



## Towing Caravans (Mandatory Mirrors)

The laws in this area can be quite complex however in simple terms, you must have at least two independent views to the rear when driving on UK roads, one of which must be the drivers wing mirror.

For standard driving, this could be an offside wing mirror and a rear view mirror, however when towing a caravan the rear view mirror becomes redundant so you need both wing mirrors to provide a safe and sufficient view to the rear and comply with the law.

When towing a caravan (with the exception of very narrow ones) a blind spot is created preventing you from seeing the required distance behind you whilst driving - see the diagram below.

This blind spot can (and often does) cause collisions with other vehicles when changing lanes and whilst manoeuvring. To overcome this **you must** fit extended mirrors which easily fit onto your existing mirrors and provide you with the full view required behind you, eliminating any blind areas.

This blind spot applies to **all standard cars** with even the widest of the commonly available non-commercial vehicles in the UK market (Landrover Discovery or Range Rover) providing an insufficient view without extended

mirrors fitted. Other types of vehicle such as vans or utility trucks will often be wide enough to have sufficient view without use of such mirrors but you may still find them a useful addition to improve visibility.

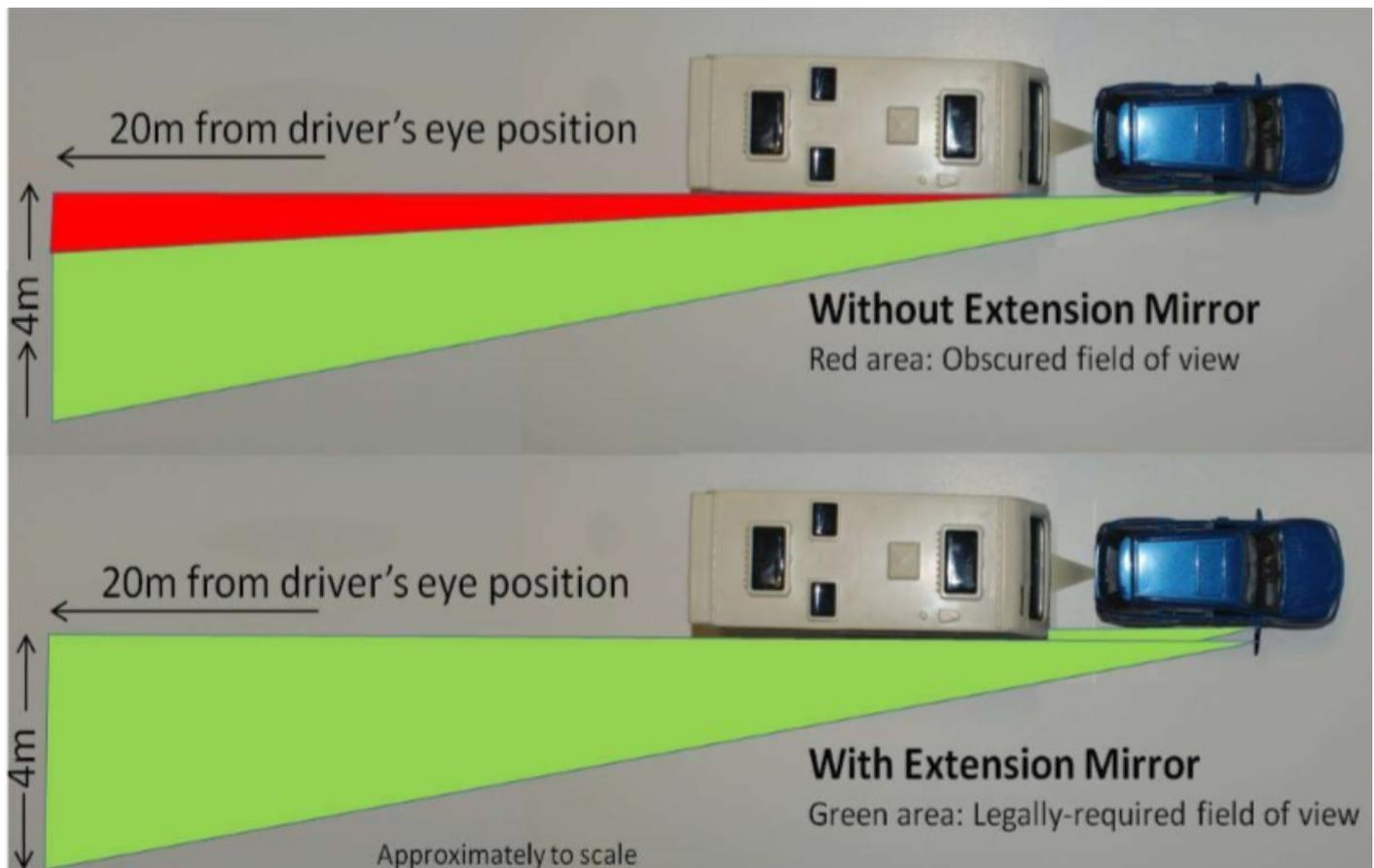


If you are seen towing a standard caravan or equivalent sized trailer without extended mirrors then you can be dealt with for the offence of **Using a Vehicle in a Dangerous Condition** (£100 and 3pts) or using a vehicle without sufficient/appropriate mirrors (£50, fine only) depending on the circumstances.

Forgetting for the moment, the law in relation to this offence and the potential for quite serious consequences from a collision on a busy motorway or main road, you should also consider the potential to cause expensive damage to your caravan and/or towing vehicle as well as other vehicles and the expensive and stressful insurance claims which can accompany this.

There are a wide range of extended mirrors available from a variety of motor accessory stores and caravan suppliers and these start from as little as £15-£20 – a very small price to pay to avoid damaging your pride and joy and delaying or cancelling your holiday or worse.

*Officer notes: E = RT88457 NE = RC86405*



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