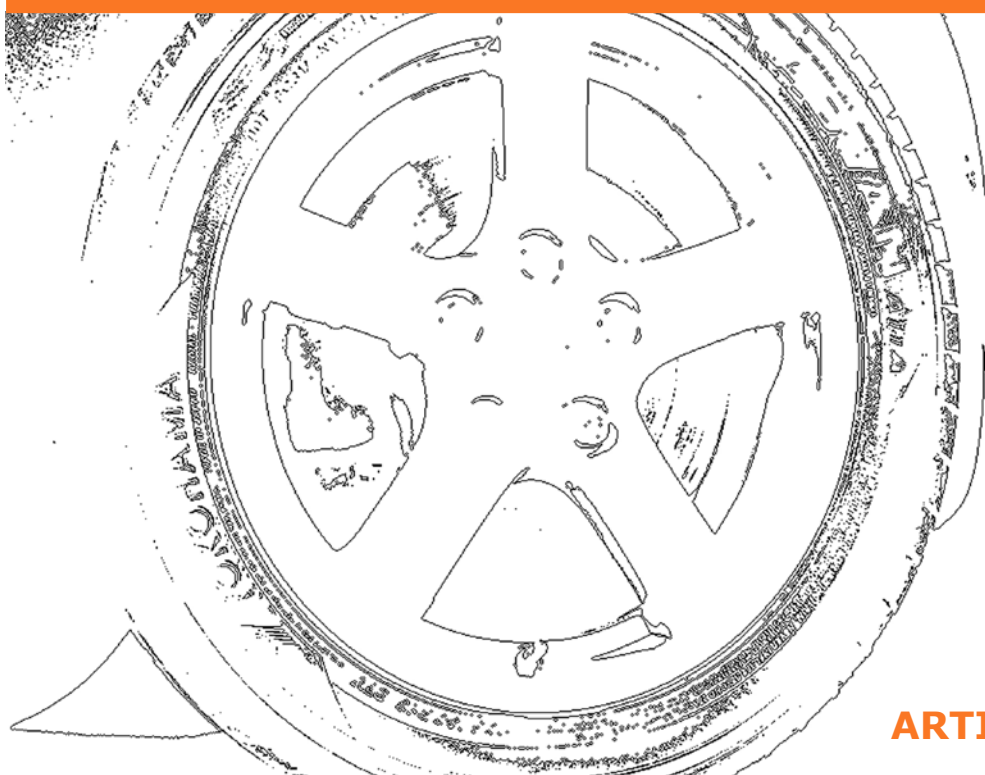


# Knowledge

# BANK



**ARTICLE 22**

Laws on seatbelt wearing

### Laws on seatbelt wearing

**The law states that seat belts must be worn when they are fitted to the vehicle.**

There are some exemptions:

- Drivers of emergency services vehicles
- Service engineers taking vehicles on test-drives under trade plates for maintenance purposes
- Licensed taxi drivers plying for hire or carrying passengers
- Drivers of private hire vehicles that are for hire or carrying passengers
- During a driving test, driving test examiners who believe that wearing a seat belt could cause an increased level of danger
- Delivery and collection drivers on local rounds
- Any driver when reversing a vehicle (or an instructor with a learner driver who is reversing a vehicle)
- People holding medical exemption certificates (these are awarded if a doctor believes your medical condition makes it inadvisable for you to wear a seat belt)

Everyone in the vehicle must wear a seat belt. A child under 14 may wear an approved restraint instead.

If an adult passenger refuses to wear a seat belt, they are personally responsible. If a child under 14 refuses to wear one, the driver is responsible.

There have been some ill-advised suggestions that seatbelts are no longer the best form of restraint and that drivers and front-seat passengers may be able to rely on the airbag alone. However, where airbags are fitted it is vitally important that seat belts be worn too.

Airbags are designed to deploy with a slight delay to allow the seat belt to do its job of restraining the passenger or driver. If seatbelts are not worn the airbag will deploy too late and will not be effective.

### Child restraints

Most fleets allow their staff to fit child restraints to company vehicles. If these are fitted, the driver must ensure that the manufacturer's instructions are closely followed, that the right restraint is selected for the car, and the age and size of the child, and that rearwards-facing restraints are not used in the front passenger seats.