

Child in the car

2011

According to Law on road traffic:

While transporting a child who is less than 135 cm tall in a car, van or truck, one must use a childrens safety device which is determined by the weight of the child, if the vehicle has a seatbelt or the safety device can be installed into the vehicle through other means.

Children under three years old can not be transported at all in cars, vans or trucks, where the appropriate weight-determined safety device can not be installed. Taxi cabs are the exception to this rule.

Children over three years old being transported in cars, vans or trucks, must travel someplace other than the front seat, if the appropriate safety device is unavailable for some reason.

In a bus, a child must - regardless of the age - use either a seatbelt that has been installed into the seat or a childrens safety device.

Rear-facing seats

Safest for small children are infant seats and infant carriers that are installed with the childs back to the driving direction. This type of instalment is recommended, since a head-on collision is the most forceful - in comparison to impact from other directions - and the most common type of collision.

When the child faces the rear of the car, the childs head and neck receive the best possible support to withstand collision forces. The securing instructions of the safety device state whether the device has been approved for rear-facing installation or not.

According to recommendations, a child should travel rear-facing as long as he/she is able to fit in the seat, but at least until the child turns three years old.



Approved safety seats

E approval signifies compliance with the regulations of the European Economic Commission. The regulation defines common requirements for approval of childrens safety devices that are used in cars. The devices have been divided into the following weight and age groups:

group 0	less than 10 kg
group 0+	less than 13 kg
group 1	9-18 kg
group 2	15-25 kg
group 3	22-36 kg



The sign of approval is a circle which contains the letter E. Next to the letter E there is the number of the country which has approved the device.

T approval: a recommended additional approval

T approval means compliance with the type approval requirements of the Swedish traffic safety agency. In order to receive this sign of approval, the acceleration level - which is directed at the head, thus stretching the cervical spine - must not exceed a force of 20 g. So far, no front-facing safety seat has met this demand. Therefore, T approval has only been granted to rear-facing safety seats.



T approval is a recommended additional approval.

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Acquiring a safety seat

The safety seat should adapt well both to the car and the seat that are used to transport the child. Purchase a safety seat from a dealer that can provide you with comprehensive installing instructions. Always install and secure the safety seat in the car, even if no child is using the seat at the time. An unsecured safety seat is lethal.

A safety seat is recommended to be discarded, if it has been subjected to great strain or it has been otherwise damaged or found inadequate in some way.

After safety seat

After the safety seat, a child will use a seatbelt with a combination seat or a booster seat. The hip strap is adjusted snug and the upper strap will run over the shoulder. In this manner, especially

head injuries are prevented. The upper strap must not run under the armpit or behind the back.

A ten-year-old child can use a seatbelt in the same way as adults do.

Not in the lap

It is dangerous to transport a child in ones lap. In a case of collision, if a child is in the lap of someone without a seatbelt, the child is pinned between the car interior and the person holding him/her. If the child uses the same seatbelt as the person holding the child, the child is caught between the seatbelt and the person holding him/her.

If the child sits in the lap of a person who is using a seatbelt, that person will not be able to hold the child steady. Collision tests showed that an adult was not able to hold a dummy - which weighted 8 kg - in ones lap as the collision took place while travelling 24 km/h.



Airbag in the seat

A rear-facing infant carriage or safety seat must not be installed into the front seat if the seat is equipped with an airbag. An inflating airbag causes lethal danger to a child. If the front seat is unavailable, the infant carriage or safety seat must be installed into the backseat.



Combination seat



Booster seat

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