

Bus, Coach & Minibus Seat Belts - New Requirements

Seat belts fitted to new vehicles

All **new** buses, coaches and minibuses (except those authorised to carry standing passengers) first used from 1st October 2001, will need seat belts fitted to all forward and rearward facing seats. These seats are mandatory (not additional). Although the Construction and Use Regulations require that the seat belt anchorage points must comply with European standards on or after 1st October 2001, the implementation of this requirement is still under discussion. Whilst the matter is being resolved, the existing visual check will apply, except where there is evidence that the installation has been tested to these standards. There will be no fee involved. This is because we have no legal support for charging a fee for installation checks on mandatory seats. New vehicles will not be issued with any document to indicate the number of seats fitted with belts. There will be no need to enter this number on any subsequent test certificate.

Seat belts fitted to older vehicles (voluntary seat belts).

Anchorage points will also have to meet European standards where a bus, coach or minibus first used before 1st October 2001 has seat belts fitted voluntarily to non-mandatory seats after this date. This requirement also applies to vehicles authorised to carry standing passengers. The implementation of this requirement is also under discussion so the existing visual check, with fee, will still apply for the time being. The number of seats fitted with belts outside of the requirements of the Regulations (voluntary seat belts) will continue to be entered on the test certificate.

Scheme Manager

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Distribution: Station managers, certifying officers, Training branch, MOT policy.