

**Summary and examples of forms of certification for safety belt installations and where to obtain certification**

**1. Type Approval Certificate / Certificate of Conformity**

Buses fitted with safety belts from new may have certification to show they meet the requirements of the relevant EC type approval directives.

If a bus has EC type approval, the manufacturer will have provided or be able to provide official certification that the safety belts were installed to the requirements of Directives 2005/39/EC on seats, their anchorages and head restraints, 2005/40/EC on safety belts and restraint systems and 2005/41/EC on safety belt anchorages.

Bus owners who bought their vehicles with safety belts fitted and who do not already have appropriate certification can contact the main dealer who supplied the vehicle or the homologation department of their vehicle manufacturer or body builder.

The vehicle manufacturer's homologation department ensures that a vehicle meets with the all applicable standards and regulations. The homologation department also maintains on file the details of each vehicle manufactured and can provide, on request from the vehicle owner, information as to the standards and regulations pertaining to a vehicle at the time of its manufacture.

If a vehicles safety belt installation has type approval then the main dealer or homologation department will be able to provide written confirmation of this.

This confirmation should include the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and / or Body Number of the vehicle and the type approval reference number.

**2. Certificate from the manufacturer of compliance with EC Type Approval or UK National standards**

Buses which do not have full EC type approval and are fitted with safety belts may be able to get confirmation from the company who carried out the installation (i.e. vehicle manufacturer, body builder or safety belt installer) that the safety belt installation complies with the EC type approval standard.

As buses imported from the UK may be approved to the UK national standard rather than the EC standard, it is proposed that approval to the UK national standard would also be acceptable.

Bus owners who bought their vehicles with safety belts fitted and who do not already have the appropriate certification should contact the company who installed the safety belts to see if this form of certification is available for their vehicle.

Any certification issued should confirm the standard to which the safety belts were fitted, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and / or Body Number of the vehicle.

**3. Certificate from a competent person that the safety belts have been inspected and passed under the school transport scheme**

Since 2007, it has been a requirement of the School Transport Scheme that buses participating in this scheme be visually inspected to verify that the safety belts and their fitment meet the UK Public Service Vehicle visual inspection standard.

This was organised by the Department of Education and Science and Bus Eireann.

Bus owners, whose vehicles successfully completed the School Transport Scheme's visual inspection, can use the certificates received as conformation of this for the safety belt verification exercise.

Bus Eireann does not retain on file a copy of the School Transport Scheme visual inspection certificate issued to bus owners. Therefore, if a bus owner is no longer in possession of this certificate they should contact the company who carried out the safety belt inspection for a new certificate.

**4. Certification from a competent person confirming that the safety belt installation conforms with CE&U standards**

If a bus owner is unable get certification in categories 1 – 3 above they can employ the services of a competent person to inspect their vehicle and certify that the vehicle meets the requirements of CE&U Regulations (please see Guidance Note attached at Appendix 3).

This form of certification would have to meet the following requirements:

- be provided by a competent person meeting specific requirements (see section 4.1.2 below);
- be in the format set out in the Guidance Note; and
- verify that the vehicle meets the minimum requirements of the CE&U Regulations.

It is the responsibility of the bus owner to ensure the individual or company employed to certify a safety belt installation is competent to do so.

## **4.1 Requirements of a Competent Person**

Bus owners should ensure that the person providing certification of a safety belt installation is competent to do so and is equipped to provide valid certification. Appropriate competent persons include:

- National Standards Authority of Ireland approved facilities, (Approved Test Centres); or
- Suitably Qualified Individuals.

### **4.1.1 National Standards Authority of Ireland Approved Facilities**

Approved Test Centers (ATCs) have been approved by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) to carry out national type approval testing of vehicles. They are located across the country and currently use the national minimum technical standard for inspecting new vehicles, including safety belt installations.

The national minimum technical standards in question include a visual inspection procedure for a safety belt installation<sup>1</sup> as part of Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) for certain types of vehicles<sup>2</sup>.

An ATC would visually inspect a vehicles safety belt installation and issue certification if it was found to be of a minimum standard of construction. This certification should be in the format set out in Appendix 3

Please see below and the NSAI's website<sup>3</sup> for a current list of ATC's.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Murphy Commercials (Galway)	Cloughaun, Claregalway, Co. Galway.	091 739700
Cawley Commercials Ltd	Drinagha, Knocknarra, Sligo, Co. Sligo	071 9169555
Westward Scania	Strokestown, Co. Roscommon	071 9634500
Galway Truck Centre	Sylaun, Headford Road, Galway, Co.Galway	091 751984
T. Nolan & Sons Ltd	Limerick Road, Castleisland, Co.Kerry	066 7141140
Rolor Commericals Ltd	Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny	051 830 250
Riverstick Motors Ltd	Riverstick, Co. Cork	021 477 1362
Automotive Services Centre Ltd	Unit 58, Le Broquay Avenue, Parkwest, Industrial Park, Dublin 12	01 612 0922

<sup>1</sup> ROI Visual Inspection Procedure; Tests – 15. Seat Strength, 19. Seat Belt Anchorages, 31. Seat belts and Restraint Systems.

<sup>2</sup> S.I. 158 of 2009, European Communities (Road Vehicles: Type-Approval) Regulations 2009, Part 4 (National Approvals) and Schedule 7 (Individual Approval: Certain Varieties of Vehicle).

<sup>3</sup> [www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Certification/Transport-Certification/Motor-Vehicle-Approval-Schemes/Approved-Test-Centers.aspx](http://www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Certification/Transport-Certification/Motor-Vehicle-Approval-Schemes/Approved-Test-Centers.aspx)

#### 4.1.2 Suitably Qualified Individuals (SQI)

Bus owners may also use an SQI who can inspect your buses safety belt installation and issue certification (as set out in section 4.2 below) provided the installation meets a minimum standard of construction.

An SQI must have the appropriate facilities and equipment to conduct the inspection.

Bus owners must ensure that they only engage SQI's who meet all of the following professional requirements:

- an Engineering/Technical Qualification (Level 7 or higher accredited courses<sup>[1]</sup>) **or** appropriate accreditation with Engineers Ireland<sup>[2]</sup> or the Institute of Automotive Engineer Assessors<sup>[3]</sup>
- a minimum of 5 years experience of working in a suitable technical environment (preferably Automotive or Engineering Environment)
- access to adequate facilities to carry out a thorough vehicle examination, and
- appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

or

- an authorised representative<sup>4</sup> of a company or vehicle manufacturer engaged in the installation of safety belts to Type Approval standards.

Contact details of SQI's may be available in your local business directory or you can contact one of the professional associations such as the Institute of Automotive Engineer Assessors <http://www.iaea-online.org/> . SIMI ([www.simi.ie](http://www.simi.ie) or 01- 6761690) may also be able to help if you are having difficulties finding an SQI or if you are looking for contact details of vehicle manufacturers or convertors who are engaged in the installation of safety belts.

#### 4.2 RSA guidance note for Competent Persons

The RSA has prepared a guidance note to assist Competent Persons in carrying out a safety belt installation inspection (See Appendix 3).

This guidance note is not an interpretation of the law and is not intended to interpret or displace the obligation in law on every owner and driver to ensure that their vehicle is safe and complies with minimum standards.

The RSA intention is that the guidance note be used in conjunction with, and supplement, the legal requirements and other information available including general type-approval standards and manufacturer's specification.

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<sup>[1]</sup> See Engineers Ireland, Accredited Courses.

<sup>[2]</sup> Chartered or Associate Engineer.

<sup>[3]</sup> Member or Incorporated Member.

<sup>4</sup> Such as a Director under the Companies Act, 1963 (as amended).

The guidance note sets out, in the view of the RSA, the very minimum requirements to be assessed and considered when inspecting a safety belt installation in respect of seat strength, seat and safety belt anchorages and safety belts and restraint systems.

A bus owner should supply to the competent person, for reference, a copy of the RSA guidance note.

The competent person should fill out the check list at the end of the guidance note along with the **Construction, Equipment and Use Certification of Safety Belt Installations** document. A copy of both should be given to the bus owner and retained on file by the competent person.

The **Construction, Equipment and Use Certification of Safety Belt Installations** document can be attached to the Owner Declaration (Appendix 2) and used by a bus owner at their vehicles roadworthiness inspection for the safety belt verification exercise.