

Child Restraint Anchorages

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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Passenger cars manufactured on or after 1 July 1976 were required to be fitted with child restraint anchorages complying with the applicable Australian Design Rules (ADRs). This requirement has progressively been introduced to apply to most new passenger vehicles.

However, some people may wish to fit a child safety seat or basinet restraint to an older car or other vehicle types which are not fitted with child restraint anchorages. This information sheet may be used as a guide where child restraint anchorages need to be fitted to such a vehicle. Anchorages fitted in accordance with these guidelines should provide an acceptable level of safety.

If any doubt exists about the strength or position of the anchorage you should contact a Professional Engineer or a Restraint Fitting Station for guidance. A list of recognised professional engineers is available from any VicRoads registration office and further information on restraint fitting stations is available from RACV enquiries, phone 9790 2190 (008 134 126 for country callers) or VicRoads on 13 11 71.

Anchorages may be fitted to most cars which do not already have complying anchorages by drilling an 8.5mm (5/16") diameter hole through a suitable part of the parcel shelf structure and installing an anchorage bolt and reinforcing washers supplied by the child restraint manufacturer.

The following guidelines together with any supplied by the child restraint or anchorage manufacturer should be followed.

The anchorage hole should be:

- within 40mm of the centre line of the seating position in which the restraint is being installed;
 - back from the rear edge of the seat squab at a distance which will ensure that the top tether strap of the child restraint can be correctly adjusted, (usually about 200mm) while also ensuring that the rear window does not interfere with the attachment and disengagement of the anchorage fitting to the anchorage bolt,
 - drilled through a structurally sound section of metal and be no less than 50mm from any punched out or perforated section of metal, (eg speaker holes); and,
 - drilled through a substantially flat section of metal so as to ensure that the reinforcing washer or plate is brought to bear closely on the underside of the parcel shelf;
- If the anchorage is to be fitted to the floor pan of a vehicle without parcel shelves, such as station wagons or similar, further precautions as listed below are necessary. If any doubt exists, you should consult a Professional Engineer for further advice.
- The bolt hole must be drilled through the fixed metal floor of the vehicle. Spare wheel covers, and timber or false metal floors are not suitable.
 - Care must be taken not to drill through the fuel tank, fuel lines, brake hoses or any other safety item;
 - The anchorage should be located:
 - (a) so that the strap will be positioned at the shallowest angle possible generally at least 200mm to the rear of the seat back, and;
 - (b) so that no part of the anchorage mounting located under the floor contacts any components such as brake or fuel lines, hand brake cables or drive shafts.

- The strength of the seat back and any catches must be sufficient to withstand any loads imposed on them particularly those applied by the restraint tether strap in an impact;
- Adequate protection should be provided to prevent any load in the vehicle damaging the child restraint or its straps or causing injury to the vehicle occupants, particularly in an impact situation. Additional tie down arrangements or cargo barriers to secure heavy objects in vehicles such as station wagons or vans where the load space is not separate to the occupant space are strongly recommended.
- Sometimes it is necessary to use adaptor brackets to achieve a correct line of action between the restraint tether strap and the anchorage. Child restraint manufacturers generally provide a range of such accessories.

Child restraints may be fitted to the front seat of utilities and panel vans. However, it is strongly recommended that this be avoided wherever possible. If possible an additional seat or suitable support frame to secure child restraints should be installed in these vehicles.

Most child restraint seats etc. require a seat belt directly in front of the anchorage to stabilise the restraint. If such a seat belt is not available, an additional belt with separate anchorages can be installed in the centre rear position of the car (see Vehicle Standards Information No 15 which deals with installing additional seat belts).