

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Royal Decree on the Public Highway Code.

Chapter 5. – Use of lights, sound devices and other systems.

Article 44. – Use of the lights: vehicles and road users taking the public highway.

(5). Specific stipulations

(1). It shall be prohibited to use lights other than those prescribed or provided for in this Regulation or in the technical regulations of motor vehicles or mopeds and motorcycles.

(2). The lights must not dazzle other road users.

(3). Between nightfall and dawn, and in all circumstances where it is no longer possible to see clearly up to a distance of around 200 m, the lights listed below shall be used:

1° pedestrians in a group following the roadway:

a) at the front left, a white or yellow light;

b) at rear left, a red light; a light of the same colour may be borne on the right;

c) the flanks of those groups shall, if required by their length, be signalled by one or more white or yellow lights, which shall be visible in all directions.

The lights referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) may be replaced with retro-reflective safety vests visibly worn by all participants in that group.

The obligation to use the lights referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) shall not apply during manoeuvres for divisions of military columns consisting of a troop marching. In that case, the Minister for Defence or his or her representative shall determine the precautions to be taken by the military authorities in order to ensure the safety of traffic;

2° bicycles;

Riders of bicycles shall carry at least one non-dazzling fixed light or flashing light at the front and rear. At the front, the light must be white or yellow, at the back red.

Riders of bicycles may make additional use of white, yellow or orange lateral signalling devices;

3° motor vehicles:

a) at the front, dipped beam or main beam headlights, which may be used simultaneously. However, the main beams shall be switched off and replaced with the dipped beams:

i) when approaching an oncoming road user, at the distance necessary for the latter to be able to continue his or her road easily and without danger;

ii) when approaching a railway vehicle or a boat, the driver or helmsman/woman of which could be dazzled by the main beam;

iii) when the vehicle follows another vehicle at a short distance, except where it is necessary for overtaking;

iv) where the roadway is continuously illuminated and sufficiently illuminated so that the driver is able to see clearly up to a distance of approximately 100 m;

b) at the rear, the red lights;

4° trailers, in so far as they must be fitted with lights:

a) at the front, two white lights;

b) at the rear, the red lights;

The provision in point (b) also applies to defective vehicles that are being towed.

Trailers towed by bicycles shall bear a red light when their size makes the red light of the bicycle invisible;

5° carriages, handcarts, non-harnessed draught animals, pack or riding animals and livestock:

a) at the front, a white or yellow light;

b) at the rear, a red light.

These lights may be united in a single device, positioned to the left or worn, except in the following cases:

a) if the carriage is pulling another vehicle;

b) where a herd consists of six animals or more.

(4). Where the vehicle is fitted with rear fog lights, these lights shall be used in the event of fog, snowfall or heavy precipitation that reduces visibility to less than approximately 100 m. These lamps shall not be used in any other conditions.

The front fog lights may be used only in the case of fog, snowfall or heavy precipitation that reduces visibility to less than approximately 100 m. They may replace the dipped beams or the main beams, or light simultaneously with these lights.

(5). Specific stipulations:

1° the dipped beam and red rear light of the two-wheel mopeds and motorcycles driving on the public road shall be used permanently. If the vehicle is fitted with daytime-driving lights, they may replace the dipped beam;

2° vehicles with a width of more than 2.55 m use perimeter lights, except for the lights prescribed in the provisions of paragraph 3, 3°, 4°, 5° and paragraph 4. These lights shall be placed at the front, rear, on either side and, where appropriate, at the extreme lateral projections of the vehicle. The lights that are visible at the front shall be white, those visible at the rear, red;

3° both during the day and at night, convoys of military vehicles use dipped beams or main beams, if the use of the latter is permitted.

Chapter 10. – Bicycles, their trailers, personal transporters and carriages.

Section 1. – Equipment and dimensions of bicycles and their trailers.

Article 81. – Equipment and dimensions of bicycles and their trailers.

(1). Reflectors:

1° bicycles must always be equipped with white reflectors at the front and red reflectors at the rear:

- a) bicycles must always bear a white reflector at the front and a red reflector at the back;
- b) tricycles with one front wheel shall always bear a white reflector at the front and two red reflectors at the rear;
- c) tricycles with two front wheels shall always bear two white reflectors at the front and one red reflector at the rear;
- d) quadricycles must always bear two white reflectors at the front and two red reflectors at the rear;

2° the pedals of bicycles must always be equipped with yellow or orange reflectors;

3 ° bicycles must always bear lateral signalling consisting of:

- a) either a white retro-reflective strip in the form of a continuous circle along each side of the front and rear wheel tyre;
- b) or, on each wheel at least two yellow or orange reflectors with double front, fixed to the spokes and symmetrically fitted;
- c) or the combination of the two above-mentioned types;
- d) for velomobiles, a yellow or orange reflective strip on the sides;

4° bicycles may be equipped with additional white, yellow or orange lateral signalling devices.

(2). Exception:

when ridden between dawn and nightfall, and in all circumstances when it is possible to see clearly up to a distance of about 200 m, the front and rear reflectors, the reflectors on the pedals and the lateral signalling are not mandatory.

(3). Reflectors for trailers:

trailers drawn by bicycles must always carry two red reflectors at the rear.

(4). Position and shape of lights and reflectors:

1° the lights and reflectors shall be clearly visible and work well;

2 ° under no circumstances shall red lights or red reflectors be borne in front, and white or yellow lamps or reflectors at the rear;

3° the reflectors must not have a triangular shape. They shall be fixed in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bicycle;

4° when the front bicycle is to bear two white reflectors or two red reflectors at the rear, the two reflectors shall be of the same colour, shape and dimensions.

They shall be symmetrical in relation to the longitudinal axis of the bicycle and in the same plane, perpendicular to this axis.

The outer edge of the luminous part of the two front and rear reflectors shall be as close as possible, and in no instance more than 0.10 m from the outer circumference of the bicycle;

(5). Bell:

bicycles must be equipped with a bell that can be heard from a distance of 20 m.

(6). Braking:

bicycles shall be fitted with a sufficiently efficient braking device.

(7). The equipment consisting of a wheel, pedals and a fixed handlebar coupled to a bicycle intended to carry one or two children shall not be considered as a trailer, but as an extension of the bicycle.

(8). Dimensions:

the maximum width of a bicycle is 1 m and that of a tricycle or quadricycle 2.50 m.

The width, including all protruding parts, of a trailer towed by a bicycle shall not exceed 1 m.

The width, including all protruding parts, of a trailer towed by a tricycle or quadricycle shall not exceed the width of the towing vehicle.

(9). Blue flashing lights and special sound device:

a bicycle used by a member of the staff of the operational framework of the federal or local police may be equipped with a blue flashing light and a special sound device.

Section 3. – Equipment and dimensions of carriages.

Article 83. – Equipment and dimensions of carriages.

(1). Reflectors:

1° carriages must carry two red reflectors at the rear.

These reflectors must have a triangular shape; they must have been fitted and have been approved. One of the tops of the triangle shall be facing upwards, while the opposite side is horizontal;

2° one or more orange reflectors may be mounted on the sides of the vehicle;

3° the reflectors must always be clearly visible.

(2). Braking:

carriages shall be fitted with a sufficiently functional braking device.

This provision does not apply to two-wheel carriages whose laden mass does not exceed 1,000 kg and the harnessing of which is such that the vehicle stops at the same time as the draught animal.

(3). Dimensions:

the dimensions of carriages shall not exceed those determined by the technical regulations for cars.