

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## REVISED AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR CHILD RESTRAINTS IN VEHICLES

- **Australian Standard now allows ISOFIX-compatible lower attachment connectors in some types of child restraint, while retaining Australian requirements for top tether straps**
- **ISOFIX compatible connectors provide a clear indication of correct installation**
- **New provisions for rear facing restraints allow children to remain rear facing for longer**
- **Revised standard caters for low birth weight infants**

Standards Australia has announced changes to the joint Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1754:2013 *Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles*.

“The revised standard maintains rigorous Australian requirements for restraining children in vehicles, but now allows ISOFIX-compatible lower attachment connectors to be included as an additional option in the design of certain types of child restraints”, said Colin Blair, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia.

This means users will be able to either use the ISOFIX-compatible lower attachment connector or the vehicle seatbelt (threaded through the child restraint) as the mechanism for attaching the seat to the car at its base. When correctly installed, both systems offer comparable levels of protection.

It is intended that this change will increase the likelihood of correct installation of child restraints. Lower anchorage attachment systems (known as ISOFIX in Europe and Japan, LATCH in North America, and UAS in Canada) enable child restraints to attach to permanent brackets inside some vehicle seats, providing a clear indication of correct installation.

“Unlike some overseas systems, the standard will still require the use of top tether straps for child restraints, in addition to the mechanism for attaching the seat to the car at its base. The use of a top tether strap has been a requirement of the standard since it was first published,” Mr Blair said.

A correctly installed restraint using a vehicle seatbelt-style attachment (threaded through the child restraint) together with the top tether strap will continue to be acceptable under AS/NZS 1754:2013.

Other changes to the standard include new provisions for rear-facing restraints that allow children to remain in a rear facing position for longer, and revised test methods allowing child restraints to be designated as suitable for low birth weight infants.

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