

The best restraints for children

The best child restraints are those that can be fitted to the rear seats, where in any event your child is safer.

Devices recommended for use in the rear seats:



Babies weighing under 9kg (20lb) who cannot sit up by themselves (about 12 months or less):

They should be carried in the rear of the car lying down in a carrycot (or infant carrier if the baby is smaller and less than 9 months) across the car with their heads in the middle of the car. The carrycot should be held on the rear seat by special carrycot restraining straps. If it is a carrycot made for use in a

car, use the restraining straps provided. If this is not possible, the cot should be placed on the floor, wedged between the front and rear seats. A folded blanket will help to level the floor or wedge the cot in place. Fasten a cover over the carrycot to help stop the baby being thrown out. If it is a carrycot made for use in a car, use the restraining straps provided.

Children weighing 9-18kg (20-40lb) who can sit up by themselves (about 9 months to 4 years):

A child safety seat is the best. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on fixing the child seat to the car structure. The child should be held in the seat by a harness.



Children weighing 15-36kg (35-80lb) (about 3-12 years):

Either a child harness made of a lap strap and two shoulder straps, or a booster together with ordinary seat belt, which also has an extra strap running behind the child that acts as a guide to change the lie of the diagonal belt. The latter can also be worn by teenagers and adults.



Children weighing above 36kg (80lb) (about 12-15 years):

They could use the ordinary seat belt.

Wearing of seat belt is not necessary

- When a vehicle is being reversed, making a three point turn, or manoeuvring into or out of a parking place.
- If you have been granted an exemption on medical grounds by the Commissioner for Transport from wearing a seat belt. A valid medical certificate will be required for the application of the exemption.

Drivers and passengers must wear seat belts provided for their seats.

Applying for Exemption

For enquiries about exemption, please write, enclosing a medical certificate if possible, to : Commissioner for Transport, Transport Department Driving Test Section, Pui Ching Road, Homantin, Kowloon.

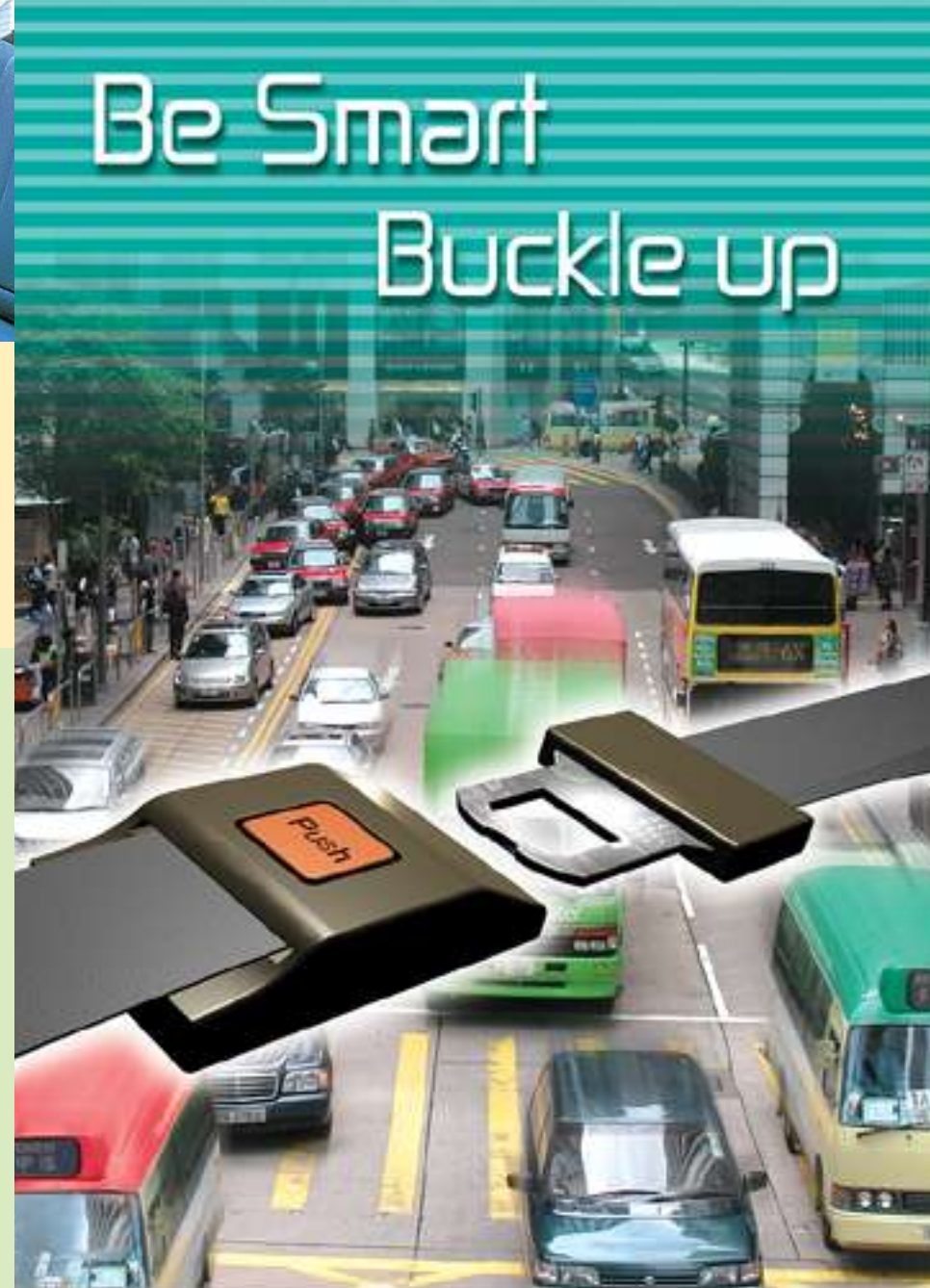
This leaflet is only a general guide. The law itself is set out in the Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations made under the Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374).

Enquiry Hotline : 1823

<http://www.info.gov.hk/td>

(August 2004 Edition)

Be Smart Buckle up



Why are seat belts necessary?

From 1999 to 2003, more than 14,000 drivers and passengers were killed or injured in traffic accidents in Hong Kong each year. Whilst the wearing of seat belt does not prevent traffic accidents from happening it can reduce the possibility of death or serious injury if you are unfortunately involved in a traffic accident.

Which types of vehicles and specified passenger seats are required to be fitted with seat belts of approved types*?

	Driver Seat and Front Seat	Middle Front Seat	Rear Seat
Private Car	<ul style="list-style-type: none">manufactured on or after 30 June 1964first registered on or after 1 August 1976	registered on or after 1 June 1996	registered on or after 1 June 1996
Taxi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">manufactured on or after 1 January 1981registered on or after 1 January 1981		registered on or after 1 January 2001
Private Light Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">manufactured on or after 1 January 1984		N.A.
Public Light Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">manufactured on or after 1 January 1984		registered on or after 1 August 2004
Goods Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">manufactured on or after 1 January 1989registered on or after 1 January 1990		N.A.
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">all registered buses (driver seat only)	N.A.	N.A.

*Seat belts which are approved by the Commissioner for Transport and conformed to the standards set out in Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations.

Remark: Please note the latest requirements via Vehicle Type Approval.

Who has to wear a seat belt?

	Driver Seat and Front Seat Passenger	Middle Front Seat Passenger	Rear Seat Passengers
Private Car	seat belts must be worn if fitted	seat belts must be worn if fitted	seat belts must be worn if fitted
Taxi			
Public Light Bus			N.A.
Private Light Bus and Goods Vehicle		N.A.	N.A.
Bus			

Who will be responsible if a seat belt is not worn?

Private car

Driver must make sure that seat belts are worn by himself/herself and any passengers. It is also the passenger's responsibility to ensure that he/she is securely fastened to his/her seat by means of a seat belt.

Taxi and public light bus

Driver must make sure that seat belt is worn by himself/herself. It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure that he/she is securely fastened to his/her seat by means of a seat belt.

Private light bus and goods vehicle

Front seat and middle front seat passengers are responsible for ensuring that they themselves are wearing seat belts. Driver must make sure that he/she, as well as any front seat and middle front seat passenger under 15, is wearing seat belt.

Bus

Driver must make sure that seat belt is worn by himself/herself.

How do you wear seat belt correctly?

Most modern seat belts fit automatically. However, you should still pay attention to the following:

- the diagonal strap should lie midway across your shoulder, and stay in contact with your chest up to about your collar bone;
- lap belt must restrain your hip bones by lying across the top of your thighs, not your stomach;
- belts should not be twisted and they should fit snugly. Remember a slack belt may increase the severity of injuries in case of an accident.



Proper maintenance of your seat belts

- Check your seat belts regularly for signs of damage in particular after activation in an accident. If any seat belt is worn or otherwise defective, replace it immediately.
- Make sure seat belts do not become trapped in a door or under a seat.

Child safety in cars

A child is considerably much safer when travelling in the rear seats of a vehicle than in the front seats. You are therefore strongly advised to adopt this practice when your children are travelling with you. If it is necessary for them to travel in the front seats, there must be a suitable restraint for them as required by law. Not just is it an offence to hold a child in your arms or sit him/her on your lap in the front seats of a vehicle, in the unfortunate event of an accident, the child may crash against the dashboard or other fitting thus causing serious or fatal injury. A child of two years of age or less when sitting at the front must be securely fastened to the seat by means of an approved restraint for children. Children over that age must wear a seat belt which can effectively restrain them.