



## Section 7

# Seats and Seatbelts

### Objective:

To ensure that all seating and restraints fitted to the vehicle provide a safe and secure position for passengers to travel in the vehicle and the driver to control the vehicle.

### Australian Design Rules relevant to this section:

- ADR 3** Seat and seat anchorages
- ADR 4** Seatbelts
- ADR 5** Anchorages for seatbelts
- ADR 34** Child restraint anchorages and child restraint anchor fittings
- ADR 58** Requirements for omnibuses designed for hire and reward
- ADR 66** Seat strength, seat anchorage strength and padding in omnibuses
- ADR 68** Occupant protection in buses

### 7.1 Check seats

#### Reasons for rejection

- a) Seat frames or attaching points are loose, cracked, broken or have fasteners missing
- b) Seat cushions and backrests are not fitted
- c) A seat slide or other seat control used for adjustment of a seating position is not operational and does not hold any selected position allowed for in the mechanism's design
- d) Any seat has an exposed sharp edge or other parts that protrude due to damage
- e) Any reduction or increase in seating capacity is not approved

## 7.2 Check seatbelts

### Reasons for rejection

- a) Seatbelt assemblies are not securely attached to the respective anchorage point or show signs of distortion, cracks, fractures, or other damage likely to cause failure
- b) Any retractor, locking mechanism, buckle, tongue or adjustment device is inoperative
- c) Seatbelt webbing that is:
  - damaged
  - frayed
  - stretched
  - tied in a knot
  - twisted
  - split
  - torn
  - altered or modified
  - severely deteriorated
  - burnt
  - not correctly and firmly secured to each end fitting
  - not the appropriate seatbelt for the type of seat mechanism fitted.
- d) Seatbelts are not fitted in accordance with Table 7.1.

**Note:** Discolouration alone is not reason for rejection, however if there is a texture change as well it should be rejected.

Table 7.1 Seatbelt requirements

Minimum seatbelt requirements for goods vehicles	
Medium goods vehicles with a GVM exceeding 4.5 tonnes and up to 12 tonnes GVM (ADR Category NB2)	
1 July 1977 → 30 June 1992	Lap belts in front outboard seating positions
1 July 1992 →	Lap/sash belts with safety locking retractors in all front outboard seating positions and lap belts in all other positions.
Heavy goods vehicles with a GVM exceeding 12 tonnes (ADR Category NC)	
1 July 1977 → 30 June 1992	Lap belts in front outboard seating positions
1 July 1992 → 30 June 2008	Lap belts with safety locking retractors in front outboard seating positions and lap belts in all other positions
1 July 2008 →	Lap/sash belts with safety locking retractors in all front outboard seating positions and lap belts in all other positions.

**Note:** For further information on seatbelts, refer to *Additional Information – ADR Occupant Restraint Requirements*.

## 7.3 Child restraint anchorages

### Reasons for rejection

- a) The vehicle structure within 100mm of a child restraint anchorage (CRA) point is cracked or has advanced rust
- b) A 5/16" - 18 TPI UNC bolt and suitable spacer installed is not fitted to each CRA point
- c) A CRA fitting is not readily accessible or cannot be attached or unclipped by hand
- d) A CRA fitting is missing, loose or damaged
- e) For an MD4 category vehicle built from 1 July 1995 or ME category vehicle built from 1 July 1994, at least six rear seating positions are not equipped with a CRA point.

**Note:** For further information about ADR vehicle categories, refer to *Additional Information – ADR Occupant Restraint Requirements*.

## Additional Information – ADR Occupant Restraint Requirements

This additional information provides a guide to the minimum requirements for seatbelts and their anchorages.

The precise requirements are made under the applicable Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

The requirements are determined by the vehicle type and its date of manufacture and outlined in the following tables.

Vehicles within each category, manufactured on or after the date shown must be fitted with the correct type of seatbelt.

### Application tables

Each vehicle category manufactured on or after the date shown in the following tables must be fitted with seatbelts as indicated.

Table 7.2 MD4 – Omnibus (GVM exceeding 4.5 tonnes but not 5 tonnes)

		ADR 32A	ADR 5/00	ADR 5/01	ADR 5/02	ADR 5/03	ADR 5/04 <sup>(5)</sup>	ADR 5/05 <sup>(5)</sup>
Vehicle built between		1 July 1987 → 30 June 1988	1 July 1988 → 30 June 1990	1 July 1990 → 30 June 1992	1 July 1992 → 30 June 1996	1 July 1996 → 31 December 1999	1 January 2000 → 30 June 2008	1 July 2008 →
Front row	Driver	L	L	L	R	R	R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	-	-	R <sup>(2)</sup>	R <sup>(2)</sup>	R <sup>(2)</sup>	R
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
Second row	Outboard	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
Other rows	Outboard	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>

Table 7.3 ME – Heavy Omnibus (GVM exceeds 5 tonnes)

		ADR 32A	ADR 5/00	ADR 5/01	ADR 5/02	ADR 5/03	ADR 5/04 <sup>(5)</sup>	ADR 5/05 <sup>(5)</sup>
Vehicle built between		1 July 1987 → 30 June 1988	1 July 1988 → 30 June 1990	1 July 1990 → 30 June 1992	1 July 1992 → 30 June 1996	1 July 1996 → 31 December 1999	1 January 2000 → 30 June 2008	1 July 2008 →
Front row	Driver	L	L	L	L-R	L-R	L-R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
Second row	Outboard	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
Other rows	Outboard	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>
	Centre	-	-	-	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	L <sup>(1)</sup>	R <sup>(3)</sup>

Table 7.4 NB2 – Medium Goods Vehicle (GVM exceeding 4.5 tonnes but not 12 tonnes)

		ADR 32	ADR 32A	ADR 5/00	ADR 5/01	ADR 5/02	ADR 5/03	ADR 5/04	ADR 5/05
Vehicle built between		1 July 1977 → 30 June 1987	1 July 1987 → 30 June 1988	1 July 1988 → 30 June 1990	1 July 1990 → 30 June 1992	1 July 1992 → 30 June 1996	1 July 1996 → 31 December 1999	1 January 2000 → 30 June 2008	1 July 2008 →
Front row	Driver	L	L	L	L	R	R	R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	L	L	L	R	R	R	R
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	R <sup>(4)</sup>
Second row	Outboard	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
Other rows	Outboard	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L

Table 7.5 NC – Heavy Goods Vehicle (GVM exceeds 12 tonnes)

		ADR 32	ADR 32A	ADR 5/00	ADR 5/01	ADR 5/02	ADR 5/03	ADR 5/04	ADR 5/05
Vehicle built between		1 July 1977 → 30 June 1987	1 July 1987 → 30 June 1988	1 July 1988 → 30 June 1990	1 July 1990 → 30 June 1992	1 July 1992 → 30 June 1996	1 July 1996 → 31 December 1999	1 January 2000 → 30 June 2008	1 July 2008 →
Front row	Driver	L	L	L	L	L-R	L-R	L-R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	L	L	L	L-R	L-R	L-R	R
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	R <sup>(4)</sup>
Second row	Outboard	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
Other rows	Outboard	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L
	Centre	-	-	-	-	L	L	L	L

**Key:**

- L Lap type seatbelt
- L-R Lap type seatbelt with a retractor
- R Lap-sash type seatbelt with a retractor
- (1) Other than route service omnibus, anchorages required for non-protected
- (2) If a protected seat, lap anchorages are acceptable
- (3) A lap type seatbelt may be acceptable if the vehicle is configured and certified to comply with UNECE Regulation 80
- (4) A lap type seatbelt may be acceptable if the vehicle's windscreen is in the seating reference zone as per UNECE Regulation R16/06 called up under ADR 4/05
- (5) If the vehicle complies to ADR 68/00, requirements only apply to the driver's seat.

**General Notes:**

- (i) See ADRs 4/-- and 5/-- for seatbelt and seatbelt anchorage requirements
- (ii) See ADR 68/-- for child restraint and child restraint anchorage (CRA) requirements
- (iii) Lap seatbelts are acceptable if there is no suitable permanent structure above and to the rear of the seating positions of some vehicles
- (iv) Lap seatbelts are acceptable for the third and further rows of seats of some vehicles if the seat is adjustable for conversion to luggage or goods space. See ADRs 4/-- and 5/-- for more information
- (v) Side facing seats may only be fitted with a lap seatbelt.