

# HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN

## 190

For Headteachers, Managers in Children & Families, Adult Social Services and Youth Service and other staff involved in transporting children in cars.

### **CHANGES TO THE LAW AFFECTING THE USE OF CHILD SEATS IN CARS AND TAXIS.**

From **18th September 2006**, children under 12 years and under 135cm in height travelling in cars will be required to use an appropriate child restraint, with few exceptions.. The purpose of this bulletin is to help Headteachers, managers and relevant staff understand the detail of these changes.

#### Summary Table

Passenger	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Child up to 3 years	Correct child restraint seat <b>MUST</b> be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct child restraint seat <b>MUST</b> be used</li> <li>If one is not available in a taxi, then the child may travel unrestrained on the rear seat.</li> </ul>	Driver
Child from 3rd birthday up to EITHER 1.35m in height, OR 12 years old	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where seat belts are fitted, correct child restraint seat <b>MUST</b> be used</li> <li>However, where the correct child restraint is not available it is still possible to transport a child legally in the following three scenarios provided an Adult belt is used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in a taxi;</li> <li>- for a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity;</li> <li>- two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Driver

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available</li> </ul>	
<b>Child over 1.35 metres, or 12 to 13 years</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available</li> </ul>	Driver
<b>Adult passengers (ie 14 years and over)</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available</li> </ul>	Passenger

You can find more information about which types of car seat are suitable, and how to make sure that you are getting the safest restraint available on RoSPA's child car seat website – <http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/law/fromseptember06.htm>

The link above will also give full details of the new law and its implications.

### **No change to Minibuses and Coaches**

Seated passengers aged 14 years and over in minibuses, buses and coaches that have seatbelts fitted will continue to be required to wear those seatbelts, and operators will be required to notify passengers that seatbelts must be used. Please refer to the following Department of Transport web site for further information:

[http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_roads/documents/page/dft\\_roads\\_506857.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft_roads_506857.hcsp)

If you have any questions about this document, contact the Health and Safety Unit (HSU) on 020 8359 7949.