



Title: Occupant Restraint Systems
Policy Number: 2.5
Accreditation Standard(s): 41.3.4
Effective Date: July 1, 2004
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No. of Pages: 2
Special Instructions:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of occupant restraint systems in department vehicles.

II. POLICY

The department will have a written procedure governing the utilization of occupant restraint devices for the operators and passengers of department vehicles.

III. DEFINITIONS

None

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The department will mandate the proper use of occupant restraint devices for all personnel operating department vehicles and for all passengers occupying department vehicles in motion.
- B. The department will have available approved child safety seats whenever the need to transport young children arises. However, if the law permits and an emergency situation exists, the vehicle's occupant restraint system will be used in the absence of child safety seats.
- C. The department will provide special occupant restraints in extenuating situations precluding the normal use of occupant restraint devices, such as those involving the transportation of prisoners, the movement of sick or injured persons, or certain police operations.
- D. Officers will be responsible for ensuring compliance with proper occupant restraint device usage, and all in-service department vehicles will have workable occupant restraint systems.
- E. Any modification—or any installation or mounting of specialized equipment—in the

interiors and/or trunks of department vehicles will be accomplished only with due consideration to its effect on the deployment of airbags, on the proper operation of other safety devices, and on any potential hazard to passengers either from the mounting location or from the hardware.

This sample policy is intended to serve as a guide to the police executive who is interested in formulating a written procedure on occupant restraint systems. The IACP recognizes that staffing, equipment, legal, and geographical considerations, as well as contemporary community standards, vary greatly among jurisdictions; and that no single policy will be appropriate for every jurisdiction. We have attempted, however, to outline the most critical factors that should be present in every occupant restraint systems policy.