

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. 3-3-1

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## INTERPRETATIONS

**Attached are interpretations issued by the Board in respect of Australian Design Rule No.3 - Seat Anchorages for Motor Vehicles (July 1981). They should be read in conjunction with Circular NO. 0-11-1.**

Australian Design Rule No.3 - Seat Anchorages for Motor Vehicle as endorsed by the Australian Transport Advisory Council - July 1981.

### **Interpretation No.1 (Clause 3.3.2)**

#### **Question:**

Is it permissible to carry out tests in accordance with Society of Automotive Engineers Recommended Practice J879b Motor Vehicle Seating Systems when demonstrating compliance with the Design Rule?

#### **Answer:**

Yes

### **Interpretation No.2 (Clause 3.2.3.1)**

#### **Question:**

Must the release control for a hinged seat be readily accessible to the occupant of that seat in a vehicle where there is no provision for occupants behind that seat?

#### **Answer:**

No.

### **Interpretation No.3 (Clauses 3.2.3, 3.2.3.1)**

#### **Question:**

Does a rearward facing folding seat need to comply with paragraph 3.2.3 and paragraph 3.2.3.1 completely?

#### **Answer:**

Yes, in the case of paragraph 3.2.3. In the case of paragraph 3.2.3.1, if the seat in question does not provide access to other seats in the vehicle, it is not necessary for its release control to be accessible to an occupant of that seat or to any other vehicle occupant. However, it would be necessary for the control device to withstand 20g inertia loads without release.

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#### **Interpretation No.4, (Clause 3.3)**

##### **Question:**

Is it permissible for the seat travel stops to take part of the load when tested in accordance with clause 3.3?

##### **Answer:**

No.

#### **Interpretation No.5 (Clause 3.2.3)**

##### **Question:**

Are seats mounted onto hinged covers, e.g. engine covers, subject to the requirements of clause 3.2.3?

##### **Answer:**

Yes, but if the seat assembly can withstand the test loads without fitting of the hinged cover and without any latches being latched, then the latches need not be self-locking.

It should be noted that the intention of the clause is to preclude the possibility of impact forces acting on unrestrained hinged or folding seats.

#### **Interpretation No.6 (Clause 3.2.3)**

##### **Question:**

If non self-locking auxiliary latches are provided e.g. to pull the hinged cover down tightly over its gasket, how is the ADR 3 testing done?

##### **Answer:**

The auxiliary hatches are to be unlatched so that only the self-locking device and hinges are taking the test loads.

#### **Interpretation No.7 (Clause 3.2.1.3)**

##### **Question:**

Is it necessary to conduct the rearward moment test in Clause 3.2.1.3 when seat assemblies such as rear seat backs are supported by a rigid vehicle body member?

##### **Answer:**

No. Provided it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board that supporting rigid vehicle body member is sufficiently strong to withstand the nominated load.



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**Interpretation No. 8 (Clause 3.2.1.1)**

**Question:**

Where seat belt anchorage(s) are attached to the seat in what position must the seat be tested when simultaneously applying ADR 3 and ADR 5B loads.

**Answer:**

The seat is to be located in the full forward and upward, design position.

Note: An additional test with seat belt anchorage loads applied, is required with the seat in the rearmost position to demonstrate compliance with ADR 5B.



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