



Seats and Seatbelts in Motor-homes

Background

The changes to the requirements for seatbelts in motor-homes since the introduction of the LTNZ Rule have been difficult to remember, so this LVV Information Sheet is intended to provide a quick source of information for LVV certifiers when trying to remember the requirements.

The most important point to note:

The main reason for much of the confusion on the 'seatbelts in motor-homes' subject, is because, unlike every other part of the LVV system, the LVV certification requirement is based on the date of the manufacture of the vehicle, not the date of the modification.

For everything else in the LVV certification world, what determines whether or not LVV certification is required, is when the modifications were carried out. For the 'seatbelts in motor-home subject', the requirement (or not) for LVV certification is based on when the vehicle was manufactured (or converted).

Which motor-homes the new requirements affect:

The new requirements apply to:

- a motor-home manufactured on or after 1 October 2003; and
- a motor vehicle converted into a motor-home on or after 1 October 2003.

New requirements for seatbelts:

Number of seatbelts a motor-home must have:

The total number of seats fitted with seatbelts in motor-homes manufactured on or after 1 October 2003 must match or exceed the total number of sleeping berths, so that there is a seatbelt for everyone travelling in the vehicle. For example, if a motor-home sleeps six, it must have safety belts for at least six. If it has two safety belts in the front, it must have four in the rear. The number of berths in a motor-home is determined by the manufacturer of the motor-home (who may be a private individual).

Types of seatbelts that must be fitted in the front of a motor-home:

- The driver's seat must have a three-point dual-sensitive retractor safety belt.

- The left front seat, when less than 500 mm from the wall, must also have a three-point dual-sensitive retractor seatbelt. (The measurement is taken from the wall to the vertical centre of the seat back.)
- The left front seat, when more than 500 mm from the wall, must have (at least) a lap belt, but may be upgraded to a lap-and-diagonal belt.

Types of seatbelts that must be fitted in the rear of a motor-home:

- For forward-facing and rear-facing seats, you must have lap belts (as a minimum), which may be upgraded to lap-and-diagonal belts.
- Sideways-facing seats must have lap belts (only). The law does not allow for an optional upgrade to lap-and-diagonal belts for sideways-facing seats.

Other new requirements:

A motor-home must have a notice in the area where the rear seats are located. The notice must be displayed in a prominent position and must:

- recommend, on safety grounds, that when the vehicle is travelling, passengers use seats that are fitted with seatbelts; and
- advise passengers that when using a seat that has a seatbelt fitted, it is compulsory to use the seatbelt.

Where there is a seat that can be moved to face in more than one direction, and the passenger must face in a particular direction for the seatbelt to adequately protect them, a sign must be placed in the vehicle to alert passengers in that seat to the fact that they should sit facing the direction that the belt was designed to be used in.

If you have any queries or require any further clarification relating to this Information Sheet, please feel free to contact Kendall Bradley at the LVVTA office on (09) 268-9550.

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