

Light Vehicle Inspection Manual

Section 7 Seats and Seatbelts

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Australian Design Rules relevant to this section

ADR 3/...	Seat anchorages
ADR 4/...	Seatbelts
ADR 5/...	Anchorage for seatbelts and child restraints
ADR 22/...	Head restraints
ADR 34/...	Child restraint anchorages and child restraint anchor fittings
ADR 42/...	General safety requirements
ADR 69/...	Full frontal impact occupant protection
More information	Appendix H – ADR Seatbelt Applicability Vehicle Inspectors Bulletin VIB 26 Seatbelt Assessment - https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that all seating and restraints fitted to the vehicle provide a comfortable and secure position for the driver to control the vehicle and control the deceleration of all vehicle occupants.

7.1. Check seats (including child restraint seats)

Reasons for rejection

- a) Seat frames, child restraint devices or attaching points are loose, cracked, broken or have fasteners missing.
- b) Any seat has an exposed sharp edge or other parts that protrude due to damage.
- c) Seat cushions and backrests are not fitted.
- d) 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.
- e) Any reduction, increase, or modification in seating is not approved (via modification approval).
- f) The fitment of non-original equipment manufacturer seats not certified by a modification approval.
- g) Any passenger car, forward control vehicle passenger vehicle or off road passenger vehicle or light omnibus (up to 12 seats) that was built after 1 July 1988 is not fitted with head restraints to each front outboard seating position.
- h) Any light goods vehicle (GVM not exceeding 3.5 t) manufactured after 1 July 1996 is not fitted with head restraints to the front outboard seating positions.
- i) Seat covers with no SRS compatible label permanently attached to the seat covers where seats are fitted with a Supplementary Restraint System (SRS).

- Note:**
- i. *The fitment of an approved child restraint assembly in accordance with the component manufacturer's instructions and vehicle manufacturer's instructions is a modification that does not require formal approval.*
 - ii. *More information, refer to Information Bulletin V25 Child Restraints - <https://nt.gov.au/driving/industry/vehicle-information-bulletins-and-forms>*

7.2. Check the operation of seats, seatbelts, buckles and other restraints, and inspect webbing and metal stalks

Reasons for rejection

- a) Seatbelt assemblies are not securely attached to the respective anchorage point and show signs of distortion, cracks, fractures, misalignment or other damage likely to cause failure.
- b) Any retractor, locking mechanism, buckle, tongue, guide or adjustment device is damaged, incomplete or inoperative.
- c) Any metal stalk is missing or has broken wires.
- d) Where fitted, child restraint anchorages or attachment points are loose, cracked or missing.
- e) Non retractable seatbelts do not have sufficient adjustment to allow effective use of the belts and do not maintain the adjusted positions
- f) Where ADR 69/... applies, the seatbelt warning light does not operate for a minimum of 4 seconds when the ignition is switched to the on or start position.

- Note:**
- iii. *The warning light does not have to activate if the driver's seatbelt is fastened or withdrawn more than 10cm from the retractor.*

- g) Seatbelt, tether or other restraint webbing that is:
 - i. Damaged
 - ii. Frayed (to the point where the seatbelt strand/s have worn/cut through or separated)
 - iii. Stretched
 - iv. Tied in a knot
 - v. Twisted
 - vi. Split
 - vii. Torn
 - viii. Cut
 - ix. Altered or modified
 - x. Severely deteriorated
 - xi. Burnt
 - xii. Not correctly and firmly secured to each end fitting
 - xiii. Webbing/stitching becoming detached at any point

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