

Transport Safety Pack

SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES GUIDE

Seat belts save lives in trucks. Crash statistics show that:

- ∞ An estimated 40 unbelted heavy vehicles drivers lose their life in Australia every year.
- ∞ Seat belts would have prevented or reduced the injuries suffered by truck drivers in at least 60 per cent of the crashes studied.
- ∞ If heavy vehicle seatbelt wearing rates matched the rate achieved by car drivers, it would reduce unbelted truck driver deaths by about half.

Why?

A seat belts stops drivers and passengers being through around, striking the cab interior, steering wheel, windscreen – or being thrown out of the truck. An integrated seatbelt/suspension seat will enable the driver to remain in their seat and thereby maintain better control of the truck and hopefully avoid crashing.

The Law

As wearing a seat belt is so important for preventing death and injury, there are tough penalties for drivers who break the law. Penalties can include significant fines and loss of demerit points.

Under Occupational Health and Safety legislation, employers are obliged to insist truck drivers to wear seat belts.

Employers have a legal ‘duty of care’ to ensure a driver’s safety in the workplace and can:

- ∞ Ensure appropriate restraints (seat belts) are fitted in all company vehicles
- ∞ Require seat belts to be worn by drivers and all passengers travelling in company vehicles
- ∞ Require seat belts to be worn by fork lift operators
- ∞ Ensure seat belts are regularly checked and maintained for wear and tear
- ∞ Provide counselling to anyone found not wearing a seat belt
- ∞ Organise for the gateman not to let any truck leave the premises without the driver wearing a belt

- ∞ Place a poster/sign or message on the road at front gate with a **buckle up** message.

Tips

Buying an Older Truck? Retro-fitting is easy

Most B-Pillar anchored seatbelts can be retro-fitted with an integrated seatbelt/suspension seat replacement; however, some vehicles require engineering and cab modification. In this case, a reputable seat supplier will inspect your vehicle to ensure the structural integrity of the cab and report any deficiencies.

Further Information

Visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Visit www.ntc.gov.au to find out more about integrated seatbelts/suspension seats.

This safety guide has been produced by the Transport Industry Safety Group with the support of VicRoads to improve the safety of transport workers. It is one of 18 Safety Guides and other important information including the TISG's 'A Guide to Occupational Health and Safety Transport Industry' that can be downloaded from www.vta.com.au



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