

# RECOMMENDED SAFETY ADVICE FOR DRIVERS & CYCLISTS REGARDING LATERAL CLEARANCE & VEHICLE DOWNLIGHTS

## DRIVER SAFETY ADVICE

If your vehicle is displaying a downlight footprint, where possible keep your recommended KEEP CLEAR area **out** of any other road users' vicinity. Just the same as you, are not wanting anyone to enter in to your suggested KEEP CLEAR area. So you should respect your area and **not** place it in to the path of someone else's KEEP CLEAR area.

If another vehicle or cyclist (classed as a vulnerable road user by RoSPA) is displaying a downlight area or footprint around their vehicle or bike, you, as the driver should avoid driving your own vehicle into any part of their illuminated area. The footprint provides a suggested KEEP CLEAR area to ensure safe handling when being overtaken. Cyclists have to avoid potholes and could take evasive action and might move sideways and/or fall to the ground. The driver of the passing vehicle **MUST** be able to clear the cyclist's head to avoid any injury\*1. So **HOLD BACK** until it's safe to pass and **AVOID ENCROACHMENT!**

\*1 please see Highway Code Rule 163 'Overtaking' for official wording and advice.

<http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/using-the-road---overtaking-162-to-169.html> and Rules 204 – 225 'Road Users Requiring Extra Care' <http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/road-users-requiring-extra-care---overview-204.html> .

## CYCLIST SAFETY ADVICE

If your bicycle is displaying a downlight footprint, where possible keep your recommended KEEP CLEAR area **out** of any other road users' vicinity. Just the same as you, are not wanting anyone to enter in to your suggested KEEP CLEAR area. So you should respect your area and **not** place it in to the path of someone else's KEEP CLEAR area.

All cyclists should avoid entering in to any part of an illuminated footprint area if being displayed by a vehicle or trailer. This footprint is a suggested KEEP CLEAR area to protect the safety of the cyclist and to allow the driver to maintain a safe operating distance which is crucial when maintaining the safe handling of the vehicle as per Highway Code Rule 221 'Large Vehicles Need Extra Room'. So **HOLD BACK** until it's safe to pass and **AVOID ENCROACHMENT!**

<http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/road-users-requiring-extra-care---other-vehicles-219-to-225.html> .

If **both** you, and A.nother, are displaying downlight footprints and if **you** need to over/undertake the A.nother, the **minimum** clearance that **you** should give is the same clearance that you would expect in return. The perimeter of both footprints should just 'kiss' as shown below. This should be a **minimum** clearance when under/overtaking to ensure the safety of the **VRU** and of **all other road users**.



KEEP YOUR **LATERAL** DISTANCE from each other especially in stop/start traffic situations  
**AVOID ENCROACHMENT the alternative could be ENFORCEMENT!**