

LEGAL NOTICE No. 210

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, CHAP. 48:50

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT UNDER SECTION 101
OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

THE MOTOR VEHICLES (SEAT BELT ASSEMBLIES)
REGULATIONS, 1994

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Seat Belt Citation Assemblies) Regulations, 1994.

2. In these Regulations—

“Act” means the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act;

“anchorage points” means that part of the motor vehicle which is designed to hold securely in position on the vehicle seat belts for the driver’s seat and the specified passengers’ seats;

“motor vehicles” means a vehicle required, under section 43A and B of the Act, to be fitted with a seat belt;

“seat belt assembly” means an assembly of straps with quick release coupling devices, adjusting devices and an attachment and deployment system which deploys automatically, requires no action by the occupant, is anchored to a power driven vehicle and is intended to be worn by an occupant of a motor vehicle.

Interpretation

Chap. 48:50

3. Every seat belt assembly shall be of a type the designation of which shall be any of the following:

(a) a lap belt which is a seat belt assembly that is anchored at two points and passes across the front of the wearer’s pelvic region from one side of the hip to the other side;

(b) a diagonal belt which is a seat belt assembly, that is anchored at two points and passes diagonally across the front of the chest from the hip to the opposite shoulder;

(c) a three point belt which is a seat belt assembly, that is anchored at three points and passes across the front of the wearer’s pelvic region and across the front of the chest from the hip to the opposite shoulder;

(d) any other seat belt assembly that is duly certified by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards.

Acceptable
seat belt
assembly

Required
standard of
seat belt
assemblies

4. (1) Every—

- (a) rigid part of a seat belt assembly namely the release devices, retractors and belt adjusting devices; and
- (b) strap of a seat belt assembly namely the restraining and deployment straps and their material, weave, dimensions and strength,

shall conform to either the Trinidad and Tobago Standard, TTS 31 60 505—Seat Belt Assemblies for Automobiles or the Trinidad and Tobago Standard, TTS 31 60 519—Seat Belt Assemblies for Motor Vehicles or any other standard approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards.

(2) Every seat belt assembly shall have legibly and permanently affixed to it a label showing a mark of certification approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) which shall include one or more of the following:

- (a) the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) standard mark;
- (b) the Japanese Industrial Standard Mark (JIS);
- (c) an indication of conformity to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS 290);
- (d) an approved European Economic Community Mark (EEC);
- (e) an approved Economic Commission for Europe Mark (ECE);
- (f) the British Standards Institute Kitemark (BSI);
- (g) the Australian Standard Mark;
- (h) any other mark approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS).

(3) The label referred to in subregulation (2) shall also have legibly and permanently marked on it the name of the manufacturer of the seat belt or his trade mark and country of origin.

Anchorage
points

5. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with anchorage points which shall conform to any standard approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards.

All motor
vehicles to be
fitted with
seat belt
assemblies

6. (1) Every motor vehicle shall have fitted to the front seat three-point seat belt assemblies.

(2) Every motor vehicle with seating that accommodates three people at the front shall be equipped with three-point seat belt assemblies fitted to the seating positions of the driver and the passenger at the extreme left or right, as the case may be, and a lap belt in the seating position between that of the driver and the passenger.

(3) The diagonal seat belt assembly may be fitted to a seating position in the front of the vehicle only if there is a compensatory knee panel fitted to the dashboard panel of the vehicle at the seating position in which the diagonal belt is fitted.

7. Every seat belt assembly shall be securely affixed to the anchorage points and shall be designed, constructed, installed, maintained, and worn in such a manner that when deployed it will operate satisfactorily and thereby reduce the risk of injury to the person wearing it in the event of a collision or abrupt vehicle deceleration by limiting the mobility of the wearer's body. Additional requirements in respect of seat belt assemblies

8. (1) Every seat belt shall be installed in such a manner that— Proper installation and configuration of seat belts

- (a) the straps are not liable to assume a dangerous configuration; and
- (b) when deployed, the risk of the strap slipping from the shoulder and the risk of the straps deteriorating through contact with rigid parts of the vehicle or seat structure is reduced to a minimum.

(2) The installation and configuration of all seat belts and any compensatory knee panels shall conform to either—

- (a) the Trinidad and Tobago Standard (TTS) 31 60 505;
- (b) the Trinidad and Tobago Standard (TTS) 31 60 519; or
- (c) any other standard approved by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards.

9. (1) A person who desires to be exempt from wearing a seat belt on grounds other than medical grounds shall apply for an exemption certificate from the Transport Commissioner. Exemption certificate

(2) The Transport Commissioner in providing an applicant with an exemption certificate shall indicate on the certificate whether the exemption is to be permanent or temporary and, if temporary, the duration of the exemption.

(3) A person who holds a valid exemption certificate signed by the Transport Commissioner and has the certificate in his possession shall be exempt from wearing a seat belt.

(4) A holder of a valid exemption certificate or a medical certificate occupying the front seat of a motor vehicle in motion who is not wearing a seat belt shall have either on his person or in the motor vehicle his certificate for production as required under subregulation (5).

(5) A person referred to in subregulation (4) shall, on being so required by any member of the Police Service, give his name and address and produce his certificate.

(6) A person who fails to comply with either subregulation (4) or (5) is liable to a fine of five hundred dollars.

Commence-
ment

10. These Regulations come into effect on the 1st day of January, 1995.

Dated this 9th day of November, 1994.

C. IMBERT
Minister of Works and Transport