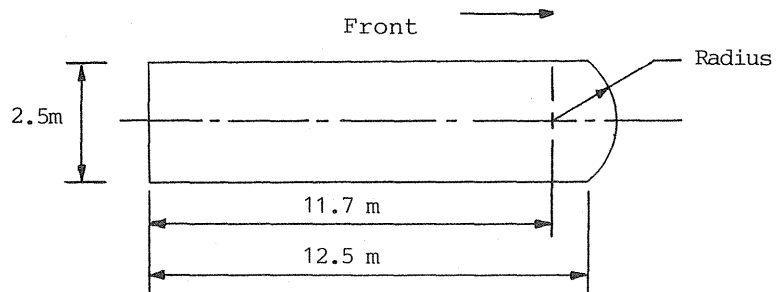
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26. NEW SCHEDULES

The Principal Regulations are amended by inserting after Schedule 4 the following:

"SCHEDULE 5

Regulation 13



Motor Vehicles (Standards) Regulations

"SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 47

- (1) A rear marking plate shall -
- (a) subject to paragraph (4), be in or to the effect of the form in the Diagram A in this Schedule;
 - (b) subject to paragraph (6), have dimensions which shall not vary by more than 5 millimetres or 5 degrees, as the case may be, from the dimensions specified in that diagram;
 - (c) bear the name of the manufacturer of the plate and a statement identifying the class of material used in its manufacture and the standard to which the material has been manufactured; and
 - (d) have a surface which is retroreflective and has a photometric performance and a durability not less than the standard level specified for class 2 retroreflective material by Australian Standard 1906 "Retroreflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes" Part 1 "Retroreflective Materials".
- (2) A rear marking plate referred to in paragraph (1) shall be affixed to each side of the rear of a motor vehicle so that -
- (a) it faces rearwards of the vehicle;
 - (b) the lower edge and the outermost edge of the plate are yellow in colour;
 - (c) no part of the plate extends beyond the outside extremity of the vehicle;
 - (d) the lower edge of the plate is horizontal and, where practicable, not more than 1.5 metres nor less than 400 millimetres from the ground and is the same height above the ground as that of the rear marking plate affixed to the other side of the motor vehicle;
 - (e) the outermost edge of the plate is, where practicable, within 150 millimetres of the outside extremity of that side of the motor vehicle to which the plate is affixed; and
 - (f) it is within 20 degrees of a transverse vertical plane at a right angle to the vertical plane through the longitudinal axis of the motor vehicle.

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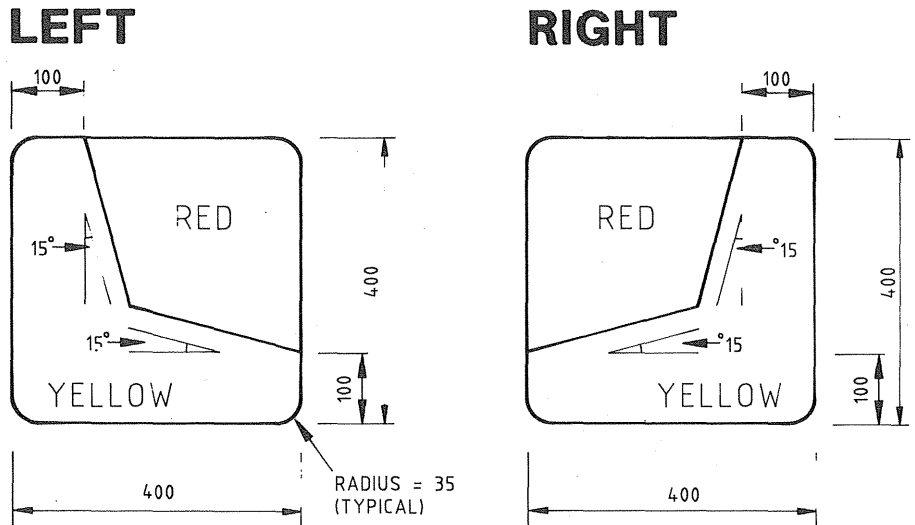
(3) A rear marking plate may have displayed on it words which are permitted to be displayed on a sign under the Traffic Regulations.

(4) Where the Registrar is satisfied that it is not practicable for a rear marking plate of a type referred to in paragraph (1) to be affixed to a motor vehicle, the Registrar may, subject to such conditions as the Registrar thinks fit, approve the affixing of a rear marking plate in or to the effect of one of the forms in Diagram B in this Schedule.

(5) Where, under paragraph (4), the Registrar approves the affixing of a rear marking plate to a motor vehicle, the plate shall be affixed to the rear of and to face rearwards of the vehicle and shall be affixed to the motor vehicle in accordance with such conditions, if any, as the Registrar thinks fit.

(6) The Registrar may approve, subject to such conditions as the Registrar thinks fit, the affixing to a motor vehicle of a rear marking plate with dimensions which vary from those permitted in paragraph (1)(b) and, notwithstanding that subparagraph, a rear marking plate with the dimensions so approved may be affixed to a motor vehicle in accordance with the conditions, if any, of the Registrar.

DIAGRAM A

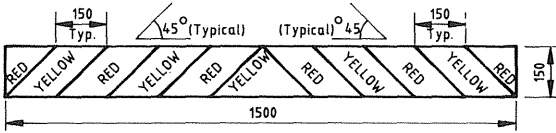


NOTES : ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm.
GENERAL TOLERANCE OF ALL DIMENSIONS ± 5 mm $\pm 5^\circ$
A MARGIN OF UP TO 5 mm THICKNESS IS ALLOWED TO THE OUTSIDE EDGES OF THE RED (IF REQUIRED BY MANUFACTURE)

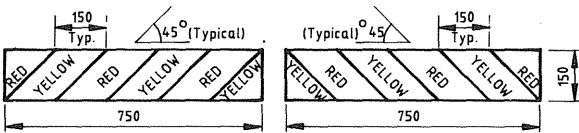
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DIAGRAM B".

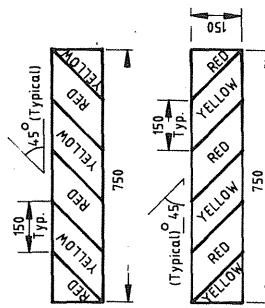
TYPE 1



TYPE 2



TYPE 3



NOTES : ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN mm.
GENERAL TOLERANCE OF ALL DIMENSIONS $\pm 5\text{mm}$ $\pm 5^\circ$.

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