

Wearing of Safety Belts & Child Restraints in Motor Vehicles

New Regulations extend the requirements in relation to the wearing of safety belts and child restraints by occupants of motor vehicles. In particular, the Regulations afford children greater protection when travelling in motor vehicles. The Regulations implement Directive 2003/20/EC relating to the compulsory wearing of safety belts and child restraint systems in motor vehicles.

Essentially, the Regulations provide: -

Where safety belts have been fitted they must be worn

Children under 3 years of age may not travel in a car or goods vehicle (other than a taxi) unless restrained in an appropriate child restraint,

Children aged 3 years or over who are under 150 centimetres in height and weighing less than 36 kilograms (i.e. generally children up to 12 years of age) must use an appropriate child restraint when travelling in cars or goods vehicles fitted with safety belts,

Children over 3 years of age must travel in a rear seat in vehicles not fitted with safety belts,

Rear-facing child restraints must not be used in seats protected with an active frontal air-bag, and child restraints must be in accordance with EU (UN-ECE) standards.