
**Road vehicles — Installation of lighting and
light signalling devices for motor vehicles
and their trailers**

*Véhicules routiers — Installation des feux d'éclairage et de signalisation
pour les véhicules à moteur et leurs remorques*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 303 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Lighting and signalling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 303:1986), which has been technically revised.

Annexes A, B, C, D and E form a normative part of this International Standard.

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Road vehicles — Installation of lighting and light signalling devices for motor vehicles and their trailers

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the essential characteristics for the installation of lighting and light signalling devices on motor vehicles with or without bodywork and with at least four wheels, intended for on-road use and having a maximum design speed of more than 25 km/h, and their trailers. It is not applicable to vehicles that run on rails, to agricultural or forestry tractors and machinery, or to public works vehicles.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 612, *Road vehicles — Dimensions of motor vehicles and towed vehicles — Terms and definitions*

ISO 1176, *Road vehicles — Masses — Vocabulary and codes*

ISO 3833, *Road vehicles — Types — Terms and definitions*

ISO 4082, *Road vehicles — Motor vehicles — Flasher units*

ISO 4182, *Motor vehicles — Measurement of variations in dipped-beam headlamp angle as a function of load*

ISO 7227, *Road vehicles — Lighting and light signalling devices — Vocabulary*

ISO/TR 9819, *Road vehicles — Comparison tables of regulations on photometric requirements of light signalling devices*

ISO/TR 10603, *Road vehicles — Legal situation concerning lighting and light signalling devices*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, terms and definitions given in ISO 612, ISO 3833, ISO 7227 and the following apply.

3.1

transverse plane

vertical plane perpendicular to the longitudinal median plane of the vehicle in accordance with ISO 612

3.2

ground

substantially horizontal surface on which the vehicle stands

3.3

unladen vehicle

vehicle without driver, crew, passengers and load, but with a full supply of fuel, spare wheel and normally carried tools

3.4

laden vehicle

vehicle loaded to its technically permissible maximum mass, as stated by the manufacturer, and with the distribution of this mass between the axles fixed by the manufacturer as specified in ISO 4182

3.5

extreme outer edge

plane on either side of the vehicle parallel to the longitudinal median plane of the vehicle (ISO 612) and touching its lateral outer edge, excepting the projection of

- tyres near their point of contact with the ground and connections for tyre-pressure gauges,
- any anti-skid devices mounted on the wheels,
- rear-view mirrors,
- side direction indicator lamps, end-outline marker lamps, front and rear position lamps, parking lamps, retro-reflectors and side-marker lamps, and
- customs seal affixed to the vehicle and devices for securing and protecting such seals

3.6

overall width

distance between the two vertical planes of the extreme outer edge

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3.7

retro-reflecting device

retro-reflector

device used to indicate the presence of a vehicle or to identify a specific part of a vehicle by reflection of the light emanating from a light source not connected to the vehicle, the observer being near the source

[ISO 7227, definition 3.29]

NOTE For the purposes of this International Standard the following are not considered retro-reflectors: retro-reflecting number plates; the retro-reflecting signals mentioned in the European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods on road (ADR); other retro-reflecting plates and signals that must be used to comply with national requirements for use as regards certain categories of vehicles or certain methods of operation.

3.8

illuminating surface

(lighting device) orthogonal projection of the full aperture of the reflector in a transverse plane

NOTE 1 If the lighting device has no reflector, the definition is the same as that given in 3.9 for the illuminating surface of a signalling device.

NOTE 2 If the lamp lens(es) extend(s) over part only of the full aperture of the reflector, then the projection of that part only is taken into account.

NOTE 3 In the case of a dipped-beam headlamp, having a screened light source giving a defined cut-off, the illuminating surface is limited by the apparent trace of the cut-off on to the lens. If the reflector and glass are adjustable relative to one another, the mean adjustment is used.

[ISO 7227, definition 3.35]

3.9**illuminating surface**

(signalling device) orthogonal projection of the lamp in a plane perpendicular to its reference axis and in contact with the exterior light-emitting surface of the lamp, this projection being bounded by the edges of screens situated in this plane, each allowing only 98 % of the total luminous intensity of the light to persist in the reference axis direction

[ISO 7227, definition 3.36]

3.10**reference axis**

axis of reference

characteristic axis of the light signal for use as the reference direction ($H = 0^\circ$, $V = 0^\circ$) for photometric measurements and when fitting the lamp on the vehicle

[ISO 7227, definition 3.40]

3.11**reference centre**

centre of reference

intersection of the reference axis with the light-emitting surface

[ISO 7227, definition 3.41]

3.12**angles of geometric visibility**

(lamp) angles which determine the widest solid angle in which the apparent surface of the lamp is visible

NOTE This solid angle is determined by the segments of a sphere in which the centre coincides with the reference centre of the lamp and the equator is parallel to the ground. These segments are determined in relation to the reference axis. The horizontal angles correspond to the longitude and the vertical angles to the latitude.

[ISO 7227, definition 3.42]

NOTE For the purposes of this International Standard, the horizontal angles are β_1 , corresponding to the outboard, and β_2 corresponding to the inboard, and the vertical angles are α_1 corresponding to "up" and α_2 corresponding to "down".

3.13**light-emitting surface**

all or surface part of the exterior surface of the transparent lens that encloses the lighting and light signalling devices and conforms to certain defined photometric and calorimetric conditions

[ISO 7227, definition 3.38]

3.14**apparent surface**

orthogonal projection of the light-emitting surface on a plane perpendicular to the observation direction and coinciding with the point on the lens closest to the observer

[ISO 7227, definition 3.39]

3.15**direction of observation**

direction from which the lamp is observed or tested, this testing being mainly conducted in the angles of geometric visibility or the angles of visibility of red light to the front and white light to the rear

3.16

single lamp

device or part of a device having one function and one illuminating surface, but possibly more than one light source

NOTE For installation on a vehicle, "single lamp" also means any assembly of two independent or grouped lamps, identical or not, having the same function, provided that the assembly complies with the specification for such a lamp. This possible combination does not apply to main beam headlamps, dipped-beam headlamps and front fog lamps.

[Adapted from ISO 7227, definition 3.7].

3.17

two lamps

even number of lamps

single apparent surface in the shape of a band or a strip, placed symmetrically in relation to the longitudinal median plane of the vehicle as defined in ISO 612, extending on both sides to within at least 0,4 m of the extreme outer edge, and being not less than 0,8 m long, the illumination of which is provided by not less than two light sources placed as close as possible to its ends

NOTE A single apparent surface may be constituted by a number of juxtaposed elements in the case where the projections of several individual apparent surfaces on a transverse plane occupy not less than 60 % of the area of the smallest rectangle circumscribing the projections of those individual apparent surfaces.

3.18

distance between two lamps

shortest distance between two apparent surfaces in the direction of the reference axis of two lamps facing in the same direction

NOTE Where the distance between the lamps clearly meets the requirements of this International Standard, the exact edges of apparent surfaces need not be determined.

3.19

movable component

body panel or other part of the vehicle, the position of which can be changed by tilting, rotating or sliding without the use of tools

NOTE The tiltable driver cab of a truck is not considered a movable component.

3.20

normal position

position of a movable component specified by the vehicle manufacturer for the normal condition of use and the park condition of the vehicle

3.21

normal condition of use

⟨motor vehicle⟩ condition of being ready to move and with propulsion engine running, and with movable components in the normal position

3.22

normal condition of use

⟨trailer⟩ condition of being connected to a drawing motor vehicle in the normal condition of use, with movable components in the normal position

3.23

park condition

⟨motor vehicle⟩ condition of being at a standstill and propulsion engine not running, with movable components in the normal position

3.24

park condition

⟨trailer⟩ condition of being connected to a drawing motor vehicle in the park condition, with movable components in the normal position

4 General specifications

4.1 Mounting of devices

The lighting and light signalling devices shall be so fitted that under the normal condition of use and notwithstanding the vibrations to which they may be subjected, they shall retain the characteristics specified by this International Standard and shall be in accordance with its requirements. In particular, it shall not be possible for the lamps to be inadvertently maladjusted.

4.2 Adjustment of setting

The main-beam, dipped-beam and front fog lamps shall be so installed that correct adjustment of their orientation can be easily carried out.

4.3 Angles of geometric visibility

There shall be no obstacle within the angles of geometric visibility that noticeably reduces the propagation of light from any part of the apparent surface of the lamp observed from infinity.

If viewed closer to the lamp, the direction of observation shall be moved in parallel to achieve the same result.

See annex A.

4.4 Reference axis

For all light signalling devices, including those mounted on the side panels, the reference axis of the lamp when fitted to the vehicle shall be parallel to the bearing plane of the vehicle on the road; in addition, it shall be perpendicular to the longitudinal median plane of the vehicle in the case of side retro-reflectors and of side-marker lamps, and parallel to that plane in the case of all other signalling devices. In each direction, a tolerance of $\pm 3^\circ$ may be allowed. Furthermore, any specific instructions as regards fitting laid down by the manufacturer shall be complied with.

See annex A.

4.5 Height and orientation check

In the absence of specific instructions, the height and orientation of lamps shall be verified with the vehicle unladen and placed on a flat, horizontal surface according to the normal condition of use.

4.6 Lamps constituting a pair

In the absence of specific instructions, lamps constituting a pair shall

- be fitted to the vehicle symmetrically in relation to the longitudinal median plane (this estimate to be based on the exterior geometrical form of the lamp and not on the edge of its illuminating surface, see annex B),
- be symmetrical to one another in relation to the longitudinal median plane (except with regard to the interior structure of the lamp),
- satisfy the same colorimetric requirements, and
- have substantially identical photometric characteristics.

4.7 Vehicles with asymmetrical shape

On vehicles whose external shape is asymmetrical, the requirements of 4.6 shall be satisfied so far as is possible.

4.8 Maximum and minimum heights

The maximum height above ground, H_1 , shall be measured from the highest point, and the minimum height above ground, H_2 , from the lowest point, of the apparent surface in the direction of the reference axis.

In the case of dipped-beam headlamps, H_2 shall be measured in relation to the ground from the lowest point of the effective outlet of the optical system (e.g. reflector, lens, projection lens), independent of its utilization.

Where H_1 and H_2 clearly meet the requirements of this International Standard, the exact edges of a surface need not be determined.

See annex E.

4.9 Width position

The position in respect of width shall be determined from the edge of the apparent surface in the direction of the reference axis, furthest from the longitudinal median plane of the vehicle when referred to the overall width, and from the inner edges of the apparent surface in the direction of the reference axis when referred to the distance between lamps.

Where the width position clearly meets the requirements of this International Standard, the exact edges of a surface need not be determined.

4.10 Flashing lamps

In the absence of specific instructions, no lamps other than direction indicator lamps and the vehicle hazard warning signals shall be flashing lamps, except that the side marker lamps may also flash at the same frequency (in phase or out of phase) with the front and rear direction indicators when a side direction indicator lamp is not installed.

4.11 Avoiding light confusion

To avoid confusion as to the direction in which a vehicle is facing, it is recommended that no red light be visible to the front (zone 1, see annex C), and no white light be visible to the rear (zone 2, see annex C), excepting white light to the rear from a reversing lamp and interior lighting.

4.12 Assembly of lamps

Lamps may be grouped, combined or reciprocally incorporated with one another provided that all requirements for each lamp regarding colour, position, orientation, geometric visibility, electrical connections and other requirements, if any, are fulfilled.

4.13 Electrical connections

The electrical connections shall be such that the front and rear position lamps, the end-outline marker lamps, if any, the side marker lamps, if any, and the rear registration plate lamp can only be switched on and off simultaneously. This condition does not apply when using front and rear position lamps, nor to side marker lamps when combined or reciprocally incorporated with the former, as parking lamps.

The electrical connections shall be such that the main-beam and dipped-beam headlamps and the front fog lamps cannot be switched on unless the lamps referred to in the preceding paragraph are also switched on. This requirement does not apply, however, to main-beam or dipped-beam headlamps when their luminous warnings consist of the intermittent lighting up at short intervals of the main-beam headlamp, the intermittent lighting up at short intervals of the dipped-beam headlamp, or the alternate lighting up at short intervals of the main-beam and dipped-beam headlamps.

4.14 Lamp colours

The colours of the light emitted by the lamps shall be in accordance with Table 1. For the colorimetric characteristics of lights, see annex D.

Table 1 — Lamp colours

Lamp	Colour
Dipped-beam headlamp	white
Main-beam headlamp	white
Front fog lamp	white or enlarged selective yellow
Front position lamp	white
Parking lamp	white in front, red at rear, amber if reciprocally incorporated in side direction indicator lamps or side-marker lamps.
Direction indicator lamp	amber
Stop lamp	red
Rear position lamp	red
Rear fog lamp	red
Reversing lamp	white
Rear registration plate lamp	white
Rear retro-reflector, triangular	red
Side retro-reflector (front and rear)	amber for front side retro-reflector, amber or red for rear side retro-reflector
Side marker lamp (front and rear)	amber for side front marker lamp, red or amber for rear side marker lamp
Side retro-reflector (intermediate)	amber
Side marker lamp (intermediate)	amber
End outline marker lamp	white in front, red at the rear
Front identification lamp	white
Rear identification lamp	red
Front retro-reflector, non triangular	identical to incident light
Rear retro-reflector, non triangular	red
Daytime running lamp	white
Hazard warning signal	amber
Cornering lamp	white

4.15 Concealable lamps

The concealment of lamps is prohibited excepting, and only when not in use, the

- main-beam headlamp,
- dipped-beam headlamp, and
- front fog lamp.

When all three of these lamps are concealed, the fitting of front retro-reflectors is recommended.

When concealable lamps are in use, they shall always be in their correct operating position, irrespective of any failure of the mechanism used for concealment.

4.16 Number of lamps

The number of lamps mounted on the vehicle shall be equal to the number specified for each lighting device in annex E.

4.17 Lamps on movable components

4.17.1 Lighting devices shall not be installed on glazing or on movable panels (e.g. deck lid, lift gate) unless such lighting devices are additional to primary lighting devices in compliance with the minimum requirements and mounted to fixed panels. Together, the combined primary and supplementary devices shall also meet all requirements. This includes

- position/park/tail/identification lamps,
- direction indicator lamps/hazard warning lamps (excluding side direction indicators), and
- reflex reflectors.

4.17.2 Headlamps may be mounted on movable panels, provided the headlamps in design position meet all requirements when active.

4.17.3 No movable component, with or without a lighting device installed, shall in any position hide more than 50 % of the apparent surface of a lighting device in accordance with 4.17.1 that provides the primary function when viewed in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

4.18 Equivalent lamps

See ISO 7227.

Equivalent lamps may be installed providing they meet the requirements of this International Standard.

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Annex A (normative)

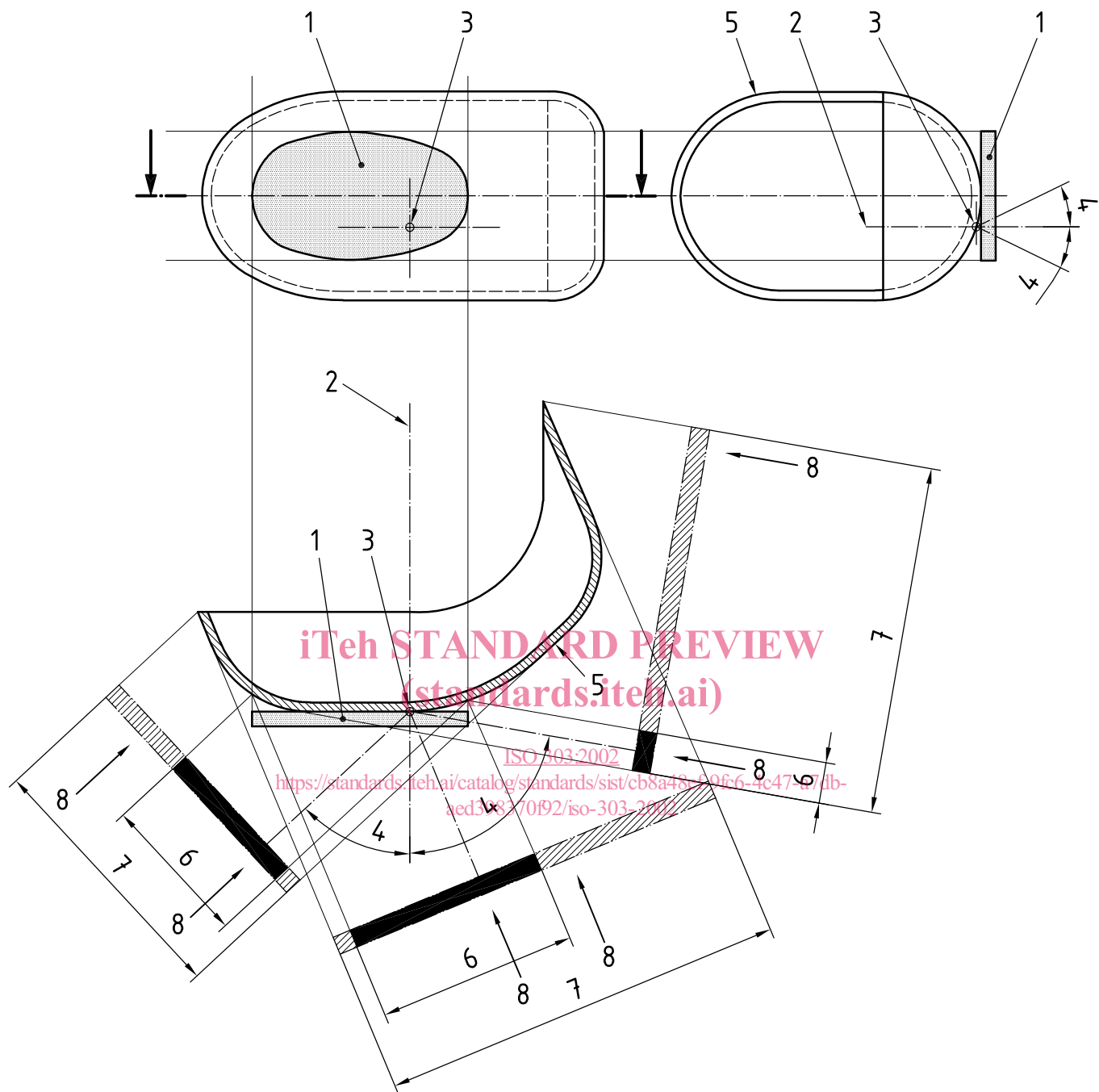
Lamp surfaces, reference axis and centre, and angles of geometric visibility

The lamp surfaces, reference axis, reference centre and the angles of geometric visibility shall be in accordance with Figure A.1.

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Notwithstanding the drawing, the apparent surface shall be considered as tangent to the light-emitting surface.

Key

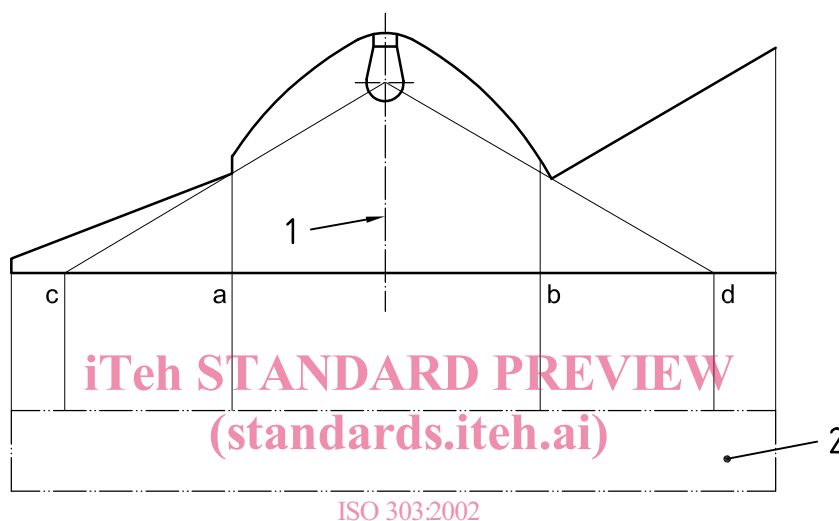
- 1 Illuminating surface
- 2 Reference axis
- 3 Reference centre
- 4 Angle of geometric visibility
- 5 Light-emitting surface
- 6 Apparent surface based on illuminating surface
- 7 Apparent surface based on light-emitting surface
- 8 Direction of visibility

Figure A.1 — Lamp surfaces, reference axis and centre, and angle of geometric visibility

Annex B (normative)

Illuminating and light-emitting surfaces

The respective orthogonal projections of illuminating and light-emitting surfaces shall be in accordance with the examples shown in Figures B.1 and B.2.



The orthogonal projection of the illuminating surface shall be as indicated by edges a and b.

The orthogonal projection of the light-emitting surface shall be as indicated by edges c and d.

Key

- 1 Axis of reference
- 2 Projection view

Figure B.1 — Apparent surface — Example 1