



Reflective Tape for Trailers

On March 31, 1999, the Federal DOT issued a rule which requires trailers over 10,000 lbs. and 80 inches wide or more be retrofitted with reflective tape (Ref. 393.13).

Trailers built on or after December 1, 1993 must already have reflective tape when built; that tape must be maintained in the same manner as when the trailer was new.

Trailers built before December 1, 1993 must be retrofitted with tape meeting the same color and reflection requirements:

- White 12" inverted "L" along the top rear (with modifications for flat-beds and tankers)
- Alternating red and white on lower rear and along the sides evenly spaced and covering at least half the length of the trailer:
 - 14 feet on a 28 foot trailer
 - 20 feet on a 40 foot trailer
 - 24 feet on a 48 foot trailer
 - 26-½ feet on a 53 foot trailer

For box trailers, the rear reflective tape must be as shown:

- Full-width across the rear-end protection ("ICC bumper")
- Full-width across the lower rear cargo area
- Two 12" inverted "L" near the top rear corners

For flat-bed trailers, the rear tape must be as shown:

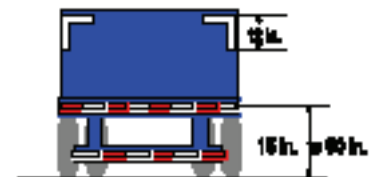
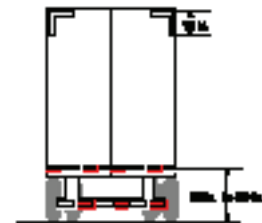
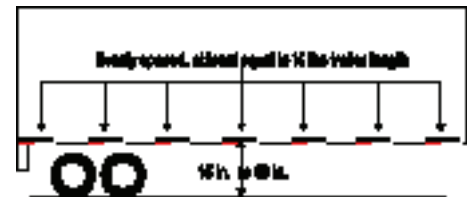
- Full-width across the rear-end protection ("ICC bumper")
- Full-width across the lower rear cargo area
- Two 12" inverted "L" near the top rear corners of the header board

For tanker trailers, the rear tape must be as shown:

- Full-width across the rear-end protection
- Four 12" white strips near the top rear

Trailers must be in compliance by June 1, 2001.

Trailers with tape colors other than red and white must be retrofitted by June 1, 2009.



A Safety Message from Project PIE
(Public Information and Education)
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