

## **New Regulations for the wearing of Safety Belts and Child Restraint Systems in Coaches and Minibuses**

1. The Regulation applies to all Coaches and Minibuses to the use of a seat which is fitted with a safety belt
2. Subject to exemptions every adult and every child of 3 years of age or more occupying a seat shall wear a safety belt or an appropriate child restraint system
3. A person (other than a person under 14 years of age) who fails to comply with this Regulation commits an offence
4. The driver of a large public service vehicle is not obliged to carry a passenger who without showing reasonable just cause fails to comply this Regulation
5. This Regulation applies to coaches and minibuses which is fitted with safety belts on one or more of the passenger seats
6. The owner of a vehicle shall ensure that passengers are informed of the requirement to wear safety belts while they are seated and while the bus is in motion unless the passenger is subject to an exemption
7. Passengers shall be deemed to have been informed of the requirement to wear a Safety Belt provided they have been alerted to the presence of safety belts by at least one of the following methods –
  - 7.1. an announcement by the driver or the conductor of the vehicle
  - 7.2. where the passengers comprise entirely of a single group or assembly an announcement by the courier, escort, group leader or supervisor, as the case may be, accompanying the group or assembly or by the driver
  - 7.3. an audio-visual presentation (e.g. video)
  - 7.4. a sign prominently displayed at each seating position for which a safety belt is provided
  - 7.5. a pictogram as in figure 1 as set out below prominently displayed at each seating position for which a safety belt is provided.
8. A person who fails to comply with this Regulation commits an offence
9. The owner of a vehicle does not commit an offence for a failure to comply with 7.3 to 7.5 if it can be shown that the failure was as a result of damage caused by users of the vehicle and the rectification of the damage was not reasonably practicable for the owner in the circumstances

Figure 1

(Colours: a white figure on a blue background)

