

fact sheet | What is ISOFIX?



What is ISOFIX?

ISOFIX compatible restraints are a new addition to the Australian/New Zealand Standard for child restraints AS/NZ1754. This fact sheet outlines everything you need to know about ISOFIX.

It is important to note that ISOFIX has not been introduced to the standard due to any concerns with the safety of seats currently available on the market.

The standard has been amended to allow child restraint manufacturers to include (ISOFIX compatible) lower attachment connectors to rearward and forward facing child restraints.

The lower attachment connectors on the child restraint can either be a pair of rigid or flexible connectors.

■ Flexible connectors



■ Rigid connectors



The lower attachment connectors are incorporated into the child restraint design at the time of manufacture (i.e. they cannot be added to existing restraints). These connectors attach to the vehicle's ISOFIX low anchorages.

Note: Not all vehicles are fitted with ISOFIX anchorages.

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ISOFIX anchorages in a vehicle



If your vehicle does not have ISOFIX anchorage points, you will still be able to use the Australian ISOFIX compatible restraints by using the existing vehicle seatbelt.

While it has been suggested that the ISOFIX system has the potential to provide easier installation for parents, RAA is reminding parents that they need to ensure that any restraint they use is installed correctly. They should refer to the manual or a professional child restraint fitter for guidance.

The ease of use with the ISOFIX system will still depend on the design of the child restraint, the design of the vehicle, and the ease of access to the ISOFIX anchorages in the vehicle.

Legal requirements

Our laws require only an approved restraint be used. An approved restraint is one that meets the AS/NZ1754 standard, which means **it will continue to be illegal to use an ISOFIX compatible child restraint from overseas.**

The Australian Standard for child restraints is one of the highest Standards in the world.

AS/NZS 1754 child restraints are required to:

- Have a top tether strap (on all infant restraints, safety seats and booster seats over 2kg in weight)
- Have a rebound prevention feature to keep a rearward facing child restraint in position (e.g. stabilising bar)
- Be tested in a side impact with a door (high level of side impact protection in crashes)
- Be tested in an inverted position to test for occupant ejection (i.e. rollover crashes)

For more information on child restraints, contact RAA's Safety Centre on **8202 4592** or e-mail **childrestraints@raa.com.au**