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Seat belt, child or baby car seat: what are the rules?

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Additional cases ? [Can seat belts be dispensed with?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F15076) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F15076>)

For a child

Your child is under 10

A child under the age of 10 must be settled **back** of the vehicle and be maintained by [approved restraint system specific to age, weight and morphology](https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture) (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture>).

However, a child under the age of 10 may be settled in the front if:

- ▶ The child is settled in a back-to-the-road baby device in the front passenger seat, with the airbag disabled
- ▶ The vehicle does not have a rear seat
- ▶ The rear seat of the vehicle is not equipped with a seat belt
- ▶ The rear seats of the vehicle are temporarily unusable
- ▶ The rear seats of the vehicle are occupied by children under 10 years of age, each of whom is restrained by a [approved restraint system](https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture) (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture>).

The approved restraint system is not mandatory in the following cases:

- ▶ Child whose morphology is adapted to the wearing of seatbelts
- ▶ Child with an exemption medical certificate issued by a doctor approved by the prefecture

The restraint shall have a **approval visa certifying that it complies with European standards** :

- ▶ The **R44** classifies devices into 5 groups corresponding to **child weight**.
- ▶ The **R129 (Isize)** classifies seats according to **child size** (this standard gradually replaces R44).
All standard seats *Isize* have *Isofix*, which has been mandatory in new vehicles since 2011.

➔ **FYI** : visit the road safety site for the [child restraint system](https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture) (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture>).

A driver who fails to comply with these obligations shall be liable to a fine of up to €750.

In general, this is a flat-rate fine of €135.

Your child is 10 or older

Child 10 years or older must be maintained **a seat belt or approved restraint system** (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture>).

It can be settled **front and back** vehicle.

A seat belt waiver is possible **for medical reasons** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F15076?lang=en>).

Each seat equipped with a seat belt shall be occupied **by a single child**.

A driver who fails to comply with these obligations is liable to a fine of up to €750. In general, this is a flat-rate fine of €135.

For an adult

Seat belt use is mandatory **front and back** vehicle.

Each seat equipped with a seat belt shall be occupied **by one person**.

A driver or passenger who fails to comply with these obligations shall be liable to a fine of up to €750.

In general, this is a flat-rate fine of €135.

The unattached driver risks **3 point indent** of his licence.

However, **you may be exempted from wearing a seat belt for medical or professional reasons** .

Medical reasons

You are exempt from wearing a seat belt if:

- ▶ Your morphology is clearly unsuitable for wearing a belt
- ▶ You have medical certificate (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R14006?lang=en>) exemption issued by a licenced physician. The medical certificate must indicate its validity. In case of control, you must present it to the police.

Business reasons

You are exempt from wearing a seat belt if you are in one of the following situations:

- ▶ Taxi driver on duty
- ▶ Driver or passenger of a priority general interest vehicle or ambulance, in emergency response
- ▶ Driver or passenger of a utility vehicle who is forced to stop frequently in built-up areas
- ▶ Driver or passenger of a vehicle making door-to-door deliveries in built-up areas

You don't have to take steps to get dispensed.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- ▶ Route Code: items R412-1 to R412-5 [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006177120) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006177120>)
Vehicle user equipment
- ▶ Order of 26 January 1995 concerning the use of child restraint systems carried on motor vehicles [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000000715136/)
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000000715136/>)

For more information, please contact

- ▶ **Seat belt** [↗](https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/chacun-son-mode-de-deplacement/dangers-de-la-route-en-voiture/equipement-de-la-voiture/port-de-la) (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/chacun-son-mode-de-deplacement/dangers-de-la-route-en-voiture/equipement-de-la-voiture/port-de-la>)
Ministry of Transport
- ▶ **Carry a child by car** [↗](https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture) (<https://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/reglementation-liee-lusager/reglementation-liee-aux-enfants/transporter-un-enfant-en-voiture>)
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