IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 57 of the Road Traffic Ordinance, 1958, the Minister makes the following rules:

1. Citation.

These Rules may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Safety Seatbelts) Rules 1978.

2. Front seat of motor vehicle to be fitted with safety seatbelt.

   (1) Subject to rule 6, every front seat of a motor vehicle shall be fitted with a safety seatbelt with three built-in anchorage points located in the best position for such fitting.

   (2) Paragraph (1) shall come into force

      (a) on the 1st November 1977 in respect of a motor vehicle registered on or after that date; and

      (b) on the 1st January 1979 in respect of a motor vehicle registered between the 1st January 1967 and the 31st October 1977.

   (3) Where a motor vehicle referred to in paragraph (2) is found not to be fitted with a safety seatbelt, the owner of such vehicle shall be guilty of an offence.


   (1) Every safety seatbelt shall consist of

      (a) the full harness belt or the lap and diagonal strap belt; and

      (b) a buckle of quick-release pattern which cannot be unclipped accidently and has provision for adjustment to suit the wearer.

   (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of rule 2, where by reason of the nature and construction of a motor vehicle to which rule 2 applies it is not possible or practicable to have the three built-in anchorage points in respect of the safety seatbelt for the middle seat of a front bench seat or for any other front seat, the safety seatbelt for such seat may consist only of the lap belt and the buckle referred to in paragraph (1)(b).
4. Every person in front seat of motor vehicle to wear safety seatbelt.

Subject to rule 7, every person in the front seat of a motor vehicle to which rule 2 applies shall wear a safety seatbelt in the manner required by its nature and construction from the 1st April 1979.

5. Restriction on sale, supply and importation of safety seatbelt not conforming to any of specified standards.

No person shall offer to sell or sell, offer to supply or supply, or offer to import or import a safety seatbelt or any part thereof which does not conform to any of the standards specified in the Schedule.

Provided that the safety seatbelt or part thereof which does not conform to any such standard may be imported if it is only for use in a motor-racing event.

6. Rules not to apply to certain categories of motor vehicles.

These Rules shall not apply in respect of a motor vehicle

(a) which is a goods vehicle having a maximum permissible laden weight exceeding forty hundredweights;

(b) which is a motor cycle or a pedestrian-controlled vehicle;

(c) which is a motor vehicle constructed with more than fourteen seats inclusive of the driver's seat;

(d) which was registered prior to the 1st January 1967.

7. Certain categories of persons exempted from wearing safety seatbelts.

Rule 4 shall not apply

(a) to any person in a police, military or fire service motor vehicle or an ambulance;

(b) to any person who is certified by two registered medical practitioners that he is medically unfit to wear a safety seatbelt;

(c) to any person or class of persons who may be exempted by the Minister by order from time to time.

8. Repeal.

The Motor Vehicle (Safety Seatbelts) Rules 1977 are repealed.
SCHEDULE
(Rule 5)

1. MS 6.3: 1972
2. MS 6.29: 1978
3. BS AU 160A: 1971
4. BS 3254 ... Specifications for Seatbelt assemblies for motor vehicles
5. ECE Regulation No. 16 ... Uniform provisions concerning the approval of safety belts for adult occupants of power-driven vehicles
6. JIS D4604-1975 ... Seatbelt assemblies for automobiles
JIS D4603-1972 ... Retractors for motorists' seatbelts
8. Australian Design Rules (ADR) 4, 4A, 4B, 4c

Made the 30th December 1978.