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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

(Forty-sixth session, 14-16 March 2005,  
agenda item 5 (e))

**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTIONS R.E.1 AND R.E.2**

Increasing seatbelt usage

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON SEATBELTS  
AND CHILD RESTRAINTS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

**A. Introduction**

Motor vehicle crashes represent a major cause of fatality and injury, both in highly motorized, as well as developing countries. This is an issue that is a major public health problem, predicted to become even more of a global challenge over the next several decades. The use of safety belts and child restraint systems are the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries to vehicle occupants. Increasing the use of safety belts is also seen as the most effective defensive step individuals can take to reduce serious injury from the reckless behaviour of, for example, impaired drunk and drugged motorists and drivers displaying aggressive behaviour on the roads.

This questionnaire, developed by the small working Group especially created to study increasing seatbelt use, was approved by the UNECE Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) at its 45<sup>th</sup> session. Please refer to working document TRANS/WP.1/2003/15 "Use of Seat Belts", (available at this address: <http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/wp12003.html>), for further information on the purpose and work mandate of this Group.

**B. Explanation**

- The most appropriate person to fill out this survey would be a senior government official who has ongoing responsibility for managing and directing your country's policies, programmes and practices related to seatbelt and child restraint use.
- Child restraints refers to a separate seat or device, used in concert with the vehicle, that secures the child, generally using the vehicle's seatbelt devices, e.g., infant seats, booster seats, etc.
- Please attach, on a separate continuation sheet, to this questionnaire any further explanations to any of the questions that you feel are necessary.

**In order to facilitate the exploitation of the replies to this questionnaire,  
please complete any written information in English or French.**

**C. Overview**

1. What strategies does your Government use to raise seatbelt and child restraint use?

**Tick relevant boxes**

	<b>Seatbelts</b>	<b>Child restraints</b>
Legislation		
Enforcement		
Education		
Public information campaigns		
Other: please specify: ..... .....		

**D. Data/Statistics**

2. Does your Government routinely collect detailed information about road traffic crashes that result in death or injury?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Does that data include information about whether seatbelts/child restraints were in use at the time of the crash?

**Seatbelts:**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Child restraints:**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

4a. Do you routinely collect data on seatbelt/child restraint use?

**Seatbelts:**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Child restraints:**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

\*\* If yes, what was the most recent usage percentage?

Seating Positions	Front seat						Back seat				
	Driver	Passenger	Children under 12				Passengers	Children under 12			
			FFCRS <sup>a</sup>	RWCRC <sup>b</sup>	Booster	Seatbelt		FFCRS <sup>a</sup>	RWCRC <sup>b</sup>	Booster	Seatbelt
Usage %											
Date Collected	__/__/__	__/__/__	__/__/__				__/__/__	__/__/__			

a FFCRS: forward facing child restraints.

b RWCRS: rearward facing child restraints

*Explanatory note:* We are considering children under 12 because many countries categorise over 12-year olds as adults requiring seatbelts. If, however, your country collects data based on different age bands, please provide us with information on the way your country proceeds in an annex and provide us with a % rate for each age band.

4b. If you are unable to make a breakdown by restraint category, what is the percentage of all children under 12 that are restrained?

Percentage: .....% - date collected: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

5. How do you collect information about seatbelt and child restraint use? Check all that apply:

**Seatbelts:**

- ☐ Observation  
☐ Crash data  
☐ Self-reported by occupants  
☐ Opinion/telephone surveys  
☐ Other, please state:

.....  
.....

**Child restraints:**

- ☐ Observation  
☐ Crash data  
☐ Self-reported by occupants  
☐ Opinion/telephone surveys  
☐ Other, please state:

.....  
.....

## E. Legislation

6. In your country, are vehicles legally required to have seatbelts fitted/installed?

		Front			Rear			Centre Rear		
		Yes	No	Year	Yes	No	Year	Yes	No	Year
<b>Cars</b>	Passenger cars									
	Non-commercial vans, multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) <sup>1</sup>									
	Sports utility vehicles (SUVs) <sup>2</sup>									
<b>Commercial vehicles</b> (trucks, goods carriers, commercial vans)	<b>Light:</b> 3500 kg or less									
	<b>Heavy :</b> (more than 3500 kg)									
<b>Buses</b>	Public buses	Urban								
		Non-urban								
	Tourist buses/ Motor coaches									
	Minibuses									
	School buses									

<sup>1</sup> MPVs or non-commercial vans (for the US and Canada) are also called people carriers. They provide space for more vehicle occupants than in a normal passenger car (e.g. 7 seats) and provide more luggage capacity.

<sup>2</sup> SUVs: e.g. 4 x 4, pick-up trucks.

7. Do you have an international or domestic technical standard for seatbelt installation/performance?

☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, please state: .....  
.....  
.....

8a. Is your seatbelt legislation

☐ Federal/National ☐ State/Provincial

\*\* Extra comments: .....  
.....  
.....

- 8b. Do you have legislation making seatbelt use mandatory when the vehicle is equipped with seatbelts ?

				Front			Rear		
				Yes	No	Year	Yes	No	Year
Cars	In any circumstance								
	In town only								
	Outside town only								
Commercial Vehicles	Light: 3500 kg or less	In any circumstance							
		In town only							
		Outside town only							
	Heavy : more than 3500 kg	In any circumstance							
		In town only							
		Outside town only							
Buses	Urban buses	In any circumstances	Driver						
			Passenger						
		In town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
		Outside town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
	Non-urban buses	In any circumstances	Driver						
			Passenger						
		In town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
		Outside town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
	Tourist/ Motor coaches	In any circumstances	Driver						
			Passenger						
		In town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
		Outside town only	Driver						
			Passenger						

				Front			Rear		
				Yes	No	Year	Yes	No	Year
Buses	Minibuses	In any circumstances	Driver						
			Passenger						
		In town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
		Outside town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
	School buses	In any circumstance	Driver						
			Passenger						
		In town only	Driver						
			Passenger						
		Outside town only	Driver						
			Passenger						

9a. Are there exemptions for mandatory use?

☐

Yes

☐

No

\*\* If yes, please state:

☐ Medical reasons

☐ Pregnancy

☐ Size (too small or too big)

☐ Taxi driver in service

☐ Police

☐ Fire vehicles

☐ Ambulances

☐ Vehicles making frequent stops (e.g. mail services in town, vehicles carrying out deliveries)

☐ Driving in reverse

☐ Driving in non-public areas (parking, garages, yards, ...)

☐ Other, please state:

.....  
 .....  
 .....

9b. When there are medical reasons, does an official medical certificate have to be present for checking?

☐

Yes (What is the maximum duration: .....)

☐

No

**9c.** Does this certificate have a symbol recognised at an international level?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**9d.** Does your seatbelt legislation currently allow the carrying of more passengers in a vehicle than there are seat belts?

☐ Yes ☐ No  
☐ Not covered in this legislation

If so, please explain how your country deals with this issue:

.....  
.....  
.....

**10a.** Do you have legislation making child restraint use mandatory?

☐ National/Federal Law  
☐ State/Provincial Law

	Restraint legislation for Front and Rear		Restraint legislation for Front		Restraint legislation for Rear	
		Date enacted		Date enacted		Date enacted
<b>Yes</b>						
<b>No</b>						

**10b.** Please provide a breakdown of legal requirements by age bands and specific child restraint type\*:

Age band (e.g. 0-2)	Type of restraint	Seating position (if specified)	
		Front	Rear

\* Child restraint: forward facing (FFCRS) or rearward facing (RWCRS) child restraint or booster seat.

Would you like to add any other observations? (e.g. is a particular child restraint not allowed in a particular seating position ?)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**11. Are drivers in buses/taxis obliged to carry child restraints?**

**Buses**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Taxis**

☐ Yes

☐ No

\*\* If yes, please give details:.....

.....  
 .....

**F. Enforcement**

**12a. What are the sanctions for violations of seatbelt/child restraint laws?**

		Seatbelts	Child restraints
Monetary fines-Amount:	<b>Driver</b>		
	<b>Passenger</b>		
Penalty points against driver's license, if applicable. <b>Specify number/total points</b>		__ / __	__ / __
Other Please state: (e.g. your country perhaps applies progressive penalties - % of minimum salary or fines dependent on salary) ..... .....			

**12b. Who in a vehicle has the legal responsibility to ensure that adult passengers are properly restrained? The person who has legal responsibility would be the person who receives a ticket from the police if the law has been broken.**

☐ Driver responsible for seatbelt wearing by all occupants

☐ Each occupant including the driver responsible for own seatbelt wearing



**12c.** Who in a vehicle has legal responsibility to ensure that child passengers are properly restrained?

- ☐ Driver ☐ Parent  
☐ Adult passenger ☐ Owner

**12d.** As of which age is it the child's responsibility to ensure that he/she uses a seatbelt?

- ☐ 12 ☐ 14  
☐ Other, please state:

.....  
**13.** Are the police involved in any seatbelt/child restraint activities other than enforcing seatbelt/child restraint laws?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, please state:

- ☐ Prevention  
☐ Training  
☐ Advice (for instance, distribute leaflets on the roadside)  
☐ Awareness classes in schools  
☐ Other, please describe:

.....  
.....  
**G. Education**

**14.** Do you have a road safety education programme in schools?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (If your response is no, please go directly to question 17)

**15.** At what age does the education programme start?

.....  
**16a.** Does the education programme include information about seatbelts?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, what type of information is included?

.....  
.....  
.....

**16b** Does the education programme include information about child restraints ?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**\*\* If yes, what type of information is included?**

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.....  
.....  
.....

**17.** Does your country, at any level (national, regional, State) inform parents/carers (e.g. grandparents) about correct child restraint use?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**18.** In the last 12 months, has your Government advertised seatbelt messages using the following media? Please tick all that apply:

**Seatbelts:**

- ☐ TV campaigns
- ☐ Radio campaigns
- ☐ Cinema advertising
- ☐ Outdoor/posters/Billboards
- ☐ Leaflets
- ☐ Print e.g. newspapers, magazines
- ☐ Internet, new media
- ☐ Public relations
- ☐ Other, please describe:

.....  
.....

**Child restraints:**

- ☐ TV campaigns
- ☐ Radio campaigns
- ☐ Cinema advertising
- ☐ Outdoor/posters/Billboards
- ☐ Leaflets
- ☐ Print: newspapers, magazines
- ☐ Internet, new media
- ☐ Public relations
- ☐ Other, please describe:

.....  
.....

**19.** Do you use shock tactics in advertising?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**\*\* If yes, how does the impact compare with more subtle tactics?**

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.....  
.....

**H. Evaluation and research**

**20.** Do you routinely measure the effectiveness of your seatbelt programme?

☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, how do you determine the impact of:

a) individual interventions (e.g. a new law enacted, a new TV advertisement)

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b) the entire seatbelt strategy (e.g. seatbelt wearing rates, reduction of casualty rates, awareness of seatbelt messages, publicity, etc.)

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**21.** Have you carried out research into the characteristics of people who don't use safety restraints?

☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, how did you use the information?

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**22.** Do you enlist the support of third parties to help focus on and improve seatbelt use among some low use groups, e.g., young men 16-24?

☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\* If yes, please give examples:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**23.(a)** Does your seatbelt programme offer your stakeholders incentives, social support or rewards to help increase seatbelt/child restraint use such as for instance:

- ☐ Provide grants to fund seatbelt programmes;
- ☐ Provide law enforcement departments with additional police equipment;
- ☐ Give awards to enforcement bodies or to local governments (States, provinces, regions, etc) for obtaining high seatbelt usage rates;
- ☐ Provide approved child safety seats or booster seats to parents through loans, low-cost rentals or giveaways;
- ☐ Provide financial incentives to local government (States, provinces, regions, etc) that adopt mandatory use laws;
- ☐ Promote safety education by extending a grant programme for local governments (States, provinces, regions, etc) to promote child passenger safety education;
- ☐ Insurance premium incentives to vehicle users using approved child seats;
- ☐ Other, please specify:

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**23. (b)** If your seatbelt programme provides such incentives or support, please indicate to which groups such support is provided:

**Seatbelts**

- ☐ enforcement bodies
- ☐ other governmental bodies
- ☐ vehicle users
- ☐ other, please state:

**Child restraints**

- ☐ enforcement bodies
- ☐ other governmental bodies
- ☐ vehicle users
- ☐ other, please state:

**\*\* If yes, please give examples for seatbelts :**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**\*\* If yes, please give examples for child restraints:**

.....  
.....  
.....  
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\* \* \*

**Name of person responding to this survey:**.....

**Title:** .....

**Service and/or administration:**.....

**May we contact you if we have questions about any of your answers?**

☐ Yes      ☐ No

**E-mail:**.....

**Telephone Number:**.....

**Fax Number:**.....

**Thank you for completing the questionnaire.**

*Please send your reply to:*

**the UNECE Transport Division secretariat:** [roadsafety@unece.org](mailto:roadsafety@unece.org)  
or **Fax :** (+ 41) 22 917 00 39

*with a copy to:*

**Ms. Maria VEGEGA:** [maria.vegega@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:maria.vegega@nhtsa.dot.gov) or **Fax:** (+1) 202 366 7096

or **Ms. Rita CUYBERS:** [r.cuypers@fiafoundation.com](mailto:r.cuypers@fiafoundation.com) or **Fax:** (+33 1) 43 12 58 21

**Thank you also for replying to the questions in the following section.**

## QUESTIONS OF A SUBJECTIVE CHARACTER (IDEAS SECTION)

We are aware that the questions in this Ideas Section are of a subjective character. **They will therefore not be attributed in the analysis of the questionnaire.** We are trying to solicit ideas about factors leading to success in increasing seatbelt/child restraint use and how obstacles to this objective can be removed. The purpose of these questions is to provide Member States with ideas on how to improve occupant protection.

**24.a** How strictly are your seatbelt/child restraint laws enforced?

**Tick relevant boxes**

	Seatbelts	Child restraints
Very strictly		
Strictly		
Moderately		
Rarely		
Not at all		

**24.b.** To what extent do you engage non-governmental bodies in promoting road safety activities, particularly seatbelt usage and child restraints?

**Tick relevant boxes**

	Seatbelts	Child restraints
Very often		
Often		
Moderately		
Rarely		
Never		

**24.c.** In priority order, name the three most significant factors that are responsible for increasing seatbelt use in your country.

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.....

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.....

**24. d.** In priority order, name the three most significant factors that are responsible for increasing child restraint use in your country:

.....

.....

.....

**24.e.** In priority order, name the three biggest obstacles your Government faces to increasing seatbelt use in your country (e.g. exemptions for certain drivers or occupants).

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.....  
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**24.f.** In priority order, what are the three actions you would take to increase seatbelt use if you were solely responsible for your government's seatbelt programme?

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.....

**24.g.** In priority order, what are the three actions you would take to increase child restraint use if you were solely responsible for your Government's programme ?

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**24.h.** Is there anything else that you might want us to know about your country's seatbelt and child restraint programmes?

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