



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

CARRYING CHILDREN SAFELY IN CARS

Children less than 1.50 m tall must be secured to the seat with a child restraint system that is suitable for their weight and approved in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport as well as with EU regulations and directives. Children over 1.50 m tall must wear normal seat belts.

When renting a vehicle registered in Italy, it is also mandatory to use an anti-abandonment alarm device when carrying children under the age of 4.

The driver, or the adult accompanying the minor, is responsible for compliance regarding the use of an appropriate restraint system/child seat or seat belts.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Tips for child car safety

1) Use the most appropriate child restraint:

- suitable for the child's weight
- bearing the European type-approval label (ECE R44-04; ECE R129 which takes into account not only the weight but also the height of the child).

2) Fit the child restraint properly:

- fully comply with the manufacturer's instructions
- if the car is equipped with an Isofix system, the child restraint is more safely installed, being directly and rigidly attached to the car structure
- it is forbidden to fit the child restraint rearward facing in the front seat, unless the front seat's airbag is deactivated.

3) Place the child correctly in the child restraint:

- avoid positioning the restraint belts too close to the neck
- always tighten the seat belts correctly
- take off the child's heavy clothing before placing him/her in the seat.

Please note that a collision at 15 km/h (9.321 mph) can be fatal for a child not secured with appropriate child restraint. In a crash at 56 km/h (34.7984 mph), a child weighing 15 kg (33,07 lbs) develops a striking force equal to 185 kg (407,85 lbs). No matter how tightly you try to hold the child, he/she will be ripped from your arms.



Child seat types

Group	Weight/estimated age	Best child seat position	Seat position
Group 0	Up to 10 kg (approx. 12 months old)	Rear seats	Carrycot lengthwise along the back seat
Group 0+	Up to 13 kg (approx. 24 months old)	Rear seats	Rear-facing
Group 1	9 to 18 kg (approx. from 9 months to 4 years old)	Rear seats	Rear-facing up to 2 years old
Group 2	15 to 25 kg (approx. from 3 to 6 years old)	Front and rear seats	Forward-facing
Group 3	22 to 36 kg (approx. from 5 to 12 years old)	Front and rear seats	Forward-facing

Children on motorbikes

Only one passenger of at least 5 years of age can be carried on a motorbike or moped, as long as the child can sit in a firm balanced position. The child must wear an EU approved helmet.

In case the child being carried is less than 5 years old, the sanctions provided for in Article 170 paragraph 6-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply.

In case the child being carried is aged at least 5 but he/she is not wearing a helmet, the sanctions provided for in Article 171 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code apply.