



Help Everyone To Keep Their Seats By Belting-Up!

Wearing seat belts in cars saves over 2,000 lives every year. The frightening fact is that some people just don't wear them. The stark reality is that in a crash at 30 mph, if you are unrestrained, you WILL hit the front seat and anyone in it, with a force of between 30 and 60 times your own body weight.

Effective from 18 September 2006 the Department of Transport (regulation : Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendments) Regulations 2006 has decreed that children under 135 cm in height (4ft 5 inches) must use the correct child restraint at all times in cars and goods vehicles, with few exceptions. Passengers travelling on vehicles used for public fare-paying passengers on 30 mph roads are exempt.

Definition of a child restraint is :

- Rear-facing baby seat
- Child seat
- Booster seat
- Booster cushion

Adult seat belts will no longer be an accepted alternative for children in these vehicles. Adult belts are best for adults over 150 cms (4ft 11 ins) or taller - they are NOT designed for children.

You must check on the seat description itself to make absolutely sure that it is suitable for your child's weight. Look out for a label with an "E" mark and an approval number starting with "03". Only very old restraints will have a BS "Kitemark". These cannot be used after May 2008.

Please note that not all child seats fit all cars and before buying any child car seat parents should always have the seat tried in their car first. The seat may meet today's standards but if the seat is not compatible with the car then the child may be injured or killed because of the seat.

From May 2008, it is anticipated that only child restraints manufactured to standard UN ECE44.03 - or later - can be used.

This information is relevant to : All businesses, organisations and individuals who carry children and other passengers in cars, taxis, goods vehicles and buses/mini-buses/coaches in England, Scotland and Wales.

Vehicle operators must notify passengers of the need to wear seat belts.

Drivers are **responsible** for ensuring that children under 14 years of age use the correct restraint in the front or back of the vehicle, and are liable for prosecution if he/she fails to comply. Please note that a rear-facing baby seat is not to be used in a seat protected by a frontal air-bag unless the air-bag has been correctly deactivated.

In buses and coaches, seated passengers aged 14 years and above must use seat belts where installed. Further regulations dealing with 3 - 13 year old children are expected to follow shortly.

Vehicle operators must notify passengers of the need to wear seat belts.

The table below provides a summary of the new law :

For more information please contact :

www.childcarseats.org.uk

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk

www.hertsdirect.org./roadsafety

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is responsible?
Driver	Seat belt MUST be worn if available		Driver
Child up to 3 years of age	Correct child restraint MUST be used	Correct child restraint MUST be used	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday, up to either 135 cms in height or 12 years old	Correct child restraint MUST be used	Where seat belts fitted, correct child restraint MUST be used	Driver
Child over 1.35 metres, or 12 to 13 years	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Driver
Adult passengers (i.e. 14 years and over)	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Seat belt MUST be worn if available	Passenger

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