

Lateral protection

Legislation

EC Directive 89/297/EC

UN Regulation: R73

Objective

That a side guard is fitted where required to the trailer and is of adequate construction so as to provide effective protection to unprotected road users against the risk of falling under the sides of the trailer and being caught under the wheels.

Requirement

(See drawings below in line with requirements as listed)

1. There must be no modifications to the lateral protection system that could invalidate documentary evidence, unless the requirements can still be assured by an installation check.
3. A side guard device must be fitted to the vehicle (unless exempt).
4. A side guard device must be attached securely.
5. A side guard device must be constructed of a suitable material.
6. The side guard must have a ground clearance of 550 mm or less (see drawings below).
7. The side guard must be within 350 mm of the body line (see note 2 below).
8. The side guard must be no more than 120mm inboard from the outermost plane of the vehicle.
9. The side guard must consist of at least one horizontal rail.
10. If more than one horizontal rail is used, the rails must be not more than 300mm apart (see drawings below).
11. For O4 trailers it must have a section height of at least 100 mm (see drawings below).
12. For O3 trailers it must have a section height of at least 50 mm (see drawings below).
13. It must have a forward facing edge of at least 100 mm.
14. It must have a smooth or horizontally corrugated surface.
15. Any external edges and corners must be rounded with a radius of at least 2.5mm.
16. It must not increase the overall width of the vehicle.
17. The device must not be used for the attachment of air or hydraulic brake pipes.

- 18. There must be no projecting brackets or bolt heads (see note 3 below).
- 19. It must be continuous in length (see note 4 below).
- 20. The device must have the rearward edge of the guard extend to within 300mm of the tyre on the first rear axle.
- 21. The device must not have the rearward end more than 30mm inboard from the outermost edge of the rear tyres over at least the last 250mm of the guard.
- 22. The device must have the front edge of the guard within 500 mm from the rear of the tyre on the front wheel (drawbar trailer)
- 23. In the case of a semi trailer, the device must have the front edge of the guard not more than 250mm from the rear of the transverse median plane of the support legs (if support legs are fitted), but in any case the distance of the front edge to the transverse plane passing through the centre of the king pin in its rearmost position may not exceed 2.7m(see drawings below).

Where the forward edge lies in otherwise open space then it must consist of

- 26. A continuous vertical member extending over the whole height of the member.
- 27. The outer and forward faces must measure at least 50 mm rearward and be turned 100 mm inwards in the case of an O3 vehicle.
- 28. The outer and forward faces must measure at least 100 mm rearward and be turned 100 mm inwards in the case of an O4 vehicle.

Where equipment is incorporated into the side guard,

- 29. The device must have a smooth or horizontally corrugated outer surface.
- 30. Be substantially flat or horizontally corrugated.
- 31. There must not be a gap of more than 25 mm between it and the guard.
- 32. There must be no projecting brackets or hinges.
- 33. It must not have protruding bolt heads.
- 34. Any external edges and corners must be rounded with a radius of at least 2.5mm.

Adjacent parts may however overlap provided that:

- 35. They must have an overlapping edge that faces rearwards.
- 36. They must have an overlapping edge that faces downwards.

Note 1: *If the sides of the vehicle are so designed and / or equipped that by their shape and characteristics meet the requirements of this section, they may be regarded as replacing the sideguards.*

Note 2: *The upper edge of the guard shall not be more than 350mm below that part of the structure of the vehicle, cut or contacted by a vertical plane tangential to the outer surface of the tyres, except in the following cases:*

- Where the plane does not cut the structure of the vehicle, the upper edge shall be level with the surface of the load carrying platform*

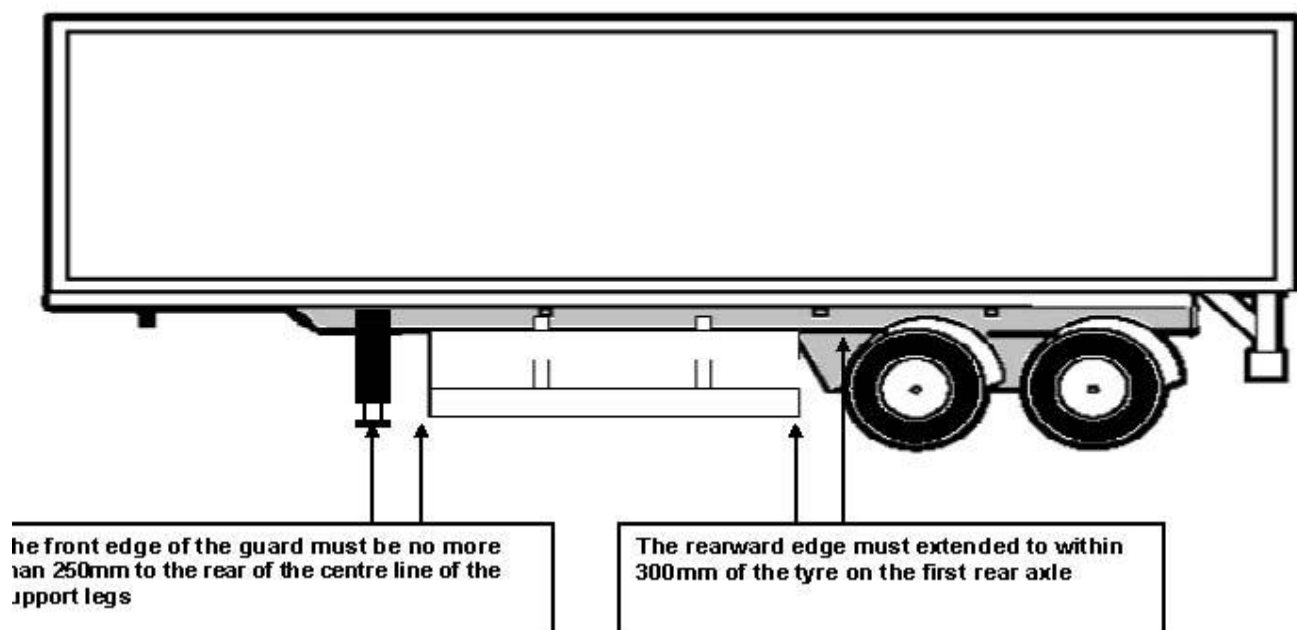
OR

- 950mm from the ground, whichever is the less.*
- Where the plane cuts the structure of the vehicle at a level more than 1.3m above the ground, then the upper edge of the side guard shall not be less than 950mm above the ground.*

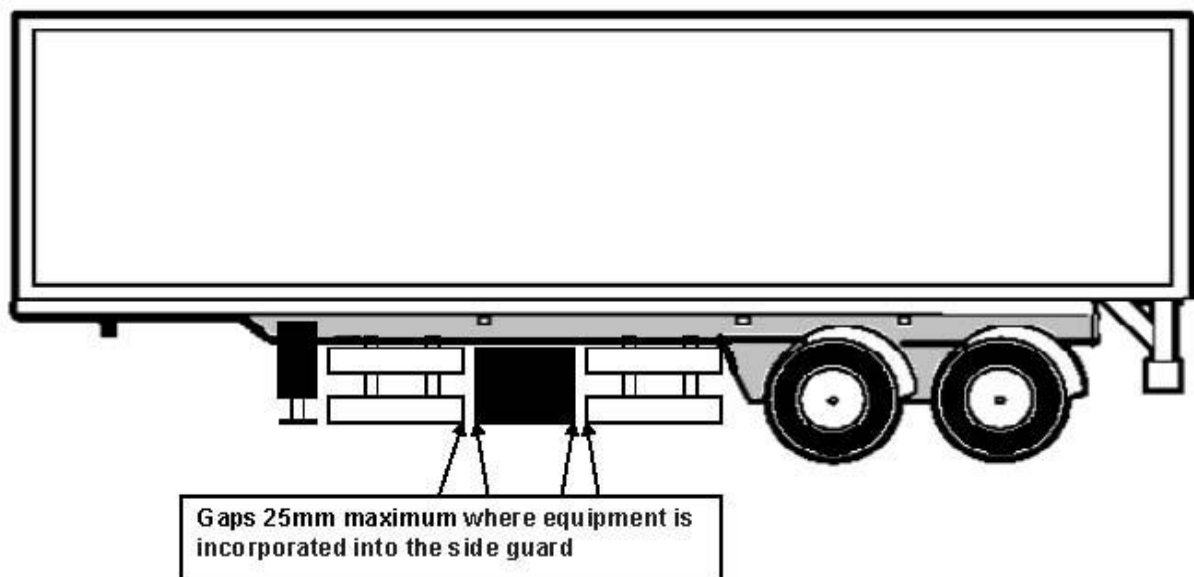
Note 3: *Dome shaped bolt heads and rivets of less than 10mm in height are acceptable.*

Note 4: *Combinations of surfaces and rails shall be considered as a continuous side guard as long as the gaps between them are no greater than 25mm.*

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