

Do the new seatbelt rules apply in vans and larger commercial vehicles?

The new seatbelt rules apply in cars, vans and goods vehicles.

Why can't I use a rear-facing baby seat in a seat protected by an active frontal air-bag?

Air-bags are powerful safety devices. A rear-facing baby seat would be hit by a frontal air-bag if it deployed - and could be thrown up and towards the rear of the vehicle. This means that the baby seat and child could be completely unrestrained during a crash.

A child in a rear-facing baby seat could be badly hurt by a frontal air-bag if it deployed.

How do I know if my child car seat is correctly fitted?

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when fitting your car seat and keep them in your car. Make sure that the child seats are tightly held in place. Make sure others know how to fit them properly if they are taking your children out with them.
- Some retailers offer a service demonstrating how to fit a child seat. Check your car seat is still fitted correctly every trip.
- Contact the Isle of Man Road Safety Unit and look out for any fitting checks in your area.

Can I use a forward facing child seat or booster in a seat fitted with an active air-bag?

Yes, but check what the car handbook says about children in seats with frontal air-bags. We strongly recommend that advice should be followed because air-bags are powerful safety devices that must be treated with respect. Children, and adults for that matter, should not sit close to an active frontal air-bag. We suggest that the car seat should be as far back as possible from an air-bag.

Please comply with the new law and make sure to set a good example during the school run.

I'll need to get a child seat/booster seat or cushion now.

How do I choose the right one and how much will that cost?

- There is a range of products and prices. Some shops selling child seats have information on their websites, including prices.
- Child seat types depend upon the weight of the child and if you need help, most retailers of child restraints will have trained staff that can help in choosing the right one.
- Most seats will fit most cars but the advice is to try before you buy.

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When I buy a new child car seat, how will I know if it will fit my car properly?

Try before you buy. Some retailers offer a service demonstrating how to fit a child seat which will also check whether it fits. Manufacturers' web-sites may have advice.

Are there any exceptions to the law?

Apart from the persons exempted in the above tables, certain other persons are exempted from wearing a seat belt, for example -

- a person holding a prescribed medical certificate, (badge in rear window of vehicle)
- a driver performing a reversing manoeuvre or a qualified driver supervising it
- an adult in a goods vehicle being used for collection or delivery, provided that the journey does not exceed 50 metres
- an adult in a vehicle being used by the emergency services
- a taxi driver while working
- an adult in a vehicle being tested under a trade licence
- an adult driving or riding in an older passenger car not fitted with seat belts
- a child riding in a vehicle being used by the police or the ambulance service.

THE LAW ON SEAT BELTS

This pamphlet is issued by the Department of Infrastructure as a guide only. The definitive legal position on the wearing of seat belts is set out in the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 2007 as read with section 25 (as amended) of the Road Traffic Act 1985.

For more information call
the Road Safety Team

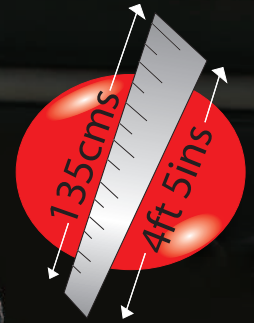
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Sit safe, child safe.



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Legislation was introduced to the Isle of Man in 2007 to outline the requirement for every child to travel in the appropriate child restraint until they reach either 135cm (4ft 5”) in height or 12 years of age.

Adult seatbelts are designed for people with an adult bone structure and therefore children are not effectively protected using a seatbelt alone. The lap belt of an adult seatbelt needs to sit as low as possible over a person’s stomach, if the belt sits too high in a crash there is the risk of damage to a person’s internal organs as well as the chance that the child may slip under the seatbelt. Until children reach either 135cm (4ft 5”) in height or 12 years of age they must use the correct child restraint for their size and weight to ensure that they are in the right position to use the seatbelts properly.

A driver is legally responsible for passengers in their car who are under 14 years old. The following guide will help ensure you stay within the law.

For modern passenger cars*





	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is responsible
Driver	Seatbelt must be worn		Driver
Adult passenger i.e. 14 years or over	Seatbelt must be worn	Seatbelt must be worn	Passenger
Child under 4 years of age	Correct child restraint must be worn. (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	Correct child restraint must be worn. (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	Driver
Child from 4th birthday who is under the age of 12 years and under a height of 1.35 metres (4 ft 5 ins)	Correct child restraint must be worn	(a) Correct child restraint must be worn unless paragraph (b) applies (b) If no correct child restraint is available in the front or rear, an adult seat belt may be worn if the driver can prove that the child, because of an unexpected necessity, is being carried a distance of 5 miles or less	Driver
Child at or over 1.35 metres (4ft 5ins) or 12 or 13 years	Correct child restraint or adult belt must be worn	Correct child restraint or adult belt must be worn	Driver
Child under the age of 3 years in a taxi or private-hire car	Correct child restraint must be worn. (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	No seatbelt or child restraint need be worn. (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	Driver
Child of 3 years or more in a taxi or private-hire car	Correct child restraint must be worn	Either a correct child restraint or an adult belt must be worn	Driver
Adult passenger in a taxi or private-hire car	Seatbelt must be worn	Seatbelt must be worn	Passenger

* Seatbelts are required to be fitted to the front seats in cars first registered from 1st January 1965 and to the rear seats in cars first registered from 1st April 1987.

For buses, coaches, goods vehicles and minibuses.

	Front Seat	Rear Seat	Who is responsible
Driver	Seat belt must be worn if fitted		Driver
Adult passenger i.e. 14 years or over	Seat belt must be worn if an available seat in the front or rear is fitted with a seat belt	Seat belt must be worn if an available seat in the front or rear is fitted with a seat belt	Passenger
Child under 4 years of age	Correct child restraint must be worn in coaches, goods vehicles and minibuses (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	Correct child restraint must be worn in goods vehicles and minibuses (A rear facing child restraint must not be used in a seat protected by a frontal airbag unless the airbag has been de-activated)	Driver
Child from 4th birthday who is under the age of 12 years and under a height of 1.35 metres (4 ft 5 ins)	Correct child restraint must be worn in coaches, goods vehicles and minibuses	(a) Correct child restraint must be used in goods vehicles and minibuses unless paragraph (b) or (c) applies (b) If no correct child restraint is available in the front or rear of a light goods vehicle (3500kg max gross weight), an adult seat belt may be worn if the driver can prove that the child, because of an unexpected necessity, is being carried a distance of 5 miles or less (c) A child is wearing an adult belt in a minibus	Driver
Child at or over 1.35 metres (4ft 5ins) or 12 or 13 years	Correct child restraint or adult belt must be worn in coaches, goods vehicles and minibuses	Correct child restraint or adult belt must be worn in goods vehicles and minibuses	Driver

It is important to choose the correct restraint for the age and weight of the child.

	Seat facing	Weight and age	Typical examples
Baby Seat (frontal airbag must be de-activated)	Rear facing	For children up to 13kgs (approx from birth to 9-12 months)	
Child seats	Forward facing	For children 9kgs to 18 kgs (approx 9 months to 4 years)	
Booster seats		For children 15kgs and up (from approx 4 years)	
Booster Cushions		For children from 22 kgs (from approx 6 years)	

The penalty for contravening the in car safety legislation is a **£40** fixed penalty notice, and if the case goes to court the maximum fine is **£500***.

* Correct at time of print