

LVV Certification of Child Seating

Introduction:

The New Zealand Transport Agency has recently updated the Warrant of Fitness Vehicle Inspection Requirements Manual to confirm that from the 1st June 2012 additional seating installed in light vehicles for use by children must be certified to the LVV Code.

This removes the previous statement that exempted from low volume certification some additional child seating that conformed to categories 2 and 3 of the Australian Code of Practice *VSB-5A: Commercial Manufacture and Installation of Additional Seats*.

This change does not affect child car seats and capsules fitted onto existing seating and secured by existing seatbelts or anchorages, which do not require LVV certification.

This infosheet provides the information required to inspect and certify child seating to the Australian Code of Practice, which is available online or from LVVTA on request.

Australian Code of Practice VSB-5A

This document specifies requirements for the seating, the installation and the seat position and occupant space.

For the purpose of the VSB-5A Code of Practice, additional seats are divided into three categories to allow seats to be designed for occupants of different size and mass.

The seat categories are:

- Category 1 - Seats intended for use by adults*;
- Category 2 - Seats restricted to use by children up to 12 years of age; and
- Category 3 - Seats restricted to use by children up to 8 years of age.

*Category 1 seats are not covered by this infosheet; refer to the Low Volume Vehicle Standards 185-00(01) (Seats & Seat Anchorages) and 175-00(01) (Seatbelt Anchorages).

Child seating can only be fitted where the head height clearance is insufficient for an adult. This is aimed at ensuring that the possibility of a seat being occupied by a person larger or heavier than the seat is designed to accommodate is reduced to a minimum.

Requirements for certification of child seating:

Not all seat installations that comply with the Australian Code of Practice document will be acceptable for LVV certification. For example, side-facing seats are not permitted. Child seating modifications must also meet all relevant LVV general safety requirements, including seats, seatbelts and interior impact.

All of the relevant technical requirements of Australian Code of Practice *VSB-5A: Commercial Manufacture and Installation of Additional Seats* must be confirmed. These can be broken down into three categories:

- Seat and seatbelt compliance
- Installation
- Positioning and occupant space

Seat compliance:

The seat must have correct labelling confirming compliance to VSB-5A and proof that requirements have been met in the form of relevant test report documentation. If this is not provided with the seat, check with LVVTA for the availability of a relevant test report.

Installation:

If the seat is fitted according to manufacturer's instructions, suitable proof must be provided that confirms the anchorage system will meet the requirements in VSB-5A for strength, in the form of a satisfactory test report.

All other child seat installations must meet the requirements in the LVV standard 185-00(01) (Seats & Seat Anchorages) for adult seating. Any seatbelt anchorages that are separate to the seat must comply with LVV standard 175-00(01) (Seatbelt Anchorages).

Positioning and occupant space:

The seat must be positioned according to VSB-5A requirements and the occupant space must meet the requirements in VSB-5A that are relevant to the applicable seat category.

Requirements for LVV certification documentation:

In future the child seating requirements may be incorporated into the seat anchorage standard.

In the interim, the certification documentation must include:

- Base forms - reference this infosheet on the F001 statement of compliance; and
- A marked up copy of VSB-5A in lieu of an applicable LVV formset; and
- Applicable LVV formsets to document that general safety requirements have been met; and
- Photographs of every aspect of every modification.

Finally:

If any assistance in the use of this Information Sheet is needed, please contact an LVVTA technical team member at the Wellington LVVTA office.

The Australian Code of Practice document *VSB-5A: Commercial Manufacture and Installation of Additional Seats* is available online (search for VSB-5A) or contact LVVTA for a copy.

Dan Myers

Technical Team (Engineering)

Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association