

Summary of Seat Belts and Child Restraint Fitting Requirements

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INTRODUCTION

This publication is a guide to the regulations that apply to the fitting of seat belt and child restraint anchorage in motor vehicles. The precise and detailed requirements are contained in the applicable Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

Certain vehicles, depending on the type and date of manufacture, are required to be fitted with seat belts and child restraint anchorages. A table outlining these requirements is provided in this information sheet. Vehicles within each category, manufactured on or after the date shown must be fitted with the correct type of seat belt and child restraint anchorage, as set out in the table. A description of the category codes is shown below. Generally, vehicles manufactured after June 1988 will have the appropriate vehicle category code marked on the Compliance Plate.

VEHICLE CATEGORY CODES

Vehicle Category Code	Vehicle Category
LA	Moped 2 wheels
LB	Moped 3 wheels
LC	Motor Cycle
LD	Motor Cycle and Side Car
LE	3 wheeled L Group Vehicles
LEM	up to 450kg unladen mass
LEP	over 450kg unladen mass and/or has more than two seating positions
LEG	over 450kg unladen mass and constructed primarily for the carriage of goods
MA	Passenger Car
MB	Forward Control Passenger Vehicle
MC	Off Road Passenger Vehicle
MD	Light Omnibus
MD1	up to 3.5 tonnes GVM and up to 12 seats
MD2	up to 3.5 tonnes GVM and over 12 seats
MD3	over 3.5 tonnes GVM and up to 4.5 tonnes GVM
MD4	over 4.5 tonnes GVM and up to 5.0 tonnes GVM
ME	Heavy Omnibus (exceeding 5.0 tonnes GVM)
NA	Light Goods Vehicle
NB	Medium Goods Vehicle
NB1	over 3.5 tonnes and up to 4.5 tonnes GVM
NB2	over 4.5 tonnes and up to 12 tonnes GVM
NC	Heavy Goods Vehicle (exceeding 12 tonnes GVM)

SEAT BELT APPLICATION TABLE

Each vehicle category manufactured on or after the date shown in this table must be fitted with seat belts and child restraint anchorages as indicated.

Vehicle Category		MA (Passenger Cars)				MB (Forward Control Passenger Vehicle up to 8 seats)			
		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorages
Front Row	Outer		1/1/69 ^a	1/1/75			1/1/71 ^g	1/1/85 ^g	
	Centre	1/1/69 ^a				1/1/71 ^g			
Second Row	Outer		1/1/71	1/1/84	1/7/76 ^b		1/1/71 ^g	1/1/87	
	Centre	1/1/71			1/7/76 ^b	1/1/71 ^g			
Other Rows	Outer		1/1/71				1/1/71 ^g	1/1/87	1/1/86 ^b
	Centre	1/1/71				1/1/71 ^g			1/1/86 ^b

Vehicle Category		MB (Forward Control Passenger Vehicle up to 9 seats)				MC (Off Road Passenger Vehicle)			
		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage
Front Row	Outer		1/1/71 ^g	1/1/85 ^g			1/1/71	1/7/88	
	Centre	1/1/71 ^g				1/1/71			
Second Row	Outer		1/1/71 ^g	1/1/86			1/1/71	1/7/96	
	Centre	1/1/71 ^g				1/1/71			
Other Rows	Outer		1/1/71 ^g	1/1/87	1/1/86 ^b		1/1/71		1/7/90 ^b
	Centre	1/1/71 ^g			1/1/86 ^b	1/1/71			1/7/90 ^b

Vehicle Category		MD1 (Light Bus up to 3.5t and 12 seats)				MD2 (Light Bus up to 3.5t and over 12 seats)			
		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorages
Front Row	Outer			1/7/83				1/7/83	
	Centre	1/7/83				1/7/83			
Second Row	Outer			1/1/87			1/7/92 ^c		
	Centre	1/1/87				1/7/92 ^c			
Other Rows	Outer			1/1/88	1/1/87 ^b		1/7/92 ^c		
	Centre	1/1/88			1/1/87 ^b	1/7/92 ^c			

Vehicle Category		MD3 (Light Bus over 3.5t and up to 4.5t)				MD4 (Light Bus over 4.5 t and up to 5t)			
Seat Belt Type		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage
Front Row	Outer	1/7/87		1/7/92 ^d		1/7/87		1/7/92 ^d	
	Centre	1/7/92		1/7/95 ^b		1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	
Second Row	Outer	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b		1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	
	Centre	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b		1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	
Other Rows	Outer	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	1/7/95 ^b	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	1/7/95 ^b
	Centre	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	1/7/95 ^b	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/95 ^b	1/7/95 ^b

Vehicle Category		ME (Heavy Bus over 5t)			
Seat Belt Type		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage
Front Row	Outer	1/7/87 ^e		1/7/94 ^h	
	Centre	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/94 ^b	
Second Row	Outer	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/94 ^h	
	Centre	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/94 ^b	
Other Rows	Outer	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/94 ^b	1/7/94 ^b
	Centre	1/7/92 ^c		1/7/94 ^h	1/7/94 ^h

Vehicle Category		NA (Light Goods Vehicle)				NB1 (Light Goods Vehicle over 3.5t and up to 4.5t)			
Seat Belt Type		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorages
Front Row	Outer		1/1/71	1/1/75			1/1/71	1/1/75	
	Centre	1/1/71				1/1/71			
Second Row	Outer		1/1/71	1/7/96			1/1/71		
	Centre	1/1/71				1/1/71			
Other Rows	Outer		1/1/71				1/1/71		
	Centre	1/1/71				1/1/71			

Vehicle Category		NB2 (Light goods Vehicle over 4.5t and up to 12t)				NC (Heavy Goods Vehicle over 12t)			
Seat Belt Type		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap sash	Lap sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage
Front Row	Outer	1/7/77		1/7/92		1/7/77 ^e			
	Centre	1/7/92				1/7/92			
Second Row	Outer	1/7/92				1/7/92			
	Centre	1/7/92				1/7/92			
Other Rows	Outer	1/7/92				1/7/92			
	Centre	1/7/92				1/7/92			

Vehicle Category		LEP (Motor Tricycle over 450 kg unladen)				LEG (Motor Tricycle over 450 kg - goods vehicle)			
Seat Belt Type		Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorage	Lap	Lap/sash	Lap/sash retractor	Child Res. Anchorages
Front Row	Outer			1/3/91 ^f		1/3/91 ^f		1/3/91 ^f	
	Centre	1/3/91 ^f							
Second Row	Outer			1/3/91 ^f	1/3/91 ^b		1/3/91 ^f	1/7/96	
	Centre	1/3/91 ^f			1/3/91 ^b	1/3/91 ^f			
Other Rows	Outer		1/3/91 ^f				1/3/91 ^f		
	Centre	1/3/91 ^f				1/3/91 ^f			

SUPERSCRIPT NOTES:

- Vehicles manufactured before 1/1/69 are not required to be fitted with seat belts. However where seat belts have been fitted to these vehicles it is recommended that they be retained.
- Applies to at least three seating positions or the total number of adult seating positions if less than three. Where the seat back is divided into two or more sections which may be folded independently of each other and the division lies close to the centre of a seating position, then a child restraint anchorage is not required for that position.
- Seat belts are required for all non protected seats except on Route Service Buses
- If the passenger seat on a vehicle built between 1/7/92 and 1/7/95 is a protected seat, then a lap belt with a retractor is acceptable. See ADR 68 for vehicles built on or after 1/7/95.
- At least a lap belt with a retractor must be fitted if the vehicle's date of manufacture is on or after 1/7/92.
- 1/3/91 for enclosed vehicles only, 1/7/92 for all other LEP vehicles.
- NA Category requirements apply to Forward Control type Passenger Vehicles manufactured before 1/1/85.
- See ADR 5/.. and 68/.. for details.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Lap belts are acceptable if there is no suitable permanent structure above and to the rear of the seating positions of some vehicles. Lap belts are also acceptable for the third and further rows of seats of some vehicles where the seat is adjustable for conversion to luggage or goods space. Please refer to the Australian Design Rules for details.
- Side facing seats may only be fitted with lap belts.