

Additional Seat Belts for Rear Seats

For further information please write to the Manager, Vehicle Safety Branch
60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101 or contact your local Registration Office.

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There are instances where an additional child needs to be carried in the rear seat of a motor vehicle which does not have a sufficient number of seat belts. To provide restraint for this passenger an additional seat belt may be fitted to the centre of the rear seat on some vehicles.

Additional seat belts fitted in accordance with these guidelines and any instructions supplied by the seat belt manufacturer should provide an acceptable level of safety. If any doubt exists about the strength or position of the anchorage points you should seek further advice from a suitably qualified person.

Note:

Some vehicles are fitted with a lap sash type seat belt in the centre seating position. In these situations it is not recommended that an additional belt is fitted. Therefore these guidelines do not apply to vehicles which have a lap sash type seat belt fitted to the centre seating position.

In most cases fitting instructions and accessories are supplied with each belt. However where these are not provided, a 7/16 UNF seat belt anchorage bolt and appropriate nut and lock washer should be used together with a reinforcing plate. The reinforcing plate should be mild steel between 1.5 mm and 3 mm thick with a surface area at least equivalent to that of a 50 mm diameter plate. When installed the reinforcing plate must be in full contact with the mounting surface. In some cases this may require shaping of the plate to match the contours of the floor pan.

Care must be taken when drilling through the floor pan and fitting the anchorage to avoid any damage or contact with the drive shaft, exhaust system, brake or fuel lines or any other under body components.

Typical installations that are acceptable are as follows:

- (A) In cases where an additional seat belt is to be fitted to the centre of a rear seat originally fitted with two lap sash belts (see Fig. 1).

The additional seat belt must be marked as complying with Australian Standard AS-2596. These belts will normally be provided with instructions and a fitting package which will include anchorage bolts and washers.

The anchorages should be located:

- (i) 380 mm apart, where practicable, and at equal distances from the centre line of the vehicle,
- (ii) Approximately in line with the original anchorages and at least 75mm away from any other anchorage. (See Fig. 1).and;
- (iii) In a structurally sound and substantially flat section of the floor pan.

Holes drilled for the anchorages must be of the correct size for the anchor bolt provided, usually 11 m (7/16").

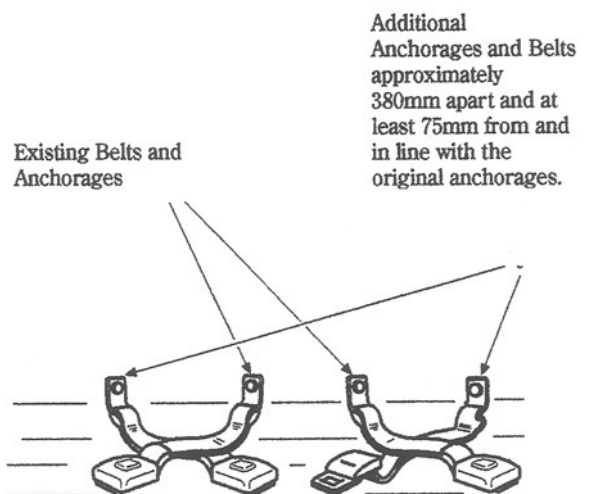


FIG 1

- (B) In the case of a rear seat where three seat belts are provided, with the centre belt being a lap belt, one additional lap belt may be fitted (see Fig 2).

The additional belt must be identical to the existing lap belt. An additional anchorage must be fitted between the existing lap belt anchorages and the two additional seat belt segments attached to this anchorage.

With this configuration three adults can use the original configuration of seat belts or alternatively four children may be accommodated, two in the outer lap sash belts and two each using an original segment and a fitted segment of the lap belt coupled together (See Fig.2). The additional anchorage point must be:

- (i) midway between and in line with the two existing anchorages and,
- (ii) in a structurally sound and substantially flat section of the floor pan.

The hole drilled for the anchorage must be of the correct size for the anchor bolt provided, usually 11 mm (7/16").

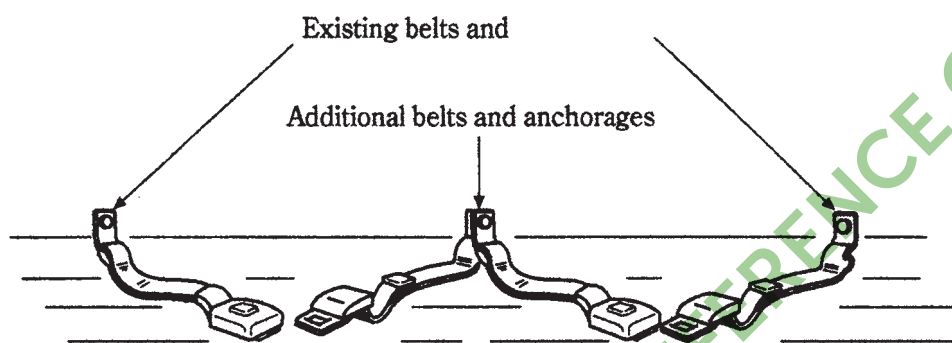


FIG 2

VicRoads does not require the seating capacity shown on the vehicle's registration records to be altered unless additional seats are installed, or it is possible to nominate an additional seating position of at least 410mm in width on the existing seat.