



Seat belts / Child restraints

Country	Seat belt use	Children
<u>Albania</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Child restraints must be used.
<u>Algeria</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 10 must not be seated on the front seat of a car, unless there is no alternative. In this case they must be restrained by a lap belt.
<u>Andorra</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 10 years and measuring less than 1.50 m must be placed in a restraint system adapted to their size, of an EU-approved design. If they are travelling in the front of the car, the airbag must be de-activated.
<u>Argentina</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 10 years must not travel on the front seats of cars.
<u>Australia</u>	In all States: compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	<p>The law concerning child restraints was changed in the Australian Road Rules, in November 2009. The new requirements have come into effect in all states and territory except the Northern Territory, where it is expected to be adopted in the near future.</p> <p>New requirements: Children under 6 months must be secured in a rear facing restraint. Children aged 6 months to 4 years must be secured either in a rear facing restraint or in a forward facing restraint. Children aged 4 to 7 years must either be placed in a forward facing restraint or in an approved booster seat with adult seat belt. The new law also stipulates that children under 4 are not permitted in the front seat of cars with 2 or more rows of seats, and children between 4 and 7 are not permitted in the front seat unless all rear seats are already occupied by children under 7.</p> <p>Northern Territory: the driver is responsible for ensuring that all passengers under 16 years are wearing their seatbelts when riding in a vehicle; for children under 12 months of age a driver must ensure the child is restrained in an approved child restraint.</p>
<u>Austria</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Special child restraints or seat belts for children under 14 years old or less than 1.50 m to be used both at the front and at the rear.



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<u>Belarus</u>	Compulsory on the front seats of a vehicle.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle.
<u>Belgium</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 1.35 m must use a child restraint system approved for their size and weight. If not available, a child aged 3 and over, measuring less than 1.35 m must be placed in the rear, using a seat belt or other restraint system.
<u>Brazil</u>	Driver and passengers of private cars must wear seat belts, however enforcement on seat belt laws varies from state to state.	Children under the age of 10 are not allowed to travel on the front seats. Some states require child restraints but they are not universally available or affordable, and enforcement is lax.
<u>Bulgaria</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Child restraint systems must meet the requirements of rule 44/03 of the UNECE. Children under the age of 3 may not be transported in vehicles not fitted with child restraints. Children aged 3 or over, measuring less than 150 cm in height, may travel in a vehicle without child restraints but they must occupy a rear seat.
<u>Canada</u>	In all provinces the use of seat belts by vehicle drivers and all passengers is compulsory.	Child restraints for children under the age of 6 (5 in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Quebec) and/or of a weight below 18 kg/40 lbs (23 kg/50 lbs in Manitoba and Quebec) are mandatory in all provinces.
<u>Chile</u>	The use of seat belts is compulsory on the front seats of cars. The use of seat belts on the back seats is compulsory when travelling in vehicles made in 2002 or later.	Children under the age of 8 may not travel on the front seats of cars. Children between the ages of 6 months and 4 years travelling in cars must be secured in an appropriate child restraint.
<u>China</u>	Seat belts compulsory for occupants of front seats.	No legislation.
<u>Costa Rica</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 may not travel on the front seat. They must travel in the back and use a restraint system adapted to their age and weight – baby seats, booster cushions, etc. A baby under 12 months and weighing less than 10 kg must be placed in a rear-facing child seat.
<u>Croatia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle except for children up to 2 years if using rear facing child seat and airbag is disabled.



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<u>Cuba</u>	The driver and front seat passenger of motor vehicles equipped with seat belts must wear them.	Children under the age of 12 cannot travel in the front seats. A child under the age of 2 cannot travel inside a car unless sitting in an appropriate child restraint or held by a second adult travelling in the car as well.
<u>Cyprus</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 5 may not travel in the front passenger seat. Children from 5 to 10 years of age may occupy the front passenger seat if an appropriate child restraint has been fitted
<u>Czech Republic</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 36 kg and under 1.50 m must wear a restraint adapted to their size when travelling on the front or rear seats of vehicles.
<u>Denmark</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 years must be seated in a restraint system adapted to their size. Children over 3 and under 1.35 m must be placed in a child restraint appropriate for their size and weight. If a child is placed in the front, in a rear facing restraint, the airbag must be deactivated.
<u>Dominican Rep.</u>	The driver and front seat passenger must wear a seat belt.	Children under 8 years of age are not allowed to travel in the front of a vehicle, except if it is a van.
<u>Egypt</u>	The use of seat belts is compulsory on the front seats of vehicles.	Children under the age of 7 are not allowed to sit on the front seats of vehicles.
<u>Estonia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Babies and young children must travel in a child restraint system appropriate for their size.
<u>Finland</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 1.35 m in height must be seated in an approved child restraint suitable for their height and weight. Where a child restraint seat is not available, a child 3 years and over must travel in the rear seat of the vehicle using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat. A child under 3 may not travel in a vehicle without child restraint/seat except in a taxi.
<u>France</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under the age of 10 are not allowed to travel on the front seats of vehicles, unless there is no rear seat, or the rear seat is already occupied by children under 10, or there are no seat belts. Children up to 10 must travel in an approved child seat or restraint, adapted to their size. Under French law, a child up to 13 kg must be carried in a rear-facing seat (or a carry cot for a child up to 10 kg). A child between 9 and 18 kg must be seated in a special seat, and a child from 15 kg up to 10 years can use a booster seat with a seat belt, or a harness.



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<u>Germany</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children 3 years old and over must be transported on the rear seats of vehicles. A child under 12 years of age and less than 1.50 m tall must be seated in a child seat or child restraint. Where a child restraint is not available, a child 3 years and over must use a seat belt or other approved restraint system. A child under 3 years old may not be transported in a vehicle without child restraint/seat.
<u>Ghana</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	No information.
<u>Greece</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 years of age must be placed in an approved restraint system appropriate for their weight - standard ECE R44/03 or later. Children between 3 and 11 years, less than 1.35 m in height must be seated in an appropriate child restraint. From age 12, children over 1.35 m in height can use adult seat belts.
<u>Guernsey</u>	Compulsory on the front seats of a vehicle.	Children up to 6 years travelling in the front seat of a vehicle must be placed in a restraint system designed for their age and weight. Children from 6 to 10 years travelling in the front seat of a vehicle must be restrained by an adult seat belt used in conjunction with any ancillary device (booster cushion, etc.). Children under 14, travelling on the back seat of a car must be placed in a restraint system or wear a seat belt.
<u>Hong Kong</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	All passengers under the age of 15 years must be securely fastened by means of an approved child restraint suitable for their age and size.
<u>Hungary</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children less than 1.50 m must use a child restraint system adapted to their weight. Children under 3 years old are allowed to travel on the front seats if the child restraint system is rear facing and there is no airbag or if it is deactivated. A child aged 3 or more, measuring 1.35 m or more, can travel on the rear seat of a car using a seat belt.
<u>Iceland</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 must be placed in an approved restraint system adapted to their size. Children over 3 years and under 1.50 m must be seated in a child restraint suitable for their height and weight.
<u>India</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.



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<u>Indonesia</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Iran</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	Children prohibited on front seats of cars.
<u>Ireland</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 can travel on the front seat of a car if they are placed in a rear facing restraint system and if the airbag is deactivated. Children over 3 years who are under 1.50 m and weigh less than 36 kg must use an appropriate child restraint when travelling in a car.
<u>Israel</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under one year old must be placed in a rear-facing seat. If travelling in the front seat, the airbag must be de-activated. Children from 1 to 3 years travelling in the front or the back of the vehicle, must be placed in a safety seat adapted to his/her height and weight. Children from 3 years to 7 years old must be placed in a safety seat or use a booster seat and seat belt, adapted to his/her height and weight. Children from 8 years old are regarded as adults.
<u>Italy</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children up to 36 kg and up to 150 cm tall, travelling in Italian-registered cars must be placed in a restrain system adapted to their size and weight. Children up to 9 kg must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint. In the case of foreign-registered cars, the regulations are those applicable in the country of origin.
<u>Japan</u>	Compulsory for occupants of front and rear seats.	Children under 6 must be securely fastened by means of an approved child restraint suitable for their age and size.
<u>Jersey</u>	Compulsory on the front seats of a vehicle. Recommended on rear seats.	Children up to 3 years must wear an appropriate child restraint. Children from 3 to 11 years can wear either a child restraint or an adult seat belt. Children aged 12 or 13 must wear an adult seat belt. These regulations apply on the front and rear seats of vehicles.
<u>Jordan</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	Children under 10 prohibited on front seats of cars.
<u>Kenya</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	No legislation.



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<u>Korea (Republic of)</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children must be placed in a child restraint or use a seat belt when travelling on the front seat.
<u>Kuwait</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	Children prohibited on front seats of cars.
<u>Latvia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 1.50 m in height must use a special seat or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.
<u>Lebanon</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation, but child restraints in use.
<u>Lithuania</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years are not allowed in the front seats of cars unless there is a child restraint adapted to their size.
<u>Luxembourg</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 years of age must be placed in an approved restraint system (except if in a bus or coach). Children from 3 to 17 years of age, up to 1.50m must be seated in an appropriate restraint system. If their weight is over 36 kg they can use a seat belt or lap belt on the rear seat.
<u>Macedonia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle.
<u>Madagascar</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Malaysia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	No legislation.
<u>Malta</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 years of age must be placed in an appropriate child restraint system. Children between 3 and 10, and up to 1.50 m must be placed in an appropriate restraint system when they are travelling in the front of the car. On the rear seat, an appropriate child restraint should be used if available, otherwise an adult seat belt should be used. Children between 11 and 14, measuring 1.50 m or more, must wear an adult seat belt.



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<u>Mauritius</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	No legislation.
<u>Mexico</u>	The use of seat belts is compulsory for drivers and front seat passengers of all vehicles.	Children under 8 cannot travel in the front passenger seat of a vehicle (unless the vehicle is a van or a light truck).
<u>Moldova</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel on the front seat of a vehicle.
<u>Monaco</u>	Not compulsory.	No legislation.
<u>Montenegro</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel on the front seat of a vehicle.
<u>Morocco</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 10 years of age may not travel on the front seat of a vehicle.
<u>Namibia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children between 3 and 14, measuring less than 1.50 m, must use child restraint or seat belt.
<u>Netherlands</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children (persons under 18) measuring less than 1.35 m must be placed in a restraint system suitable for their size meeting standard ECE 44/03 or later. This applies both in the front and the back of the car. Children under 3 may not be transported in a car without restraint system.
<u>New Zealand</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	A child under 5 years must be placed in an approved restraint suitable for his age and size. A child between 5 and 7 years travelling on the front seat must be secured by a child restraint or seat belt. If there is no restraint or seat belt, then the child must sit in the rear seat. All persons of 8 years and over must occupy a seat with a fitted seat belt, otherwise they must travel in the back seat.
<u>Norway</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 4 years of age must be in a special restraint system. Children over 4 years of age must use a child restraint system or a seat belt.



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<u>Oman</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation, but under consideration.
<u>Pakistan</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Peru</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	No legislation.
<u>Poland</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years and under 1.50 m in height have to be restrained by a seat belt adapted to their size or seated in a special seat of an approved design. If the car is equipped with airbags at the front, it is prohibited to place a child in a rear facing seat on the front passenger seat.
<u>Portugal</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years and under 1.50 m are not allowed to travel on the front seat of a car unless there is a special child restraint system fitted and adapted to their size or unless the car has only front seats.
<u>Romania</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle.
<u>Russia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	It is prohibited to carry a child under 12 years of age on the front seat of a car when there is no special child restraint.
<u>Serbia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children up to 3 years must be in a child restraint. This can be on the front seat of the car, in a rear facing position - the airbag must be deactivated. Children from 3 to 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle.
<u>Singapore</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 8 must be placed in a child restraint system suitable for their age and size when travelling in the front or the rear.
<u>Slovakia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age (and persons under 1.50 m in height) may not travel on the front seats of vehicles.



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<u>Slovenia</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years old, not exceeding 1.50 m in height, travelling in vehicles registered in Slovenia or abroad, must use special seat belts adapted to their size or special child restraints, both at the front and at the rear of the vehicle. Child restraints must conform to ECE standard 44/03 or 44/04. In vehicles without rear or front seat belts (where a child restraint can't be attached), children between 3 and 12 must use rear seats. Children under the age of 3 can't travel in a vehicle where a child restraint can't be fitted.
<u>South Africa</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 14 years of age must be safely secured by means of a child seat or other restraint adapted to their weight and size.
<u>Spain</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years old, not exceeding 1.35 m in height, travelling on the front seat, must be placed in a restraint system. Children over 1.35 m may use an adult seat belt. Children under 1.35 m, travelling in the rear seat must also be placed in a restraint system, except when travelling in a
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Sweden</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	It is compulsory for children less than 1.35 m in height to be seated in special child restraints or in special seats allowing them to use the normal seat belts in the car. This applies to both front and rear seats. The driver must make sure that children taller than 1.35 m but younger than 15 must use a seat belt.
<u>Switzerland</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children up to 12 years of age must be placed in child restraints conforming with ECE R44/03 or later. Children over 1.50 m are not included.
<u>Syria</u>	No legislation.	No legislation.
<u>Tanzania</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Thailand</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.



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<u>Tunisia</u>	Compulsory on the front seats of private motor vehicles, outside built-up areas and on motorways.	Children under 10 years of age are not allowed on the front seats of motor vehicles, unless the vehicle has no rear seats, or if rear seats are occupied by other children of the same age. Specially adapted seats for babies and toddlers must be used (preferably installed in the rear).
<u>Turkey</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 12 years of age may not travel in the front of a vehicle.
<u>Ukraine</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	It is prohibited to transport children under 12 years old and less than 1.45 m in height on the front seat. Very young children may only be transported in the front seat of a car if there is a special seat provided.
<u>United Kingdom</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	Children under 3 years of age travelling in the front or rear seat of a vehicle must be in an approved child restraint. Children aged between 3 and 12 years or under 1.35 m in height travelling in the front seat of a vehicle must be seated in an approved child restraint or wear a seat belt. If they are travelling in the back, they must be seated in an approved child restraint or wear a seat belt if available.



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<u>United States</u>	<p>Front and back seats occupants must wear a seat belt in these States: Alaska, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachussets, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.</p> <p>In other States, all front seat occupants of passenger vehicles must wear a seat belt except in New Hampshire where there is no regulation for people over 18 years.</p>	<p>Mandatory child restraints by state</p> <p>Alabama 0-5 years</p> <p>Alaska 0-4 years</p> <p>Arizona 0-4 years</p> <p>Arkansas 0-6 years or under 60 lbs (27 kg)</p> <p>California 0-5 years or under 60 lbs</p> <p>Colorado 0-7 years</p> <p>Connecticut 0-6 years or under 60 lbs</p> <p>Delaware 0-7 years or under 66 lbs</p> <p>D.C. 0-7 years</p> <p>Florida 0-3 years</p> <p>Georgia 0-5 years and under 57in</p> <p>Hawaii 0-7 years or under 4ft 9in</p> <p>Idaho 0-6 years</p> <p>Illinois 0-7 years</p> <p>Indiana 0-7 years</p> <p>Iowa 0-5 years</p> <p>Kansas 0-7 years or under 80 lbs, or under 57in</p> <p>Kentucky 0-6 years and under 40in (1 m)</p> <p>Louisiana 0-5 years or under 60 lbs.</p> <p>Maine 0-8 years and under 80 lbs</p> <p>Maryland 0-7 years or under 65 lbs or 57in</p> <p>Massachusetts 0-7 years or under 57in</p> <p>Michigan 0-7 years and under 57in</p> <p>Minnesota 0-7 years and under 57in</p> <p>Mississippi 0-6 years</p> <p>Missouri 0-7 years or under 80 lbs, or under 4ft 9in</p> <p>Montana 0-5 years or under 60 lbs</p> <p>Nebraska 0-5 years</p> <p>Nevada 0-5 years and under 60 lbs</p> <p>New Hampshire 0-5 years and under 55in</p> <p>New Jersey 0-7 years and under 80 lbs</p>



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<u>United States</u> <i>(cont.)</i>		New Mexico 0-6 years or under 60 lbs New York 0-7 years North Carolina 0-7 years and less than 80 lbs North Dakota 0-6 years and under 57in or 80 lbs Ohio 0-7 years Oklahoma 0-5 years Oregon 0-7 years or 40 lbs + and under 4ft 9in Pennsylvania 0-7 years Rhode Island 0-7 years under 57 in. tall and under 80 lbs (in rear seat of the vehicle) South Carolina 0-5 years and under 80 lbs South Dakota 0-4 years and under 40 lbs Tennessee 0-8 years and under 4ft 9in Texas 0-7 years or under 57 in Utah 0-7 years and under 57in Vermont 0-7 years Virginia 0-7 years Washington 0-7 years and under 4ft 9in West Virginia 0-7 years and under 4ft 9in Wisconsin 0-7 years under 80 lbs and under 57in Wyoming 0-8 years (in rear seat of vehicle)
<u>Uruguay</u>	Compulsory for occupants of all seats.	Children under 12 years must not travel on front seats of cars.
<u>Vietnam</u>	Recommended for occupants of all seats fitted with belt.	No legislation.



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<u>Yemen</u>	Compulsory for driver and front seat passenger.	No legislation.
<u>Zimbabwe</u>	Compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger.	Children under 10 years of age are required to sit in the back seat of the vehicle. However, where no back seat is provided, e.g. in a light pick-up, children under 10 may sit in the front, provided a suitable restraint adapted to their size is fitted. Children over 10 years of age must wear a seat belt when sitting in the front.

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Disclaimer:

This information has been compiled from a variety of sources and, whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the AIT/FIA accepts no responsibility for any loss caused by the use of this information.

The FIA Foundation published a study "Seat Belts and Child Restraints: a road safety manual" in 2009 which can be found on its website:

<http://www.fiafoundation.org/publications/Pages/PublicationHome.aspx>