

Seatbelt Exemption Certificates - Fact Sheet*

Seatbelts and the law

Wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt is compulsory in Queensland for all motor vehicle occupants. Failure to wear a seatbelt is one of the fatal five behaviours that contribute to road trauma.

Drivers and passengers are around nine times more likely to be killed in a road crash if they are not wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt.

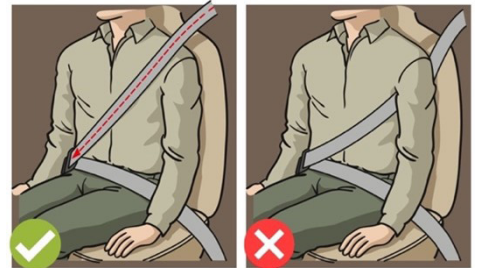
Correct use of a seatbelt

To save your life and avoid a fine, all drivers and passengers must ensure that their seatbelt:

- is worn over their shoulder, running across their chest
- is worn across their lap and buckled low on their hip.

Seatbelts are designed to work together with other vehicle safety measures to protect occupants in a crash. A properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt:

- slows the occupant's body in a crash
- distributes the force of the impact to stronger parts of the body
- reduces the risk of ejection
- prevents collision with the vehicle interior.



When is a seatbelt exemption certificate appropriate?

Some people may be exempt from wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt due to a medical condition or disability. In these very limited circumstances, doctors may issue a seatbelt exemption certificate.

Obligations of health practitioners

Seatbelt exemptions due to a medical condition or disability should be an **extremely rare exception**.

Doctors must consult the *Assessing Fitness to Drive* standards when considering if a seatbelt exemption certificate can be issued.

Doctors have ethical and legal obligations to give clear advice about the severe risks associated with not wearing a seatbelt, or wearing a seatbelt incorrectly, which can include **serious injury or death**. These risks should be weighed against any potential pain or discomfort associated with seatbelt use.

If you or a passenger in your vehicle is unable to comfortably wear a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt due to a medical condition or disability, consult with your doctor about alternative restraint options before asking for a seatbelt exemption certificate.

* This page is for information only and does not need to be carried by the certificate holder.



Important information for the certificate holder

- The driver of a vehicle fitted with seatbelts must carry this certificate and show it to a police officer, if requested.
- You may also register a copy of this certificate with us:
 - online at qld.gov.au/SeatbeltExemptions
 - by email to seatbeltexemptions@tmr.qld.gov.au
 - by post to PO Box 645, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350
 - in person at a Transport and Main Roads customer service centre.

Register online

Go to qld.gov.au/SeatbeltExemptions or scan the QR code below:



Certificate holder's details (please print)

Family name		Given name/s	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Residential address			
<input type="text"/>		State/Territory	Postcode
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Driver licence/reference number (if you have one)		State/Territory/Country (if licence issued)	Date of birth
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email address		Telephone number	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Certificate holder's signature		Date	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	

Important information for the doctor

A doctor must complete this form to certify that they have examined the person, whose details appear above, and assessed that the person should not wear a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt due to a medical condition or disability that prevents the person from being safely restrained. This assessment **must** be conducted in accordance with the national medical standards set out in the Austroads *Assessing fitness to drive for commercial and private vehicle drivers* publication.

The granting of an exemption from the use of seatbelts places a person's safety at considerable risk. Exemptions due to a medical condition or disability should be extremely rare.

- Is this person under the age of 16?
 - Yes Has the standard AS/NZS 4370:2013 *Restraint of children with disabilities, or medical conditions, in motor vehicles* been consulted for alternative restraint options?
 - Yes Continue to question 2.
 - No This standard should be reviewed prior to a seatbelt exemption being issued. Please refer the patient to a suitable medical practitioner. More information is available at kidsafeqld.com.au.
 - No Continue to question 2.
- A seatbelt exemption certificate should only be issued to a person whose medical condition prevents them from wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt. Does this person suffer from:
 - Musculoskeletal condition or deformities (including amputations) – exemption possible for passengers only, depending on the exact nature of the condition
 - Obesity – modification of restraint is advised. If not feasible, an exemption is possible
 - Other – please specify below.

Note: Skin conditions, including sunburn and eczema are not valid medical reasons to issue a seatbelt exemption certificate. Patients should be advised about the use of padding on the seatbelt to prevent irritation.

3. Are there any conditions that this person must comply with?

Yes Please outline below.

No Continue to question 4.

4. Declaration

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency registration number

I, _____ doctor registered in the state/territory of:

_____ having examined the Austroads *Assessing fitness to drive* publication and the person whose details appear above, on ____ / ____ / ____, certify that in my opinion, this person should not wear a seatbelt due to a medical condition/disability for the period stated below (**must not exceed 12 months**).

Doctor's stamp

Doctor's signature

Date

Issue date

/ /

Expiry date (**must not exceed 12 months**)

/ /

Doctor's business address

State/Territory
Postcode

Email address

Telephone number

Privacy statement: The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) provides this certificate under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation to allow a doctor to certify that the person named as the certificate holder should not wear a seatbelt due to a medical condition or disability. This certificate must be produced to a police officer by the driver upon request, to support the exemption. If you, or a third party with your consent, provide this certificate to TMR, your contact details may be used by TMR to contact you about this exemption where required. This information will not be further used or disclosed to a third party without your consent unless authorised or required to by law.