



**NEW
ARTICLE**



**MIRRORS: DIRECT AND INDIRECT
VISIBILITY IN TRUCKS**

Contact SME's Safety Mirror Experts for more information:
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**MIRRORS: DIRECT
AND INDIRECT
VISIBILITY IN
TRUCKS**

Perfect maneuvering into a parking space and seeing the pedestrians—good all-round visibility makes the life of truck drivers easier. The Road Traffic Ordinance requires sufficient visibility under all operating conditions. How is the visibility in the truck?

Curved Right and Left Rearview Mirrors Compulsory for Trucks 7.5 Tons and Over

Right and left rearview mirrors with a specific curvature are prescribed for trucks 7.5 tons of total weight and over. Installations on the right side must further include a wide-angle mirror and a close-proximity mirror at a height of at least 80 inches (2 m). The mirror holders must fold away in the event of contact with an obstacle. This is meant to reduce the risk of injuries. Prescribed vehicle dimensions exclude the mirrors. Vehicles with installed rear-view mirrors may exceed a width of 8'4" (2.55 m).

Standard Mirrors for Rearview

Standard mirrors on the right and on the left show the driver the rearview next to the respective vehicle side on a slightly reduced scale. The wide-angle mirror on the passenger side, however, shows the right vehicle side on a significantly reduced scale. This way, the driver can also see what is happening in the front area on the right of the vehicle. The close-proximity mirror covers the area directly to the right of the driver's cab.

Direct View from Driver's Cab is Prescribed by Law

The road traffic ordinance prescribes a direct view from the driver's cab. Relevant regulations stipulate that a sufficient field of view must be maintained under all operating conditions. The areas that need to be visible are defined by an imaginary semi-circle with a diameter of 40 ft.(12 m) around the driver. A critical area is created when the view between A-column and rearview mirror holder is blocked.

Careful with Aspherical Mirrors!

Aspherical mirrors, which are often used in trucks and transporters, must be used with care. These mirrors consist of two zones separated by a thin line. The outer zone is significantly curved and thus offers a wide-angle perspective. The viewing angle is 200 percent larger than that of normal mirrors. In principle, there is nothing wrong with a wider angle of view, but it does not cover the entire vehicle side. At best, the blind spot becomes a little bit smaller.

For more tips about truck mirrors, contact **SME's Safety Mirror Experts** today!