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. A seating modification, including change to seating capacity, has not been certified

7.2. Check seatbelts

Reasons for rejection

a. Seatbelts are not fitted (where applicable)
b. Where fitted, any seatbelt is not functional
c. 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
d. Any retractor, locking mechanism, buckle, tongue or adjustment device is inoperative
e. 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.

f. Seatbelts are not fitted in accordance with Table 7.1.

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

g. A seatbelt modification has not been certified.

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.

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.

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

7.4 Supplementary restraint system

Reasons for rejection

a. Any component of the vehicle's Supplementary Restraint System (SRS) is damaged, excessively worn, insecure or inoperative
b. Vehicles equipped with a SRS has a warning light which is missing, inoperative or indicates a system fault.

7. 5. 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.

➘ These dates are for all new vehicle model vehicles, dates for existing model vehicles may be slightly later.

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[5]	ADR 5/05[5]
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 Jul 1996 → 31 Dec 1999**	**1 Jan 2000 → 30 Jun 2008**	**1 July 2008 →**
Front row	**Driver**	L	L	L	R	R	R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	-	-	R(2)	R(2)	R(2)	R
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
Second row	**Outboard**	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
Other rows	**Outboard**	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1) L(1)	L(1) L(1)	L(1) L(1)	R(3) R(3)

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[5]	ADR 5/05[5]
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 Jul 1996 → 31 Dec 1999**	**1 Jan 2000 → 30 Jun 2008**	**1 July 2008 →**
Front row	**Driver**	L	L	L	L-R	L-R	L-R	R
	Outboard passenger	L	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
Second row	**Outboard**	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
Other rows	**Outboard**	-	-	-	L(1)	L(1)	L(1)	R(3)
	Centre	-	-	-	L(1) L(1)	L(1) L(1)	L(1) L(1)	R(3) R(3)

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 Jul 1977 → 30 Jun 1987**	**1 Jul 1987 → 30 Jun 1988**	**1 Jul 1988 → 30 Jun 1990**	**1 Jul 1990 → 30 Jun 1992**	**1 Jul 1992 → 30 Jun 1996**	**1 Jul 1996 → 31 Dec 1999**	**1 Jan 2000 → 30 Jun 2008**	**1 Jul 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(4)
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 Jul 1977 → 30 Jun 1987**	**1 Jul 1987 → 30 Jun 1988**	**1 Jul 1988 → 30 Jun 1990**	**1 Jul 1990 → 30 Jun 1992**	**1 Jul 1992 → 30 Jun 1996**	**1 Jul 1996 → 31 Dec 1999**	**1 Jan 2000 → 30 Jun 2008**	**1 Jul 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[4]
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.