Proposal for a supplement to Regulation No. 48 (Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on M, N and O vehicles)

This document is based on document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2015/34 and contains a revised proposal prepared by Italy, to improve the wording of paragraph 6.13, and part of the related sub-paragraphs. The modifications to the existing text of the Regulation are marked in bold for new or strikethrough for deleted characters.
I. Proposal

Paragraph 6.13.2., amend to read:

"6.13.2. Number

Two visible from the front and two visible from the rear.

Optional: Additional lamps may be fitted as follows:

(a) Two visible from the front;
(b) Two visible from the rear."

Paragraph 6.13.4.2., amend to read:

"6.13.4.2. In height:

Front: Motor vehicles - the horizontal plane tangential to the upper edge of the apparent surface in the direction of the reference axis of the device shall not be lower than the horizontal plane tangential to the upper edge of the transparent zone of the wind-screen.

Trailers and semi-trailers - at the maximum height compatible with the requirements relating to the width, design and operational requirements of the vehicle and to the symmetry of the lamps.

"However, if two additional end outline marker lamps visible from the front are used to mark the rear end of the vehicle, they shall be fitted so as to ensure the visibility by the driver of the vehicle through the device for indirect vision."

Rear: At the maximum height compatible with the requirements relating to the width, design and operational requirements of the vehicle and to the symmetry of the lamps.

Both optional and mandatory (as applicable) The additional lamps, as specified in paragraph 6.13.2. (b), shall be fitted as far separated in height as practicable in respect to the mandatory ones, provided that their position is compatible with design/operational requirements of the vehicle and symmetry of the lamps."

Paragraph 6.13.4.3., amend to read:

"6.13.4.3. In length, no special requirement.

The additional lamps visible from the front, as specified in paragraph 6.13.4.2., 6.13.2. (a) shall be fitted as close as practicable to the rear; this requirement shall be deemed to be satisfied if however, the distance between the additional lamps and the rear of the vehicle does not exceed 400 mm."

Paragraph 6.13.9., amend to read:

"6.13.9. Other requirements"
Provided that all other requirements are met, the mandatory or optional lamps, visible from the front and the mandatory or optional lamps visible from the rear on the same side of the vehicle may be combined into one device.

Two of the lamps visible from the rear may be grouped, combined or reciprocally incorporated in accordance with paragraph 5.7.

The position of an end-outline marker lamp in relation to corresponding position lamp shall be such that the distance between the projections on a transverse vertical plane of the points nearest to one another on the apparent surfaces in the direction of the respective reference axes of the two lamps considered is not less than 200 mm.

“The additional lamps, as specified in paragraph 6.13.2. (a), used to mark the rear end outline of the vehicle, the trailer or the semi-trailer shall be fitted in such a way to make it visible towards the front of the rear end outline to the driver and they shall be visible within the fields of vision of the approved main exterior rear-view devices for indirect vision, mirrors Class II (15.2.4.2) or III (15.2.4.3) according to ECE Regulation R 46, Rev. 5.”

II. Justification

Devices for indirect vision (Regulation No. 46) are useless at night, if visibility is insufficient on the side of long commercial vehicles and equally on motor vehicles such as trailers and semi-trailers. This is dangerous, for example, at crossings or road junctions, in particular, for other road users (cyclists, pedestrians). For a long time, in many countries long commercial vehicles have used an additional end-outline marker lamp as ”keep track lights” to mark the rear end of the vehicle, permitted by national regulations. This should be allowed, on a performance oriented basis, for international approval according to Regulation No. 48.

This proposal is also in line with document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/84, which is on the agenda of the next session of WP29 in November 2015, which means the latest proposed state of Regulation 46.