

A stylized sun in the top right corner and several blue and white clouds in the top left corner. The background is a blue grid pattern.

Car Seat Safety Requirements

NATO IMP



Current US Requirements:

- Children should be in an appropriate safety seat until they are 8 y/o, or 4ft 9inches or taller
- Each State has their own rules, more info at:

http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/childsafety_laws.html



Current US Requirements:

Birth – 12 Months

- Should ALWAYS ride in a REAR-FACING car seat
 - Either an infant carrier or convertible seat (watch weight requirements on each)
 - The safest place is in the back seat & rear-facing for as long as possible
- Follow your car seat manufacturer's instructions and your vehicle owner's manual on how to install



Current US Requirements:

Birth – 12 Months (REAR-FACING)

- 5-Point Harness System
 - Chest clip should be at armpit level (not on neck or tummy)
 - Harness strap slots should be at or below the shoulders
 - Harness should have a pull strap to tighten and a release button to loosen
- Infants should be at a max of 45° recline
- Read instructions to where the carry handle should be when used in the car



Infant Carrier



Convertible Car Seat

REAR-FACING CAR SEATS

Ultimately the choice is yours on what you are comfortable with

Practice with store models until you know you can use the seat correctly **EVERY** time you use it!



Current US Requirements:

1-3 Years

- Keep your child REAR-FACING as long as possible
- Once your child outgrows the rear-facing seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness



Current US Requirements:

4-7 Years

- Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer
- Once your child outgrows this seat, it is time for a booster seat, but still in the back seat



Current US Requirements:

1-7 Years (FRONT-FACING)

- 5-Point Harness System
 - Chest clip should be at armpit level (not on neck or tummy)
 - Harness strap slots should be at or above the shoulders
- Should have no recline
- A lap AND shoulder belt should be used!



Current US Requirements:

8-12 Years

- Keep your child in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in a seat belt properly
 - Lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach
 - Shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face
 - A Lap AND Shoulder belt should be used
- Again, your child should still ride in the back seat!



Reminders

- Be wary of purchasing a used Car Seat (all should have the original labels with model number, manufacturing date, and parts)
- Car Seats need to be *replaced* after any accident!
- Car Seats, as long as still up to standard, should only be used for 5 years
- **NEVER** put a car seat in the front with an active air bag!



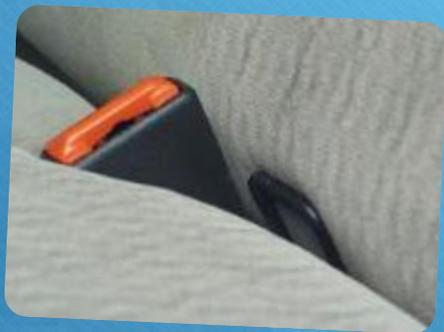
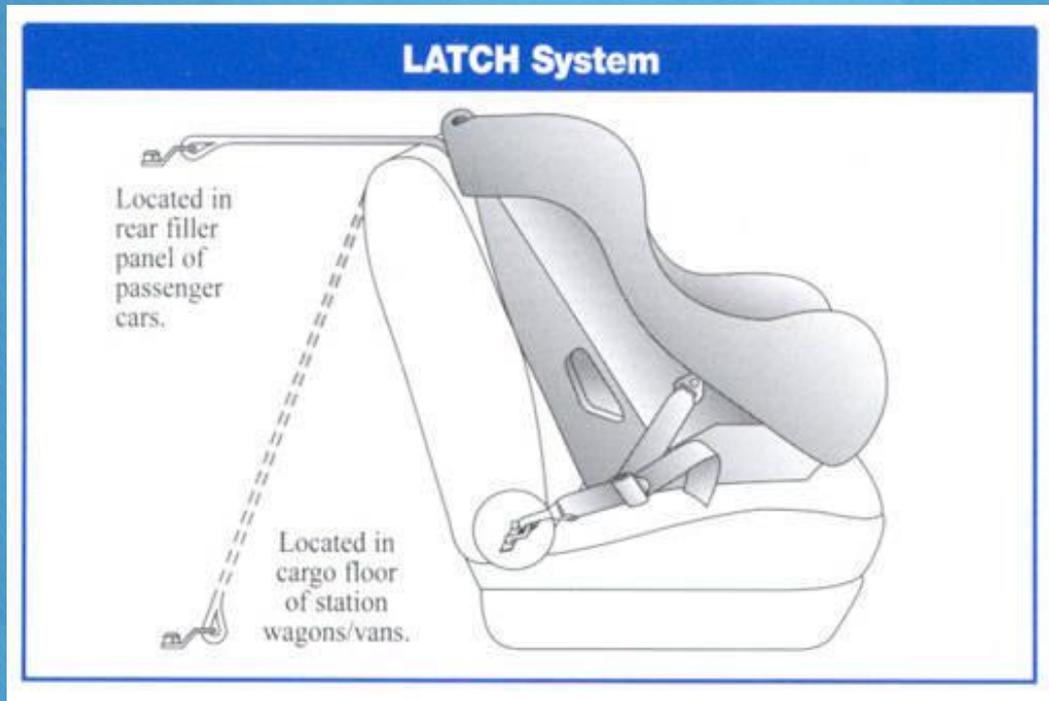
Reminders Cont.

- In 2003, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggested that infants “should spend minimal time in car seats (when not a passenger in a vehicle) or other seating that maintains supine positioning: to avoid developing positional plagiocephaly (flat head syndrome).”
- A car seat should only be used for travelling, not for other uses, such as sleeping



Installation Types

- LATCH w/ Top Tether Anchor
 - Never use Tether with a REAR-FACING car seat unless SPECIFICALLY designed for use and mentioned in the manual
 - Seat Belt Only
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- Car Seat should always remain level (some include indicators for this)
 - Refer to owner's manual for specific installation of your car seat

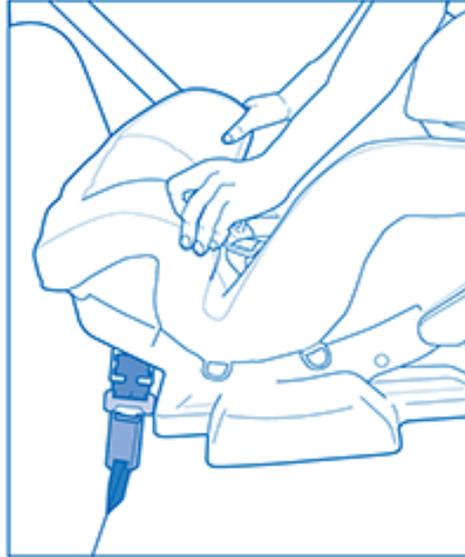


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Lower
Anchors &
Tethers for
Children



Forward-Facing Belt Path



Rear-Facing Belt Path

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- Ensure you **ALWAYS** follow the seat belt path indicated by your car seat
- Seat Belt should **LOCK** or use of a belt clip is required



German Requirements:

- Children should be in an appropriate safety seat *until* they are 12 y/o, or 4ft 11inches, in ANY type of vehicle
- It is illegal to use a child seat in the front seat of a car if the airbag has not be deactivated
- As of now, we don't know where to have your car seat installation inspected, like you can have done in the states



References

- <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS>
- <http://www.car-safety.org/>
- <http://www.ramstein.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=17066>