



The law on child car seats

Children must use a car seat until they are 12 years old or 135cm tall, whichever comes first.

You must use a car seat that is right for the child's weight, height and age.

Only EU-approved child car seats can be used in the UK (and other European countries). These have an orange sticker or label showing a capital 'E' in a circle.

It is illegal to use a rear facing car seat in a front seat with an active airbag. Please consult your car's manual regarding using a forward facing seat or booster in the front passenger seat.

ECE Regulation 44/04

Child's Weight	Weight Group	Car Seat
Birth to 10kg	0	Rear facing infant seat or lie-flat car bed
Birth to 13kg	0+	Rear facing infant seat
9 to 18kg	1	Rear or forward facing child seat
9 to 25kg	1-2	Rear or forward facing child seat
15 to 25kg	2	Booster seat or booster cushion
22 to 36kg	3	Booster seat or booster cushion

ECE Regulation 129 or i-Size

Child's Height	Child's Age	Car Seat
40 to 83cm	Birth to 15 months	Rear facing infant seat
67 to 105cm	6 months to 4 years	Rear or forward facing child seat *

*** i-Size seats must not be used forward facing before the child is 15 months old.**

Some car seats cover more than one weight (R44/04) or height (R129) group in one combination seat.

Regulation 129 will eventually replace R44/04, but currently both types of child car seats are available to buy and are legal to use. i-Size seats for older taller children will be phased in over the next few years.

Exceptions to the law

Children aged 3 to 12 can legally travel in a private car without a car seat:

- When there are two occupied child seats in the car and a third won't fit.
- On short journeys of unexpected necessity in someone else's car.
- When there are no seat belts fitted in the back of the car.

Children aged 0 to 12 can legally travel without a car seat in a licensed taxi or a minicab. Babies and toddlers up to 3 years old must be carried on an adult's lap and older children must use a seat belt.

These exceptions only exist for practical reasons, it is never safe for a child to travel in any car without a car seat. You should try to use a car seat, or avoid car journeys where a car seat is not available, whenever possible.