SAE International

SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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Superseding J1967 JAN2006

(R) Retroreflective Materials for Vehicle Conspicuity

RATIONALE

The Heavy Duty Lighting Committee has completed the five year review of this document and has made the following changes.

- Updated SAE and ASTM publication titles
- Updated paragraph cross references in Section 6
- Updated format of tables in 6.7 (aesthetic, no changes to requirements)

1. SCOPE

This SAE Recommended Practice applies to retroreflective materials that are used on truck tractors and trailers 2032 mm or more in overall width and with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) over 4536 kg, and school buses. The retroreflective materials for the truck tractors and trailers are super-high-intensity materials containing microprisms. The retroreflective materials for school buses may contain flexible non-exposed glass bead lens or microprisms.

1.1 Purpose

This document establishes test procedures and related requirements for identifying and evaluating retroreflective materials intended for use in passive devices used to enhance the conspicuity of vehicles at nighttime.

Conspicuity materials meeting the requirements of this document are intended to be in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 Part 571.108 otherwise referred to as FMVSS-108 which references ASTM D 4956 Type V materials. The specifications in this document are not intended to apply to materials used for commercial identification, advertising, or similar graphics. Their use is outside the scope of this document. School bus retroreflective materials specified in this document are intended to comply with the requirements of FMVSS-217 (49CFR 571.217) and FMVSS-131 (49CFR 571.131).

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2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J576 Plastic Material or Materials for Use in Optical Parts Such as Lenses and Reflex Reflectors of Motor Vehicle Lighting Devices

SAE J759 Lighting Identification Code

SAE J2139 Tests for Signal and Marking Devices Used on Vehicles 2032 mm or More in Overall Width

2.1.2 ASTM Publications

Available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, Tel: 610-832-9585, www.astm.org.

ASTM B 117-03 Method of Salt Spray (Fog) Testing Standard Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus

ASTM E 810 Standard Test Method for Coefficient of Retroreflection of Retroreflective Sheeting Utilizing the Coplanar GeometryASTM D 4956Standard Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting for Traffic Control

2.1.3 FMVSS Publications

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9320.

49CFR 571.108 Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment

49CFR 571.131 School Bus Pedestrian Safety Devices

49CFR 571.217 Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release

2.2 Related Publications

The following publications are provided for information purposes only and are not a required part of this SAE Technical Report.

2.2.1 ASTM Publications

Available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, Tel: 610-832-9585, www.astm.org.

ASTM G 152 Standard Practice for Operating Open Flame Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

ASTM G 153 Standard Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

ASTM E 308 Test Method for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System Standard Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System

ASTM E 1164 Standard Practice for Obtaining Spectrophotometric Data for Object-Color Evaluating Standard Practice for Obtaining Spectrometric Data for Object-Color Evaluation

ASTM E 1347 Color and Color-Difference Measurement by Tristimulus (Filter) Colorimetry Standard Test Method for Color and Color-Difference Measurement by Tristimulus Colorimetry

ASTM E 1349 Test Method for Reflectance Factor and Color by Spectrophotometry Using Bidirectional Geometry Standard Test Method for Reflectance Factor and Color by Spectrophotometry Using Bidirectional (45:0 or 0:45) Geometry

2.2.2 Government Publications

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

DOT-HS-806-098 (Department of Transportation) Improved Vehicle Conspicuity and Signaling Systems; Task II, Vector Research

DOT-HS-807-815 (Department of Transportation) Performance Requirements for Large Truck Conspicuity Enhancements

2.2.3 Other Publications

CIE 39-2 (TC-1.6) (Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage/International Commission on Illumination) Recommendations for Surface Colours for Visual Signaling

Austin & Forrester; Visibility Characteristics of Large Vehicle Conspicuity Marking, October, 1988 (unpublished)

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

3.2 CONSPICUITY

The ability of an object to be noticed and recognized without confusion or ambiguity.

3.3 DAYTIME

The period when an object is illuminated primarily by natural sunlight, either direct or diffused by weather or clouds; the period when headlamps are not required for road illumination.

3.4 GRAPHICS

Markings, illustrations, or other identifying devices on observable surfaces of a vehicle.

3.5 PASSIVE DEVICES

Devices which require no electrical power or internal illumination, but which are instead made visible by retroreflection from external light sources.

3.6 NIGHTTIME

The period when an object is illuminated solely or primarily by artificial light, such as the headlamps of the vehicle of the observer. The period when headlamps are required to be illuminated.

3.7 RETROREFLECTION

The process by which illumination is returned by an object directly or generally back to the source of that illumination; reflection characterized by the flux in an incident beam being returned in directions close to the direction from which it came, this effect occurring over a wide range of incidence angles.

3.8 REFLECTANCE FACTOR

Ratio of the flux reflected from the specimen to the flux reflected from a perfect reflecting diffuser under the same geometric and spectral conditions of measurement.

3.9 LUMINANCE FACTOR (CAP Y)

Ratio of the luminance of a specimen to that of a perfect diffuser, when illuminated and viewed under specified geometric conditions.

4. LIGHTING IDENTIFICATION CODES, MARKINGS, AND NOTICES

4.1 Conspicuity materials conforming to this document may be identified by the application of the appropriate SAE Lighting identification codes listed below, and shall be marked with the FMVSS-108 certification markings listed below.

	SAE Codes	**FMVSS Certification Markings**
a. TRUCKS AND TRAILERS		
50 mm wide marked	SAE-A4	DOT-C2
75 mm wide marked	SAE-A5	DOT-C3
100 mm wide marked	SAE-A6	DOT-C4
b. SCHOOL BUSES		
25 mm wide marked	SAE-A7	

4.2 Certification markings no less than 3 mm high shall appear at least once every 300 mm on the material surface. The markings shall be permanent in nature.

5. TESTS

5.1 Sample Preparation

5.1.1 Test Panels measuring 200 mm x 200 mm shall be prepared according to ASTM D 4956.

5.2 Salt Spray Resistance Test

5.2.1 Test Procedure

The test panels shall be subjected to 96 h exposure, comprising of two periods of 48 h each separated by a 2 h interval at 25 °C ± 5 °C during which the samples are allowed to dry, in accordance with ASTM B 117-03.

After completion of salt spray resistance test, the samples shall be tested for coefficient of retroreflection as specified in 6.8, and the color requirements and reflectance values as specified in 6.9.

5.3 Solvent and Fluid Resistance Test

5.3.1 Test Fluids

a. Reference fuel (85% mineral spirits and 15% Xylene).

b. Diesel Fuel (ASTM-2D).

c. Truck/trailer wash detergent- an aqueous solution containing 10% TriSodium Phosphate (TSP).

5.3.2 Test Procedure

Immerse each test panel into all fluids, each for 10 s, 10 times, with 20 s evaporation period between each dip.

5.3.2.1 After immersion, rinse the samples with water and dry with a clean lint free cloth.

5.3.3 After completion of the solvent and fluid resistance test, samples shall be tested for coefficient of retroreflection as specified in 6.8, and the color requirements and reflectance values as specified in 6.9.

5.4 Weathering Test

To determine that weathering characteristics will be at acceptable levels after a period of extended use, conspicuity materials must pass Test #1 for accelerated weathering test before they can be used. Conspicuity materials must pass the extended weathering test identified as Test #2 in order to show capability for extended use on vehicles under extreme environmental conditions.

5.4.1 Test 1

Conspicuity materials shall be exposed for 2200 h in accordance with the procedures in ASTM D 4956.

5.4.2 Test 2

Conspicuity materials shall be subjected to the 3 year outdoor exposure test in SAE J576.

5.5 Impact Resistance Test

The materials shall be subjected to the impact resistance test procedures in ASTM D 4956.

5.6 Adhesion Test

The material specimen shall be tested in accordance with the adhesion test specified in ASTM D 4956.

5.7 Moisture Test

The material specimen shall be tested in accordance with the moisture test specified in SAE J2139.

5.8 Coefficient of Retroreflection

The coefficient of retroreflection of the specimen material shall be determined in accordance with the test procedures in ASTM E 810. The values shall be specified in units of candelas per lux per square meter.

5.9 Test for Daytime Color

5.9.1 Preparation

Sample to be evaluated shall be placed on a flat substrate which shall be capable of being rotated through 360 degrees. Other preparations shall be in accordance with ASTM D 4956.

5.9.2 Color measurements shall be determined spectrophotometrically in accordance with ASTM D 4956 for red, white, and yellow materials.

6. REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Evaluate samples for proper dimensions per 5.1.

6.2 Salt Spray Resistance

6.2.1 The retroreflective materials must show no discoloration or blistering after exposure to the test in 5.2 and loss of adhesion of no more than 1 mm from the edge.

6.2.2 After completion of salt spray resistance test in 5.2, samples shall meet the requirements of Tables 1, 2, and 3 as applicable.

6.3 Solvent and Fluid Resistance

6.3.1 After immersion in each of the test fluids indicated in 5.3.1, the materials shall show no noticeable softening, dulling, color change, or loss of adhesion.

6.3.2 After completion of solvent and fluid resistance test in 5.3, samples shall meet the requirements of Tables 1, 2, and 3 as applicable.

6.4 Weathering

6.4.1 Test 1

After completion of the artificial weathering test described in 5.4.1, the material under test shall show no appreciable cracking, scaling, pitting, blistering, edge lifting, or curling, or more than 0.8 mm shrinkage or expansion and shall meet 80% of the photometric values indicated in Table 1 and Table 2 as applicable.

6.4.2 Test 2

After being subjected to the 3 year outdoor weathering test specified in 5.4.2, the material under test shall show no appreciable cracking, scaling, pitting, blistering, edge lifting, or curling, or more than 0.8 mm shrinkage or expansion and meet 50% of the photometric values indicated in Table 1 and Table 2 as applicable.