

R129 i-Size UN Regulation:



An important step towards an enhanced child protection in crashes

1. Which Committee has developed this Regulation?

The new R129 i-Size regulation has been developed by a committee of experts under the auspice of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Inland Transport Committee with the aim to enhance child safety in Europe. This committee called GRSP Informal Group led by France comprised experts from ministries of transport, research institutions, technical services, consumer testing and industry.

2. Key objectives of R129 i-Size

- Better protection for the developing head and neck of babies and toddlers due to mandatory rearward facing installation until the age of 15 months.
- Improved child safety due to the introduction of mandatory side impact protection for all new seats.
- New generation dummies which more closely represent actual behaviour of real children.
- Less installation options with only ISOFIX only, which means a lower risk of the seat being incorrectly fitted in the car. A simplified guide to choosing the right seat for the child, by using the height of the child as the only guideline.
- i-Size car seats will fit in all i-Size **seating positions** and almost in all cars with ISOFIX, which simplifies the decision making process for the parent.

3. Entry into Force of i-Size

On the 9th of July 2013 the new UN R129 (i-Size) legislation was officially adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Since this date, 60 countries, including all EU countries, have adopted this new regulation. The complete list of countries can be consulted on page 171 of the UN agreement following this link:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/wp29fdoc/06-ECE-TRANS-WP.29-343-Rev.21.pdf>

The official UN R129 (i-Size) legislation document can be consulted also following this link:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/main/wp29/wp29regs/2013/R129e.pdf>

4. R129 i-Size and R44 - two Regulations running in parallel

The new regulation does not replace the current one, ECE R 44.04. Both regulations will run in parallel for the time being. Therefore car seats complying with either regulation may continue to be sold and used safely.

With the introduction of R129 i-Size, consumers will be given the extra option to choose a seat that complies to the latest and best practices, when purchasing a new car seat for their baby or toddler.

5. Availability of R129 i-Size products

Since the entry into force of R129 i-Size on the 9th July 2013 a number of products were approved in UN Contracting Parties according to this Regulation.

6. Illustrations

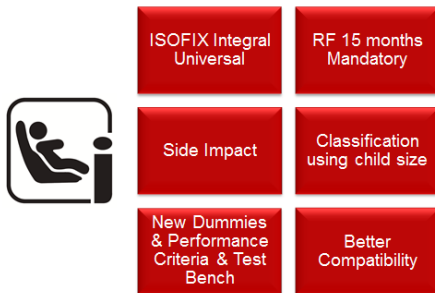


Figure 1: The 6 pillars of R129 i-Size

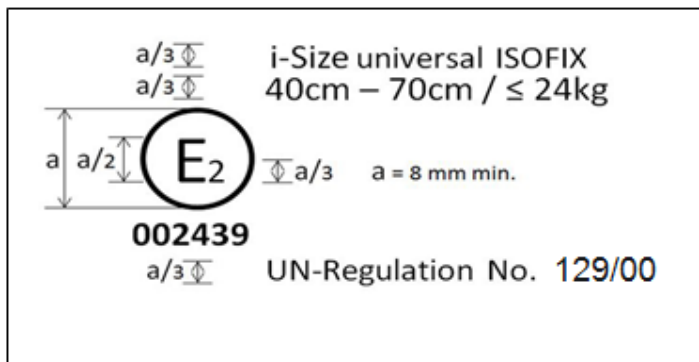


Figure 2: Example of labelling of i-Size ECRSs

R129 i-Size Check List	ECE R44	Regulation 129
1. Improved protection for side & front impact and a much better protection of head & neck	Front impact 50 km/hr – 21-28 G Rear impact 30km/hr 14-21 G No side impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front impact 50 km/hr – 21-28 G, more demanding criteria Rear impact 30 km/hr 14-21 G Side impact: 24 km/hr start 13-15 G with an intruding door
2. Rearward facing travelling mandatory up to 15 months old	Forward facing possible from 9kg (approx. 9 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label on forward facing product: no FF before 15 months
3. R129 i-Size also promotes Isofix, which has less chance of being incorrectly used than belted car seats	ISOFIX, belt or combination All age classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 129 Phase 1 i-Size: ISOFIX only & birth to 105cm (can go above 105cm as well)
4. All i-Size car seats and most Isofix car seats will fit in new cars with i-Size seating positions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Universal (top tether) Semi Universal (support leg) Car specific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal (Support leg or top tether) Car specific
5. Classification of child seats	Group 0 – 0+, 0+/1, 1/1-2-3, 2-3 according to child's weight	No groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification based on stature Centimeters based Max. occupant mass

Figure 3: Check list & differences between R129 i-Size and R44