



## **CIRCULAR 13/00–3–4**

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### **INTERPRETATION - ADR 13/00 – Installation of Lighting and Light Signalling Devices on other than L-Group Vehicles**

**Question:** Can the amber side marker lamps on heavy vehicles be combined with reverse warning based on the ADR 13/00 and its alternative standard United Nations (UN) Regulation 48/06?

**Answer:** Yes. ADR 13/00 permits the flashing of amber side marker lamps when the vehicle is not fitted with category 5 side direction indicators. Additionally it is the Department's view that it is reasonable for the hazard signal, including amber side marker lamps, to be activated automatically with the activation of the reverse lamps or reverse gear.

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The requirements for fitting and operation of lamps is set out in ADR 13/00. ADR13/00 expects compliance with either:

- The technical requirements of UN Regulation 48 as amended by exemptions and alternative procedures set out in Clause 7 of ADR 13/00; or
- One of the alternative standards set out in Clause 11 of ADR 13/00.

1.2 It should be noted that ADR 13/00, with the exception of Appendix A, includes a number of incorrect internal cross references. For this interpretation the Department has used the intent of the ADR rather than the clause numbers in the ADR. This interpretation is based on compliance with the technical requirements of Appendix A to ADR 13 along with the exemptions and alternative procedures.

1.3 The issue can be broken into two:

- Can amber side marker lamps flash in conjunction with indicators?
- Can the hazard signal be activated by engagement of reverse gear?

1.4 Can amber side marker lamps flash in conjunction with indicators?

This question is answered at paragraph 6.18.7. of Appendix A which states:

*6.18.7. Electrical connections*

*On M<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>1</sub> category vehicles, less than 6 m in length amber side-marker lamps may be wired to flash, provided that this flashing is in phase and at the same frequency with the direction-indicator lamps at the same side of the vehicle.*



*On M<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>4</sub> vehicles, mandatory amber side marker lamps may flash simultaneously with the direction-indicator lamps on the same side of the vehicle. However, where there are direction indicator lamps of category 5 installed according to paragraph 6.5.3.1. on the side of the vehicle these amber side marker lamps shall not flash.*

Additionally, under the UN Regulation side marker lamps are mandatory on all vehicles over 6m long. ADR 13/00 has an additional requirement at paragraph 9.2 such that side marker lamps are mandatory on: motor vehicles with an overall width greater than 2.1 metres and a total length greater than 7.5 metres; on trailers with a total length greater than 7.5 metres; on trailers with an overall width greater than 2.1 metres; and mandatory on semi-trailers. Due to the way the UN Regulation forms part of the ADR as well as an alternative standard, each option for mandatory would be considered acceptable.

Paragraph 6.5.3.1. of Appendix A states that certain vehicles must be fitted with Category 5 side indicators, but that the requirements do not apply if the vehicle is fitted with at least three amber side marker lamps that flash in phase and simultaneously with the direction indicator lamps.

#### 1.5 Can the hazard signal be activated by engagement of reverse gear?

The requirements for the hazard signal are set out in paragraph 6.6.7 of Appendix A. In particular, 6.6.7.2. states that the hazard warning signal may be switched on automatically to indicate to other road users the risk of imminent danger as defined by Regulations; in this case, the signal shall remain switched on until it is manually or automatically switched off.

It is the Department's view that switching on the hazard signal when the vehicle is reversing is a reasonable interpretation of this provision.

#### 1.6 Australian Road Rules

While not specifically related to the ADRs, the Department has considered if such an arrangement would be inconsistent with the Australian Road Rules (ARR). It has formed the view that using the hazard signal to inform road users the vehicle is reversing is not inconsistent with the ARR, in particular the vehicle is likely to be slow moving and may obstruct or be likely to obstruct the path of other vehicles or pedestrians while reversing.

The ARR state the following:

*51 When use of direction indicator lights are permitted  
The driver of a vehicle must not operate a direction indicator light  
except—*



- (a) to give a change of direction signal when the driver is required to give the signal under these Rules; or*
- (b) as part of the vehicle's hazard warning lights*

**221** *Using hazard warning lights*

*The driver of a vehicle fitted with hazard warning lights must not use the hazard warning lights, or allow them to be used, unless—*

- (a) the vehicle is stopped and is obstructing, or is likely to obstruct, the path of other vehicles or pedestrians; or*
- (b) the vehicle is a slow-moving vehicle and is obstructing, or is likely to obstruct, the path of other vehicles or pedestrians; or*
- (c) the vehicle is stopped in an emergency stopping lane; or*

**296** *Driving a vehicle in reverse*

- (1) The driver of a vehicle must not reverse the vehicle unless the driver can do so safely.*
- (2) The driver of a vehicle must not reverse the vehicle further than is reasonable in the circumstances.*