

# ROAD RULES



## Seatbelts

**From 30 November 2009 there will be some changes to the road rules about seatbelts**

### **Drivers to make sure seatbelts and child restraints are used**

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all passengers in the car are wearing a seatbelt or a child restraint. Drivers must now also ensure that adult passengers wear a seatbelt.

When all seatbelts or child restraints are used, no extra unrestrained passengers can travel in the vehicle.

### **Penalties**

Penalties for seat belt and child restraints offences now range from \$300 to \$350 fine and 3 demerit points for drivers and \$300 fine for passengers.

### **Exemptions**

This rule does not apply to the driver of a bus. The rule also does not apply to a taxi driver with passengers 16 years old or older.

However, an adult passenger commits an offence themselves if they travel in a taxi without a seatbelt, as they would in a private vehicle.

Also there are exemptions for some types of vehicles that are not required to be fitted with seatbelts (eg vintage cars).

Medical reasons for exemptions - people in Tasmania can only be exempt from wearing a seat belt for medical reasons if they are carrying an exemption issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

## What you have to do

As the driver, you have to ensure that anyone travelling in the vehicle is in their own child restraint (refer to the new rules for child restraints) or seatbelt.

Drivers have to also ensure that passengers of any age do not travel in or on parts of a vehicle that are not enclosed.

## What should a driver do if a passenger refuses to wear a seatbelt?

A driver must ensure each passenger is wearing a seatbelt or is in an approved child restraint before starting the vehicle. If the driver notices the passenger has undone their seatbelt, the driver should request that it be done up. If the passenger refuses to re-fasten the seatbelt, the driver should stop the car when safe to do so.

It is important to remember that, in a crash, an unrestrained passenger has a much greater risk of injury or death or may cause injury or death to the driver, or other passengers within the car.

## Road safety reason

Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest and most effective ways of protecting drivers and passengers. Each year about 28 per cent of all car occupants killed in road crashes were not wearing a seatbelt.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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