



## **Explanatory note**

Draft decree implementing Article R.313-32-1 of the French Highway Code related to blind spot signs on heavy vehicles

The obligation to visibly display a sign indicating the position of blind spots as from January the first 2021 is included in the Article L. 313-1 of the French Highway Code, introduced by Article 55 of Law n° 2019-1428 of 24th December 2019 on mobility guidance.

### **Which vehicles are concerned by this obligation?**

Any vehicle with a GVW of more than 3.5 tonnes.

### **Which vehicles are exempted from this obligation?**

- agricultural and forestry vehicles ;
- winter service equipment ;
- intervention vehicles of the services managing motorways or roads with separated carriageways;
- motor vehicles and towed vehicles, for which a structural impossibility is proven, are exempted from side and/or rear marking.

**Please note :** The structural impossibility is established when, in the defined areas of display, there is no element allowing the signs to be fixed or when it is not possible to accommodate the support of the signs (e.g. dolly).

### **By what means can the sign be attached to the vehicle?**

- Sticking ;
- Riveting ;
- Any other means of fastening ;
- Painting on the truck body ;
- Pockets on the truck body.

### **Are foreign vehicles subject to this obligation?**

Yes, if they already bear a device on the sides and back to indicate the presence of blind spots in accordance with the legislation of another EU Member State, they are considered to be in order.

### **What about vehicles already equipped with a model that does not conform to the model set out in the appendix of this draft decree?**

If these vehicles are equipped, on the sides and at the rear, before 31 March 2021, they will be considered to be in order for a period of 12 months from the publication of the decree in the Official Gazette.

## Where should the sign be placed?

The signs have to be placed so as to be visible in all circumstances and in such a way that they cannot obstruct the visibility of the vehicle's statutory plates and inscriptions, the visibility of the various traffic lights and signalling devices and the driver's field of vision.

## Are there any regulatory requirements for the positioning of signage?

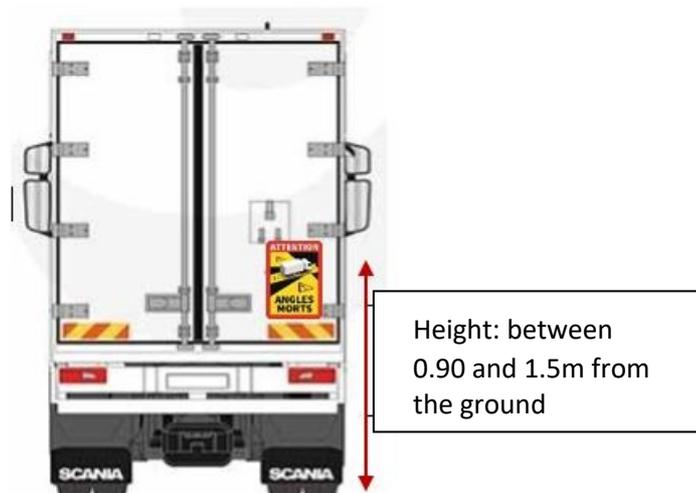
Yes, the signs must respect a specific location as provided for in Article 2 of the draft decree.

### I - Motor vehicles

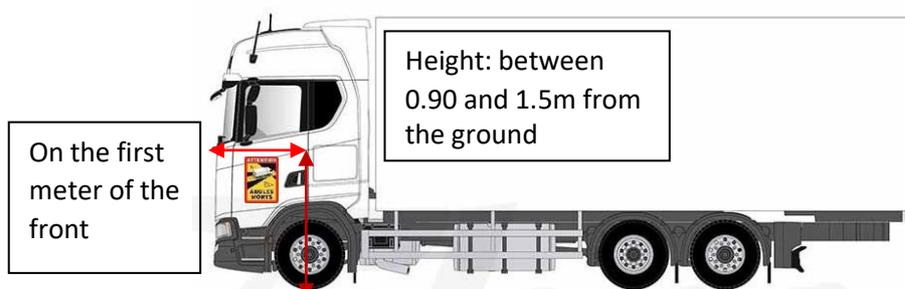
#### A) Carriers

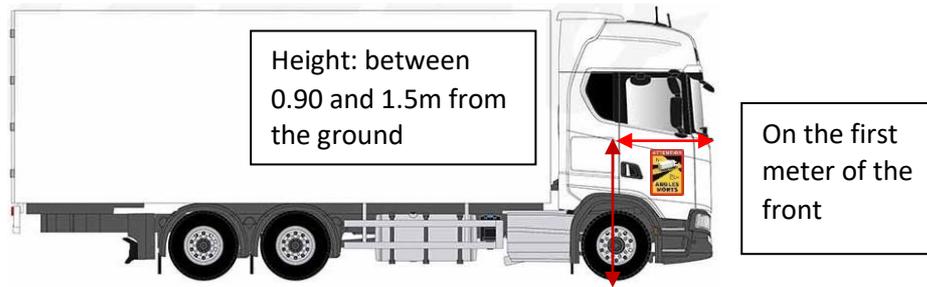
The signs must be fixed on the rear face of the vehicle to the right of the longitudinal median plane (between 0.9 and 1.5m from the ground) as well as on each side unless glazed surfaces of the first front metre (between 0.9 and 1.5m from the ground).

##### 1) Rear application :



##### 2) Lateral application :

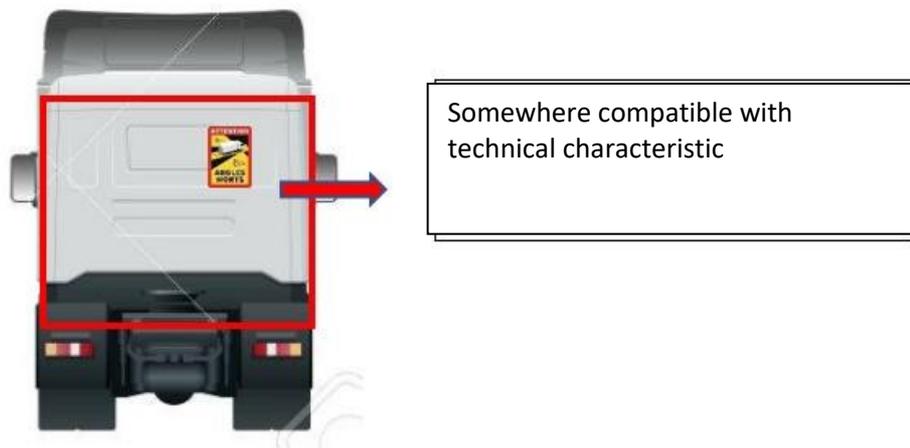




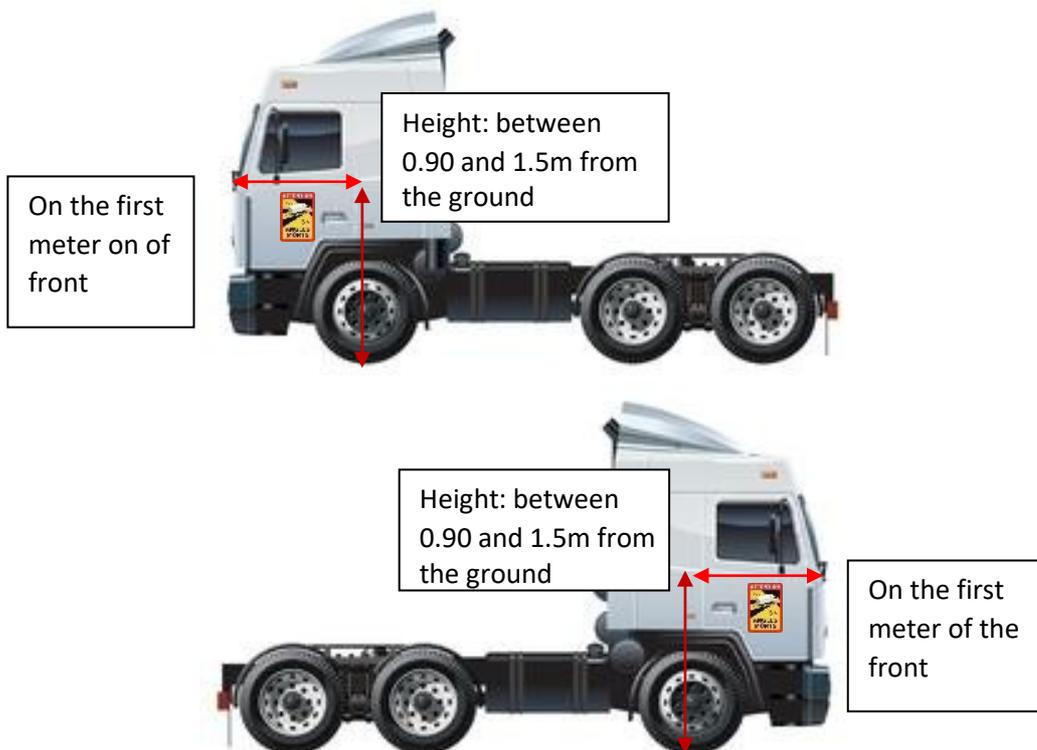
**B) Towings**

The signage must be affixed on the rear of the vehicle in a position compatible with its technical characteristics and on each side unless glazed surfaces in the first front metre (between 0.9 and 1.5m from the ground).

1) Rear application :



2) Lateral application :

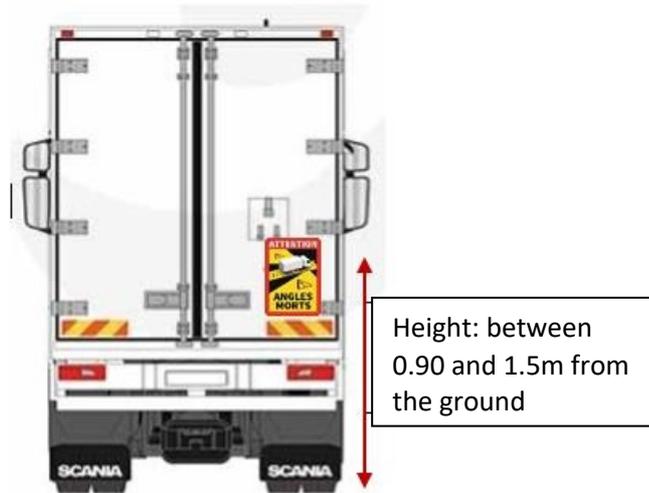


## II - Towed vehicles

### A) Trailer

The sign must be fixed on the rear of the vehicle to the right of the longitudinal median plane at a height of between 0.9 and 1.5m and on each side in the first metre of the front body of the vehicle at a height of between 0.9 and 1.5m.

#### 1) Rear positioning :



#### 2) Lateral application :



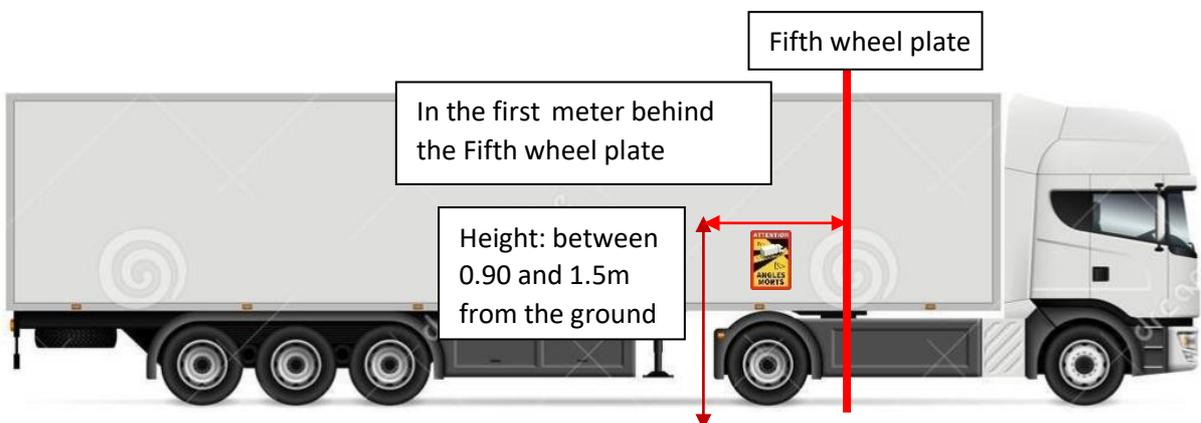
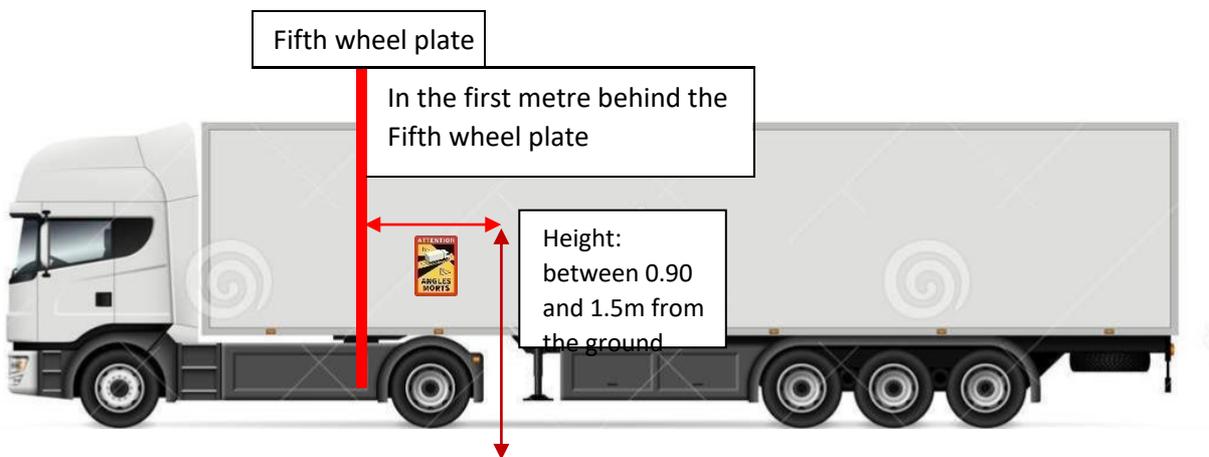
## B) Semi-trailer

The signs must be fixed on the rear face of the vehicle to the right of the longitudinal median plane at a height of between 0.9 and 1.5m and on each side in the first metre behind the fifth wheel plate of the vehicle at a height of between 0.9 and 1.5m.

### 1) Rear attachment



### 2) Lateral application :



### Are there any exceptions?

Yes, in case of technical impossibility.

Please note : Technical impossibility corresponds to the impossibility of fixing the signage within the dimensional obligations set by the decree (e.g. glass surface).

#### Derogation from height requirements :

- Motor vehicles and towed vehicles, for which it is technically impossible to comply with the height of the signage in relation to the ground, are equipped with signs placed at a height as close as possible to that prescribed in article 2 of this decree and within the limit of 2.10 metres.

#### Deviation from lateral positioning requirements :

- Vehicles with direct vision systems at the bottom of the doors or glass doors are equipped with signs placed at a distance from the front of the vehicle as close as possible to that prescribed in article 2 of this decree and within a limit of 3 metres. The 3-metre distance may be broken when the structure of the vehicle does not permit the positioning of the signs in accordance with the provisions of this article, but without obstructing part of the glazing.
- The criteria for placing side signs are not applicable to towed vehicles for which there is a technical impossibility. These vehicles shall carry the lateral signs in a position compatible with their technical characteristics.

#### Derogation from rear positioning requirements

- The positioning criteria for rear marking are not applicable to motor vehicles and towed vehicles for which there is a technical impossibility. These vehicles shall carry the rear marking in a position compatible with their technical characteristics.

Examples (non-exhaustive list) :

- container trailer ;
- car carrier trailer ;
- towed semi-trailers ;
- tank trailer ;
- flatbed vehicles ;
- arms for removable skips ;
- dollies.

### Questions / Answers

#### 1) What about fixing signs on vehicles equipped with sliding tarpaulins for side loading?

Regular folding and unfolding of the tarpaulin may affect the durability of the sticker. In order to reduce this problem, the Ministry recommends using other means such as painting to enable seeing the signs on the vehicle.

**2) What about flatbed vehicles?**

The Ministry considers that there is no structural impossibility on these vehicles. On the other hand, they are among the vehicles for which it is technically impossible to put signs within the dimensional constraints set by the decree. The signs must therefore be fixed in a position compatible with the technical characteristics of these vehicles (e.g. attachment of a removable or non-removable support to accommodate the signs).

**3) What about Ampliroll vehicles?**

The Ministry specifies that the signs must be fixed to the vehicle and not on the skip, as the skip is not part of the vehicle.

**4) What about container trailers?**

The Ministry specifies that the signs must be fixed on the vehicle and not on the container, as the container is not part of the vehicle.

**5) What about car trailers?**

The Ministry considers that these vehicles are among those for which it is technically impossible to fix signs within the dimensional constraints set by the decree. The signs must therefore be fixed in a position compatible with the technical characteristics of these vehicles.

**6) What about timber transport vehicles (log trailers)?**

The Ministry considers these vehicles to be among those for which there is a structural impossibility. In fact, on the lateral part, the logs act as the chassis and on the rear part there is just a rear axle on which the logs are placed. Therefore, these vehicles are exempt from fixing signs.