



Seat Belts

Taxi Compliance Information Sheet 2

The Road Traffic Act 1988 and Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1993 requires users of vehicles to be properly restrained. There are some exemptions which apply to Licensed Vehicles :

Hackney Carriage Drivers:

The requirements to wear a seatbelt do not apply to the driver of a Hackney Carriage while it is being used for seeking hire, or answering a call for hire, or carrying a passenger for hire.

If you are not “working” you must wear a seatbelt. If working, and your journey starts outside of your Council area (taking PH work), then the PHD rules apply to you.

Private Hire Drivers:

The requirements to wear a seatbelt do not apply to the driver of a Private Hire Vehicle while it is being used to carry a pre-booked passenger. It should be worn at all other times.

HC/PH Passengers:

There is no requirement for HC's or PHV's to carry child seats, so the following rules apply :

If the vehicle has a fixed partition screen between the front and rear seats, there is no requirement for children in the rear to use restraints.

All children must use a correct child restraint if in the front seat. If it's a rear facing child restraint, the front airbag must be deactivated.

A child under 3 is exempt from using a child restraint on the rear seat if there is not one available, but remember they count as a passenger and must have their own seat.

A child aged 3 to 11 and under 135 cms in height must use an adult seat belt on the rear seat if there is no child restraint available.

A child aged 12 or 13, or any child over 135 cms in height, must wear an adult seat belt on the rear seat if no child restraint is available.

Anyone aged 14 and over must wear a seat belt

Also:

It makes no difference what type of road (motorway, A road, cul de sac etc) you are on, the rules are the same.

Just because you or passengers may be exempt, it doesn't mean you can't wear your seatbelt anyway. In the event of an accident, it can make the difference between a minor injury and a fatality. We all want to go home safe to our family and friends, and I would strongly recommend drivers always wear a seatbelt unless there is a good and lawful reason not to.

Some people have a medical exemption from wearing a seatbelt, and they will have a certificate.

There are other exemptions from wearing a seatbelt, but they are the same for any driver and this sheet focuses on Licensed Vehicles only.

Failing to wear a seat belt is a fine of £100 (no points) or prosecution. Adults are responsible for themselves, but the driver is liable for offences committed by children.

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced for the benefit of Driver, Vehicle and Operator licence holders by Police Constable 4645 Patrick QUINTON, Taxi Compliance Officer, The Bridewell Police Station, Bristol, BS1 2AA

taxis@avonandsomerset.police.uk

To join the "Taxi Cop" WhatsApp group, and get information about PC Quinton's work, news updates and licensing/law updates, send a message to 07469 400832. Your details will not be visible to any other members of the group and your privacy is protected.

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