

Draft technical standard for driver seatbelt warning device in Japan
(Draft Japanese Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles)

Transmitted by the expert from Japan

Note

Japan Ministry of land Infrastructure and Transport is planning new domestic regulation of “technical standard for driver seatbelt warning device” in Japan.
Since seat belt warning system (seatbelt remainder) appears on the agenda at the 86th GRSG meeting, JMLIT offers this draft regulation for reference.

Technical standard for driver seatbelt warning device

1. Scope

This standard is applied to Driver Seatbelt Warning Device of vehicles with 10 passenger seating positions or less.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. “Visible warning” means a warning by continuous or intermittent lighting signal or display.
- 2.2. “Audible warning” means a warning by sound signal.
- 2.3. “Initial warning” means a warning activated when a driver attempt to start driving without using seatbelt.
- 2.4. “Seatbelt is not fastened” means either a driver seatbelt buckle is not engaged or webbing length pulled out of retractor is 10cm or less.
- 2.5. “Ignition switch is engaged” means that ignition switch is in either ON or START position.
- 2.6. “Seatbelt is fastened” means that a driver seat is occupied and a seatbelt is fastened.

- 2.7. "In-use warning" means a warning signal activated when a driver operates a vehicle without fastening a seatbelt.
- 2.8. "Speed threshold to activate in-use warning" means any speed of 25km/h or less chosen by a vehicle manufacturer to activate in-use warning.
- 2.9. "Time threshold to activate in-use warning" means any time duration elapsed after start of a vehicle of 60sec or less chosen by a vehicle manufacturer to activate in-use warning. The elapsed time is accumulated except when the vehicle is in reverse or moving forward at speed less than 10km/h.
- 2.10. "Distance threshold to activate in-use warning" means any distance driven of 500m or less chosen by a vehicle manufacturer to activate in-use warning.

3. Requirements

3.1. General requirements

- 3.1.1. Visible warning shall be bright enough to be recognized in the daylight and distinguishable from other warning (except other seatbelt warning).
- 3.1.2. Visible warning shall be so located as to be readily recognized by a driver.
- 3.1.3. Warning light shall be in RED.
- 3.1.4. Audible warning shall be continuous or intermittent.
- 3.1.5. Audible signal of initial warning shall be readily recognized by a driver when an engine of the vehicle is idling with transmission in neutral and accelerator undepressed.
- 3.1.6. Audible signal of in-use warning shall be readily recognized by a driver when the unloaded vehicle is driven at 25km/h on dry paved road with maximum air-conditioner (incl. defroster) fan speed. Actual test is not required if it is apparent that the sound of signal is loud enough to be recognized by a driver.

3.2. Initial warning shall meet one of the criteria described in 3.2.1., 3.2.2. or 3.2.3.

- 3.2.1. When the seatbelt is not fastened after the ignition switch is engaged, a visible warning shall be activated for 4 seconds or longer. When the seatbelt is fastened, no warning shall be activated except the warning for 8 seconds or less after the ignition switch is engaged.
- 3.2.2. When the seatbelt is not fastened after the ignition switch is engaged, a visible and audible warning shall be activated for 4 seconds or longer. When the seatbelt is fastened, no warning shall be activated except the visible warning for 8 seconds or less after the ignition switch is engaged.
- 3.2.3. When the seatbelt is not fastened after the ignition switch is engaged, an audible warning shall be activated for not less than 4 seconds and not more than 8 seconds, and a visible warning shall be activated for not less than 60 seconds.

3.3. For passenger cars with 10 seating positions or less, when the seatbelt is not fastened and when one or any combination of the following thresholds is reached, the in-use warning shall be activated:

- Speed threshold to activate in-use warning
- Time threshold to activate in-use warning
- Distance threshold to activate in-use warning

In-use warning shall be visible and audible. Both total visible warning and total audible warning shall be 30 seconds or longer excluding silent period, if any, longer than 3 seconds. The warning does not have to be activated when the vehicle is reversing or moving forward at speed less than 10km/h.
