

FAQs on Seatbelts in Motorhomes, Motor Caravans & Campervans

By law, does a motorhome (also referred to as a motor caravan or campervan) have to be fitted with seatbelts?

All **new** motorhomes built *since 29th April 2012* must be type approved (approved to a European Safety Standard) and therefore must have seatbelts fitted to all seats designed to be used while the vehicle is in motion.

If your motorhome was built before 29th April 2012 the following questions apply to you:

By law, do seatbelts need to be fitted to the front of a motorhome? Yes. By law, all front seats in a motorhome must be fitted with seatbelts.

By law, do seatbelts need to be fitted to the back of a motorhome? Seat belts are not legally required to be fitted to seats in the back of motorhomes but we would recommend you consider fitting and wearing them for your own safety. Please note that where seatbelts are fitted they must be worn.

My campervan has lap belts fitted. Are these legal? Yes. There is no law against the use of lap belts (i.e. 2 point belts), however, 3 point belts are safer, unless the seat is side facing.

Can I fit a 3 point seat belt to a side facing seat? It is not recommended that 3-point safety belts are fitted to side-facing seats, because a safety belt is not as effective in such a position. Two point safety belts (lap belts) may be used on a side facing seat.

Is it legal to sit on a side facing seat or rear facing seat when the motorhome is moving? Yes. However, the RSA strongly recommends that a side-facing seat should not be used while a vehicle is in motion as it does not provide the same level of protection as forward or rearward facing seats.

Can you fit a seatbelt to a seat which was never intended to be used when the vehicle is moving? Additional seating may be provided for when the vehicle is at rest, for example at a table. Such additional seating may not be suitable for use when the vehicle is in motion. Please check the owners' handbook, or directly with the manufacturer, if you are unsure.

Are all seatbelts checked during the commercial roadworthiness test? (Previously referred to as the DOE)

Yes, all seatbelts in both the front and back of the Motorhome will be checked. Any seatbelt retrofitted (i.e. not originally fitted by the manufacturer) must be certified by an automotive engineer and this report should be presented at the roadworthiness test.

Who can fit and certify seat belts? The National Standards Authority of Ireland's ([NSAI](#)) approved test centres ([ATCs](#)) located throughout the country carry out the fitting and approval of seatbelts in motor caravans. Alternatively you could contact a properly qualified person (e.g. mechanical or automotive engineer).

Can children be carried in rear seats in a motorhome? Yes, provided they are wearing the proper child restraint / child car seat.

Can children travel in a side facing seat? It is not illegal for a child to travel in a side facing seat in a motor caravan, however, for their safety the RSA would not recommend it. It does not offer the same level of protection.

Can children use lap belts? All children under 150cms in height or 36kgs (79lbs) in weight must use a child restraint system (CRS) suitable for their height and weight. If they exceed these limits then legally they can wear a lap belt, however, for their safety the RSA would not recommend it as it does not offer the same level of protection.