

Limited review of the child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles mandatory standard

Overview

The ACCC invites you to have your say on the proposed updates to the mandatory standard for child restraints – [Consumer Protection Notice No. 3 of 2014 - Safety Standard: Child Restraint Systems for use in Motor Vehicles](#). The mandatory standard first came into effect in 1978 and was last updated in 2014.

The mandatory standard covers requirements for design, construction, performance, testing and informative labelling. It applies to child restraints (often referred to as car seats) and booster seats as well as their components. It does not apply to motor vehicle child restraints designed for children with a disability or to items that are an integrated feature of a motor vehicle, such as an anchor point.

About this review

We are conducting a limited review of the mandatory standard for child restraints. The purpose of this limited review is to:

- update the mandatory standard to reference the latest version of the voluntary Australian Standard, while maintaining the existing variations and exclusions.
- determine if adding dynamic references is appropriate – so updates to the referenced voluntary standard flow through to the mandatory standard.

We have not identified any overseas or international standards that offer a comparable level of safety and are suitable to reference as compliance options in the mandatory standard.

Significant changes such as altering the scope of the mandatory standard or other major requirements (such as performance measures) are not being considered in this review. These may be considered in a future comprehensive review.

We welcome your feedback on the options listed in this consultation.

You can read more about the reforms to the mandatory standard framework and limited reviews on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

How to make a submission

Interested parties are invited to comment on this consultation.

Submissions are due by **Friday 28 November 2025**.

This consultation survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. You can save your answers and return at any time to complete your submission. You do not need to complete all questions to make a valid submission.

You will be able to provide supporting documentation (if required) at the end of the consultation.

We prefer interested parties respond to the questions using the online survey linked at the bottom of this page.

If you are unable to make your submission through the ACCC Consultation Hub, you can post or email your submission to:

Director
Standards Reform Team
Consumer Product Safety Division
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131 Canberra ACT 2601

Email: ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au

If you are emailing or posting your submission, please include your name, organisation (if any) and contact details when making a submission.

Our preference is for submissions to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function.

Publication of submissions

All submissions will be treated as public documents and published on the [ACCC Consultation Hub](#) in accordance with the [ACCC's Information Policy](#), unless otherwise requested.

Any parties wishing to submit commercial-in-confidence material should clearly mark it as such and submit both a public version and commercial-in-confidence version of their submission, with reasons explaining why it is confidential. More information about the ACCC's treatment of confidential information can be found in the [ACCC's Information Policy](#).

Next steps after consultation

We will review submissions and determine our recommendation to the Minister about updating the mandatory standard.

We may consult with stakeholders again before the mandatory standard is finalised and will publish the outcome of this limited review on [the ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Accessibility

If you have any difficulty accessing any of the information on this page, please refer to our website's accessibility information. Alternatively, contact us by email at ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au or phone 1300 302 502 Monday to Friday between 11 am and 3 pm AEDT.

Background information

This page provides background information about the questions in this survey. You can save your answers and come back to this page at any time when completing this survey.

About the child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles was first introduced in 1978 to ensure child restraints supplied in Australia have key safety features to reduce the risk of bodily injury to a child passenger in the event of a motor vehicle impact.

The mandatory standard was last updated in 2014. It references and requires compliance with either the 2004, 2010 or 2013 versions of the voluntary Australian Standard for child restraints (AS/NZS 1754) with the variations outlined in the mandatory standard. This voluntary Australian Standard was updated in 2024.

Find out more about the mandatory standard on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Consultation issues

Retain the current mandatory safety standard (maintain the status quo)

If the status quo is maintained, there would be no change to the mandatory standard, and it would continue to reference the 2004, 2010 and 2013 versions of the voluntary Australian Standard. These voluntary standards have been superseded.

Maintaining the status quo would mean that the mandatory standard would not reference the 2024 version of the voluntary Australian Standard. Businesses would not be able to supply products that comply with the updated Australian Standard, unless they have additionally been tested to the 2004, 2010 or 2013 versions.

Consumers will have the same level of protection they have now but may miss out on safety improvements provided by the 2024 version of the voluntary Australian Standard.

Referencing the updated voluntary Australian Standard

The voluntary Australian Standard for child restraints (AS/NZS 1754) was updated by Standards Australia in 2024. We are consulting to determine the suitability of the 2024 version of this standard before making a recommendation to the Minister.

Where a mandatory standard allows for more than one version of a voluntary standard as a compliance option, suppliers can be required by the mandatory standard to include information on which compliance option(s) the product complies with. This compliance information could be marked on the product itself, the packaging, or in information provided with the product.

Specifying variations

The current mandatory standard references and varies the voluntary Australian Standard for child restraints (AS/NZS 1754) and we propose recommending that these variations are maintained in the updated mandatory standard.

Allowing mandatory standards to be dynamic

Mandatory standards can reference one or more voluntary standards. Voluntary standards are updated from time-to-time. Ordinarily, a mandatory standard would reference only the version of the voluntary standard that was in place when the reference was introduced into the mandatory standard.

Dynamic referencing means that the mandatory standard can reference a voluntary standard as it exists from time-to-time. This will allow updates to the listed voluntary standard to then flow through to the mandatory standard, keeping pace with global product safety developments.

We propose allowing a 6-month review period before any updates take effect in the mandatory standard. During this time, we will review these updates to ensure they are appropriate.

We can recommend to the Minister to stop an update flowing through to the mandatory standard where necessary.

Transition periods

Appropriate transition periods in the mandatory standard allow for:

- changes arising from this review to take effect superseded versions of the referenced
- standard remaining as compliance options for a specified time.

Transition periods allow businesses to:

- sell existing stock
- make manufacturing and design changes undertake
- testing to ensure compliance with an updated standard.

About you

You can save your responses in this survey and come back anytime to complete it.

Personal information collection notice

The **ACCC** will handle personal information collected in this survey in accordance with the **Australian Privacy Principles** .

If you choose to enter your email address, it will be used to acknowledge receipt of your survey responses, to provide you with a copy of those responses and for the purpose of contacting you in relation to your survey responses. It will not be disclosed without your consent, except where authorised or required by law.

Information about how to access and/or correct your personal information, and how to lodge a complaint in relation to the use or disclosure of your personal information, is set out in our **privacy policy** on our website.

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

This information will not be published. If you enter your email address you will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We'll email you if we need to ask more questions about your submission.

Email:

3 What is your organisation? (if applicable)

Organisation:

4 Do you consent to the ACCC publishing your submission?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, but do not publish my name

You are responsible for ensuring there is no information in your submission that can disclose your identity.

5 Do you agree that the mandatory standard for child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles should be updated?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes — continue with the survey to consider options for updating the mandatory standard.
- ☐ No, maintain the status quo.

If you selected no, please provide reasoning in the text box below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Provide reasoning

Currently referenced voluntary standard

The mandatory standard for child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles (**mandatory standard**) references the 2004, 2010 and 2013 versions of the voluntary Australian Standard AS/NZS 1754, with variations. This voluntary standard was updated in 2024.

All questions on this page relate to the 2024 version of the voluntary Australian Standard for child restraints – AS/NZS 1754:2024.

6 Do you agree that the mandatory standard should be updated to reference AS/NZS 1754:2024, while maintaining the existing variations and exclusions?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information or recommendations on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

7 Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference AS/NZS 1754:2024 as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Transition periods, compliance information and impacts on business

Each question relates to the child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles mandatory standard.

8 Transition periods allow time for suppliers to move from compliance with an older version of the standard to the new one. If the mandatory standard is updated to reference the 2024 version of the voluntary Australian Standard following this review, for how long should compliance with the 2004, 2010 and 2013 versions be allowed?

Provide your response below

9 Where a new version of a referenced voluntary standard is published in the future, how long should the superseded version remain as a compliance option?

Provide your response below

10 Do you agree that product packaging or information provided with the product should state which referenced voluntary standard the product complies with?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

11 If you answered 'yes' to Question 10, how should suppliers state which version of the referenced voluntary standard the product complies with?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ A label attached to the product
- ☐ Information labelled on product packaging
- ☐ Information provided with the product – can be included with other product information such as user instructions
- ☐ Any of the above
- ☐ Other – provide more information below

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

12 Referencing the updated voluntary Australian Standard AS/NZS 1754:2024 and making mandatory standards dynamic removes the need to test products to outdated Australian requirements.

Please provide any information, analysis or data about impacts on compliance costs and regulatory burden if the mandatory standard is updated. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Upload supporting documentation

13 Upload supporting documentation.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

Our preference is supporting documentation to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function.

Clearly label all documentation that is commercial-in-confidence.

Upload your supporting documentation.