



## **CMC advice regarding new seatbelt laws and child restraints 15/7/2010**

New laws covering the use of seatbelts and child safety restraints have been introduced in NSW from 1/7/2010.

Basically, all vehicles manufactured with seatbelt anchorage points must have approved seat belts fitted to those points and they must be used by the occupants of the vehicle when it is on public roads.

If the vehicle pre-dates seatbelt introduction then seatbelts do not have to be fitted. Vehicles in this category may have seatbelts fitted by an RTA approved installer. This work on the vehicle may need the certification of an RTA approved Engineer to ensure compliance.

We are advised that the fitment of seatbelts does not prevent the vehicle being registered on HCRS by an RTA recognized Club.

If you wish to carry a child under 6 months of age in ANY vehicle, that child must be restrained in an approved, rear-facing child safety capsule, located in the rear seat and anchored by a lap/sash seatbelt in compliance with the capsule manufacturer's instructions.

From 6 months to 7 years of age children must be in an approved child safety capsule, seat or booster, which can face forward or rearwards. They must be restrained in an approved lap/sash seatbelt or child harness fitted to a lap-type seatbelt. All children under 7 years old must be in the rear seat unless all positions in that rear seat are already taken by other children who are under 7 years old. Then, they may be located in the front passenger seat, again in an approved child seat and lap/sash seatbelt. Children from 7 to 16 years old have requirements regarding their use of seatbelts as well. This is covered in the legislation.

The CMC strongly recommends that, if you are intending to carry children in your older vehicle you should take a good look at the RTA website <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/index.html>

This will ensure that you understand the new rules. The above details are presented to you as a guide in the matter. You must ensure that you comply with the RTA rules as set out in the legislation.

All of this means that if you choose to not fit seatbelts to your older vehicle for reasons of authenticity or impracticality, then you cannot carry children in that vehicle. Technically that would include parades and the like, no matter how slow you travel, as they are usually held on public roads. The fine is \$253 and a loss of 3 demerit points.