

Operational Advice Notice

Restrictions on Airside Vehicles Without Compliant Retroreflective Markings

10th June 2026

ASGrOps_OAN_512

Version 1.1

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OANs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

This is an updated version. Red bars have been added at the side of the document to draw the reader's attention to where changes have been made.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Operational Advice Notice (OAN) is issued to reiterate the official effective date for the implementation of mandatory retroreflective requirements on airside vehicles, and to set out the associated operational restrictions for non-compliant vehicles operating airside to ensure safe vehicle operations at Heathrow Airport.
- 1.2 For the purpose of this OAN, the term "Vehicles" refers to any self-propelled conveyance, including any conveyance towed by it. This includes all on-road, airport-specific and specialised Vehicles, but excludes trailers.
- 1.3 On 10th June 2025, Heathrow published an Operational Safety Instruction (OSI) ASDRVE_OSI_008 – Vehicle and Equipment Requirements Airside, which outlines the mandatory retroreflective requirements for all airside Vehicles. A 12-month compliance period has been provided to allow the airside community to meet these requirements.
- 1.4 Compliance with this OAN is not a substitute for meeting the mandatory retroreflective requirements for airside Vehicles. Heathrow will continue to monitor compliance at an individual company level and may take action where appropriate.
- 1.5 This OAN should be read in conjunction with the following documents:
 - ASDRVE_OSI_008, Vehicle and Equipment Requirements – Airside.
 - ASDRVE_OSI_009, Escorting of Vehicles Airside.
 - ASDRVE_OSI_080, Driving in Airside Tunnels.



2. Restrictions for Non-compliance Airside Vehicles

2.1 With effect from **0001 hours (local time) on 10th June 2026**, any Vehicle that does not fully comply with the mandatory retroreflective requirements **must not use uncontrolled crossings or operate within any part of the manoeuvring area** unless any of the following conditions applies:

- There is no alternative route available to the destination via the apron road system;
- Vehicles that, due to their physical dimensions, are unable to use the airside road system;
- Vehicles that are prohibited from operating through the airside tunnels in accordance with OSI 080 – ASDRVE_OSI_080, Driving in Airside Tunnels;
- The intended route is unavailable and a diversion route has been formally established by Heathrow Airside Operations; or
- The vehicle is under escort by a fully compliant vehicle provided that the requirements detailed in OSI - ASDRVE_OSI_009, Escorting of Vehicles Airside are fully complied with.

2.2 Non-compliant Vehicles must instead use the airside road system (excluding uncontrolled crossings) when transiting the airfield.

2.3 Details of the mandatory retroreflective requirements for airside Vehicles, as specified in ASDRVE_OSI_008, Vehicle and Equipment Requirements – Airside, are provided in the appendix to this OAN.

2.4 Any breach of this OAN may result in appropriate enforcement action being taken by Heathrow.

3. Emergency



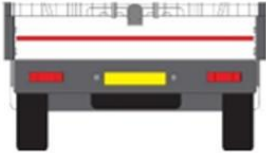

3.1 In the event of an emergency, please call **222 (Heathrow landline) or 0208 759 1212 (mobile)**.

4. Enquiries

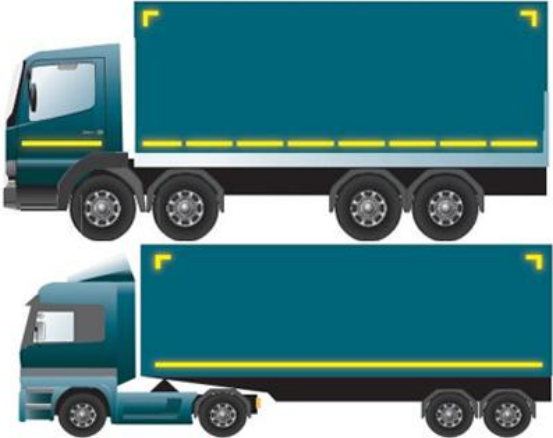

4.1 Any questions regarding this OAN should be directed to airside_standards@heathrow.com.



Appendix: Mandatory Retroreflective Requirements for Airside Vehicles




Cars and Commercial Vehicles under 7.5T		FOR VEHICLES REQUIRED TO OPERATE ON APRON ROADS ONLY
Materials – minimum	ECE104 - 50mm	Colours: Side – Fluorescent Orange or Yellow-Green, Rear – Red, Front – White.
Recommended	Class R3B - 100mm	
Location	Requirement	Examples
Side Required	Single stripe of fluorescent orange or yellow-green colour retroreflective material must be applied to the sides, minimum 50mm width. The stripe must be continuous and be applied along the central portion of the vehicle.	
Side Desirable	Vehicle outline in fluorescent orange or yellow-green colour retroreflective material of 50mm with central stripe of 100mm width. Front A-pillar in white/silver to show direction of travel.	
Rear Required	Single stripe of retroreflective red colour material must be applied to the rear, of minimum 50mm, continuous and applied along the central portion of the vehicle.	
Rear Desirable	Rear chevrons are permitted - the application and material must comply with DFT Chapter 8 of the Traffic Safety Signs Manual.	



COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 7.5T AND OVER		FOR VEHICLES REQUIRED TO OPERATE ON APRON ROADS ONLY
<p>>> Heathrow have elected to adopt the UNECE Regulation 48 (and any UK regulation post Brexit) for conspicuity markings for commercial vehicles. All trucks on UK roads should be marked to ECE104</p>		
Materials – minimum	ECE104 50mm side & rear	Colours: Side – Fluorescent Yellow-Green, Rear – Red (and non-reflective fluorescent yellow), Front – White.
Recommended	50mm side, 100mm rear	
Sides Required	<p>The side markings are required to extend to within 600mm of each end of the vehicle and cover 80% of the whole vehicle length (the vehicle length excludes the cab; however, the cab area must be marked to comply with the requirement to extend to within 600mm of the front of the vehicle). The lower markings must be between 250mm and 1,500mm from ground (up to 2,500mm is acceptable if 1,500mm is not possible). Upper markings must be within 400mm of the top of the vehicle</p>	
Rear Required	<p>The rear markings are required to be as close as practicable to the edge of the vehicle and cover 80% of the vehicle total width. The marking must be at least 200mm from any mandatory stop lamp. The lower line must be between 250mm and 1,500mm from ground (up to 2,500mm acceptable if 1,500mm is not possible), and the upper line must be within 400mm of the top of the vehicle.</p>	

Ground Service Equipment (GSE)		MANDATED FOR ALL GSE
Materials	ECE104 - 50mm Class R3B - 100mm	Colours: Side – Fluorescent Yellow-Green, Rear – Red, Front – White.
Location	Requirement	
Side Required	A retroreflective stripe of fluorescent yellow-green colour must be applied to the sides, minimum 50mm width, ideally 100mm to the centre line of the vehicle on any available panels in as continuous a stripe as possible.	<p>Due to the different and complex design of Ground Service Equipment, the application of the retroreflective marking for GSE can be challenging.</p> <p>Where no panels exist and where practicable, at least the four corners of the side and rear must be marked. This can include marking of handrails, barriers and equipment.</p>
Side Desirable	It is recommended to also outline the vehicle in fluorescent yellow-green colour retroreflective material of 50mm width. The front A-pillar can also be highlighted in white/silver colour to show direction of travel.	
Rear Required	A minimum of 50mm retroreflective red colour material must be applied to the centreline the full width of the rear on any available surface. Rear chevrons to comply with DFT Chapter 8 of the Traffic Safety Signs Manual may be applied, as per the cars and commercial specification.	



Cars and Commercial Vehicles		FOR VEHICLES REQUIRED TO ENTER THE MANOEUVRING AREA
For Vehicles over 7.5T, these are additional requirements to operate in the manoeuvring area		
Materials	Class R3B - 100mm side Class R3B 150mm rear	Colours: Side – Fluorescent Orange or Yellow-Green, Rear – Red (and non-reflective fluorescent yellow), Front – White.
Location	Requirement	Examples
Side Required	Single stripe of fluorescent orange or yellow-green colour retroreflective material must be applied to the sides, minimum 100mm width. The stripe must be continuous and be applied along the central portion of the vehicle. Front A-pillar in reflective white/silver to show direction of travel.	 
Rear Required	Rear chevrons to comply with DFT Chapter 8 of the Traffic Safety Signs Manual. Upward facing chevrons, no less than 150mm wide, with retroreflective red and fluorescent yellow.	

All Vehicles		FOR VEHICLES REQUIRED TO ENTER THE MANOEUVRING AREA
Materials	Non-reflective vinyl colours	
Location	Requirement	Examples
Top Required	With the exception of emergency Vehicles, the top of the Vehicle shall have a 1m x 1m square in avery supreme yellow where possible.	