

Seat Belts / Child Restraints

Country	Seat belt use	Children
<p><u>United States</u></p>	<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, Massachusetts, 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 27 kg</p> <p>California 0-5 years or under 27 kg</p> <p>Colorado 0-7 years</p> <p>Connecticut 0-6 years or under 27 kg</p> <p>Delaware 0-7 years or under 30 kg</p> <p>D.C. 0-7 years</p> <p>Florida 0-3 years</p> <p>Georgia 0-5 years and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Hawaii 0-7 years or under 1.44 meters</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>Maine 0-8 years and under 36 kg</p> <p>Maryland 0-7 years or under 29.5 kg or 1.44 meters</p> <p>Massachusetts 0-7 years or under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Michigan 0-7 years and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Nevada 0-5 years and under 27 kg</p> <p>New Hampshire 0-5 years and under 55in</p> <p>New Jersey 0-7 years and under 36 kg</p> <p>New Mexico 0-6 years or under 27 kg</p> <p>New York 0-7 years</p> <p>North Carolina 0-7 years and less than 36 kg</p> <p>Ohio 0-7 years</p> <p>Oregon 0-7 years or 18 kg + and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Pennsylvania 0-7 years</p> <p>Rhode Island 0-7 years under 1.44 meters. tall and under 36 kg (in rear seat of the vehicle)</p> <p>South Carolina 0-5 years and under 36 kg</p> <p>Texas 0-7 years or under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Utah 0-7 years and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Vermont 0-7 years</p> <p>Virginia 0-7 years</p> <p>Washington 0-7 years and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>West Virginia 0-7 years and under 1.44 meters</p> <p>Wyoming 0-8 years (in rear seat of vehicle)</p>

<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>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.
<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>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
<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>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>Netherland</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>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>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>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>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.
<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.
<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>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.
<u>Australia</u>	In all States: compulsory for occupants of all seats equipped with a seat belt.	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. 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. 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.
<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.