

Issued by the

Administrator of Vehicle Standards

in consultation with the

Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board

comprising Commonwealth, State and Territory representatives



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

CIRCULAR NO.4D-3-1

INTERPRETATIONS

Attached are interpretations issued by the Board in respect of Australian Design Rule. No. 4D - Seat Belts (July 1985). They should be read in conjunction with Circular No.0-11-1.

INTERPRETATION NO. 1 (Clause 4D.4.6)

Question: Clause 4D.4.6 describes accessibility requirements for that part of the seat belt assembly which does not include the strap designed to pass over the torso of the occupant. Do these requirements apply in the case where this part of the seat belt assembly does not pass between the seat cushion and seat back? (e.g. when the seat belt passes through a slot in the seat cushion).

Answer: The intent of the requirement is to prevent displacement of the seat belt buckle to a position from which it cannot be retrieved easily. In the event that the part of the seat belt assembly referred to in Clause 4D.4.6 does not pass between the seat cushion and seat back a positive design feature is required to prevent displacement of the buckle into a position from which it cannot be easily retrieved by a person occupying the seat; e.g. a restraining strap passing around the belt webbing and sewn into or near the slot.