

[LTO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. BGC-AO-99004, October 11, 1999]

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF SEAT BELT DEVICES AND SEAT BELT ANCHORAGE

Pursuant to Section 4(d)(1), RA 4136, in relation to the provisions of RA 8750 otherwise known as the "Seat Belts Use Act of 1999," the following Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) governing the installation and use of seat belts and seat belt anchorage are hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Order shall be known as the "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on the installation and use of seat belt devices."

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this IRR, the term:

(a) "Motorist" shall refer to the driver of a motor vehicle.

(b) "Seat belt device" shall refer to any strap webbing or similar device in the form of pelvic restraint or lap belt, upper torso restraint or shoulder strap or a combination thereof designed to secure a person in a motor vehicle in order to mitigate the results of any accident including all necessary buckles and other fasteners, and all hardware/ anchorage designed for installing such seat belt device in a motor vehicle.

(c) "Lap Belt or Two-Point (2PT) seat belt" means a belt which passes across the front of the wearer's pelvic region intended to restrain him/her from moving forward.

(d) "Shoulder Harness or Three-Point (3PT) seat belt" means a belt comprising a lap and shoulder strap intended to restrain wearer from moving forward and inclining the upper torso forward excessively.

(e) "Child restraint system" shall refer to beds for babies, seats for infants and seats for school children.

(f) "Belt anchorage" — The parts of the vehicle structure or the seat structure or any other part of the vehicle to which the safety-belt assemblies are to be secured.

(g) "Seat" — A structure which may or may not be integral with the vehicle structure complete with trim, intended to seat one adult person. The term covers both an individual seat or part of a bench seat intended to seat one person.

(h) "Group of seats" — A bench-type seat or seats which are separate but side by side to the foremost anchorage of one seat in line with or forward of the rearmost

anchorage and in line or behind the foremost anchorage of another seat and accommodate one or more seated adult person.

(i) "Bench seat" — A structure complete with trim, intended to seat more than one adult person.

(j) "Folding seat" — An auxiliary seat intended for occasional use which is normally folded.

(k) "Front seat passengers" shall refer to persons on board a public utility vehicle seated at the right side beside the driver for public utility jeepneys (PUJ's) and to passengers seated at the right side beside the driver and those at the first row immediately behind the driver in the case of public utility buses (PUB's) and to passengers seated on the right side beside the driver for private motor vehicles.

(l) "Back row" shall refer to the row of seats immediately behind the driver of a motor

(m) "Outboard passenger seat" refers to a seat away from the center of the vehicle and adjacent to the door/window.

(n) "Inboard passenger seat" refers to a seat adjacent to the aisle or beside / next to an outboard seat.

(o) "Motor vehicle" shall refer to both private and public motor vehicle. The term shall not include the tricycle and motorcycle.

(p) "Private motor vehicle" shall refer to any of the following:

(1) Any motor vehicle owned by individuals and juridical persons for private use;

(2) Any motor vehicle owned by the National Government or any of its agencies, instrumentality or political subdivisions, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries for official use; and

(3) Any diplomatic vehicle.

(q) "Public motor vehicle" shall refer to a public utility vehicle or a vehicle for hire with a valid Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

(r) "Motor vehicle of running engine" shall refer to a vehicle as stated herein, operating and standing on any road or thoroughfare with engine running.

(s) "Retrofit/ retrofitting" refers to the installation of seat belt devices and / or anchorage which were not included at the time of manufacture and assembly as original equipment. Installation shall be in accordance with the Philippine National Standards (PNS).

(t) "Vintage car / automobile" is a motor vehicle that has been used so sparingly by the owner and painstakingly preserved and maintained in showroom condition to highlight its historical value or year model on its silver jubilee (or older) in car

shows, exhibits, rallies and other special sporting events. In this IRR, it must be a 1970 model or older.

(u) "In-use" shall refer also to operational and/or previously registered motor vehicles.

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This IRR, in the interest of public safety, with respect to:

(a) Wearing of seat belts shall apply to drivers and front seat and back seat passengers of public and private motor vehicles except private jeeps, jeepneys, passenger vans/wagons, Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV), buses, trucks and vintage cars to which it shall apply only to drivers and front seat passengers;

(b) The proper installation, distribution and sale of seat belt devices shall apply to manufacturers, assemblers, body builders, importers, distributors and dealers of motor vehicles;

(c) The retrofitting and proper installation of required seat belt devices in accordance with Section 8 of this IRR shall apply to registered owners/operators of operational, in-use or previously registered motor vehicles;

(d) Posting of appropriate signage on public or for hire vehicles shall apply to drivers and operators;

(e) This IRR shall not apply to seatbelt assemblies for the following type seats:

(1) Folding seats which are provided at aisles, loading platform or spaces other than those designed exclusively for installing seats (except those seats in which only the seat-back section can be folded)

(2) Single-seater provided at the side of the driver's seat three-wheeled motor vehicles where the rotational angle of the steering wheel or bar is less than seven times the rotational angle of the steering tire.

(3) Seats facing sideward

(4) Seats provided in close proximity to emergency exit

(f) This IRR does not apply to a passenger or operator with a physically disabling ailment or medical condition which would prevent appropriate restraint in a safety belt, if the condition is duly certified by a licensed physician and surgeon or by a licensed chiropractor who shall state the nature of the condition, as well as the reason why the restraint is inappropriate.

SECTION 4. Importation. — It shall be unlawful for any person to import or cause the importation of any vehicle without the appropriate and operational seat belt device as required herein.

SECTION 5. Mandatory Use of Seat Belts. —

(a) Passengers of all motor vehicles whether private or for hire seated facing forward in the front row seats and those seated at the back row as defined in