

SPECIFIC ISSUES FROM THE CHILD CAR SEATS NEW REGULATIONS

Kevin Clinton
Road Safety Adviser
RoSPA

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Issues from the New Regulations

Presented by: Name, Kevin Clinton
Road Safety Adviser
THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

INCREASED ENQUIRIES

Child Car Seats - Carrying Children Safely - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/

Child Car Seats

- Carrying Children Safely
- Choosing and Using
- Child Car Seats
- Types of Child Seats
- The Law
- Safety Standards
- Links
- Other Countries
- Search for Local Help and Advice

25 000

Child Car Seats News
New rules for use of child car seats
FAQs

"Advice on purchasing fitting and using child car restraints"

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

FAQS - BEFORE

- Choosing a Child Restraint
- Fitting a Child Restraint
- Height v Weight
- Front v Rear
- Airbags
- Too Many Children
- Overseas
- ISOFIX
- Carrying Other People's Children

FAQS - NOW

- What Are the Changes and When
- Booster Seats (Height v Weight)
- Cannot Fit 3 Seats in Rear
- Carrying Other People's Children
- Too Many Children (Camper Vans)

Booster Seats (Height v Weight)

Typical Question

My child is only 4 foot tall but weighs 40 kgs which is more than the maximum weight for booster cushions.

Should s/he stay in the booster cushion or use the seat belt on its own?

Booster Seats (Height v Weight)

Typical Answer

- The law will set height as the factor which determines when a child can move up to the adult belt.
- Even if your child is above the maximum weight of 36 kgs, it's better to use a booster cushion and the seat belt rather than the seat belt on its own.

Other Seats (Height v Weight)

Typical Question

My child is too big for the rearward-facing baby seat, or the forward-facing child seat. Their legs are cramped or their head is above the top of the seat. But they have not yet reached the minimum weight for the next stage of seat.

Other Seats (Height v Weight)

Typical Answer

- Keep the child in the current seat for as long as possible.
- Only move up to the next seat if their head is above the top of the seat and the top will act as a pivot on which the head may hinge.
- If it's a baby seat, consider getting one which can be converted into a forward-facing seat.

Front v Rear

Typical Question

I have three children. Is it safe for one of them to travel in the front seat because

- There is only a lap belt in the centre of the rear seat?
- It's not possible to fit all 3 restraints in the rear?

Front v Rear

Typical Answer

Best to keep children in rear. But, if not possible as boosters cannot be used with lap-only belts or not room for 3 seats,

- Can put child in child restraint in front (not rearward-facing)
- Maximise distance between child & airbag. Put car seat as far back as possible & securing child and restraint securely
- Check Handbook
- Law will allow one child to use seat belt in rear if no room for 3 child restraints

CARRYING OTHER PEOPLE'S KIDS

Child Minders, Teachers, Surestart, Social Workers

Typical Question

I carry other people's children in my car. What are my legal Responsibilities?

Do I have to have child seats for them?

CARRYING OTHER PEOPLE'S KIDS

Typical Answer

- As the driver, you are responsible for ensuring passengers under 14 years use child restraints or wear seat belts.
- The new laws will apply equally to you.
- You also have a duty of care under health and safety law
- The exemption for short, occasional journeys is for emergencies only. Not for regular occurrences.

If you know you may have to carry children in an emergency, prepare in advance by having access to seats.

Typical Question

I carry more than 3 or 4 children, so I have, or am thinking about buying, a camper van.

Do the seat belt/child seat laws apply?

Typical Answer

- The law requires children under 3 years to travel in a baby seat or child seat. The law will require children over 3 to be in child seat *if seat belts are fitted*
- If camper van does not have forward facing seats with seat belts in rear, do not use it to carry passengers in the rear.
- If does have forward facing seats with seats belts, then follow the normal seat belt/child seat rules.
- If has a mix of forward and sideways facing seats, only use forward facing ones with seatbelts.
