

Safety checklist for older restraints

- ✓ Check the date stamp or sticker to see if the restraint is over 10 years old – if so, recommend that the client does not use the restraint. If there is no date of manufacture displayed recommend that the client does not use the restraint as there is no way of telling how old the child restraint is.
- ✓ Check the seat cover. Essential padding should be intact. Recommend seat covers be replaced if they are worn.
- ✓ Remove the seat cover and inspect the plastic shell and metal components for damage, cracks, wear or other abnormalities.
- ✓ Check for stress marks in the frame of the restraint.
- ✓ Inspect the harness straps and stitching on the harness. Mild "furriness" of the webbing has not been shown to be a problem. Signs of stretching, fraying, cuts, burrs or other damage indicate the need for replacement.
- ✓ Engage and disengage the buckle several times (listen for an audible 'click') to find out if it works correctly. Crotch buckles that are cracked may jam under load or fail in a crash and therefore need to be replaced. Buckle components have been tested under severe corrosive conditions. If a buckle has had something spilt on or in it, or has food scraps jammed into it, give it a thorough rinse in warm water. Under no circumstances should soaps or detergents be used.
- ✓ Re-fit the cover then reattach the harness straps. It is important to ensure that the harness is reassembled correctly. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for the correct procedure.
- ✓ If there are no manufacturer's instructions, recommend to the client that they do not use the restraint until you are able to refer to the manufacturer's instructions or a central administrator who can advise.
- ✓ If you have any concerns regarding the restraint, do not fit it, no matter how persistent the client might be.