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Child Restraint Anchorages and Attachment Hardware

Foreword—It is generally recognized that parents often place their children (particularly infants) in the front seats of their vehicles. Also, child restraint systems, when properly installed and used, have been long recognized in mitigating child injuries in vehicle accidents. Child restraint systems have evolved with a dependency on the lap belt portion of the adult restraint in vehicles for attachment to the vehicle. Consequently, it is desirable that manufacturers of vehicles with automatic restraint systems that require a supplementary restraint for use with a child seating system, make provisions for front seat anchorages and attachment hardware which are compatible for use with child restraint systems and conform to this SAE Recommended Practice.

1. Scope—The purpose of this SAE Recommended Practice is to provide design guidelines to vehicle manufacturers by establishing characteristics of anchorages and attachment hardware provisions at the passenger front seat outboard seating location for securing a child seating system in vehicles equipped with automatic (passive) restraint systems that are not suitable for use with a child seating system. Further, it is intended to provide interface information to child restraint manufacturers. The anchorage and hardware configuration and location as well as interface parameters are described along with performance and identification requirements.

1.1 Rationale—Intended for use with passive (motorized/door mounted) vehicle belt systems no longer in use or anticipated to be in use in the future.

2. References

2.1 Applicable Publications—The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE PUBLICATIONS—Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

SAE J383—Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Anchorages—Design Recommendation

SAE J384—Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Anchorages—Test Procedure

SAE J385—Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Anchorages—Performance Requirements

3. Anchorage Parameters

3.1 Attachment Hardware—The attachment hardware, shown in Figure 1, may be a separate part or integral with some other attachment (e.g., seat belt retractor).

The space both below and above the hardware (refer to Figure 1) shall be clear of obstruction to facilitate attachment of the child safety device.

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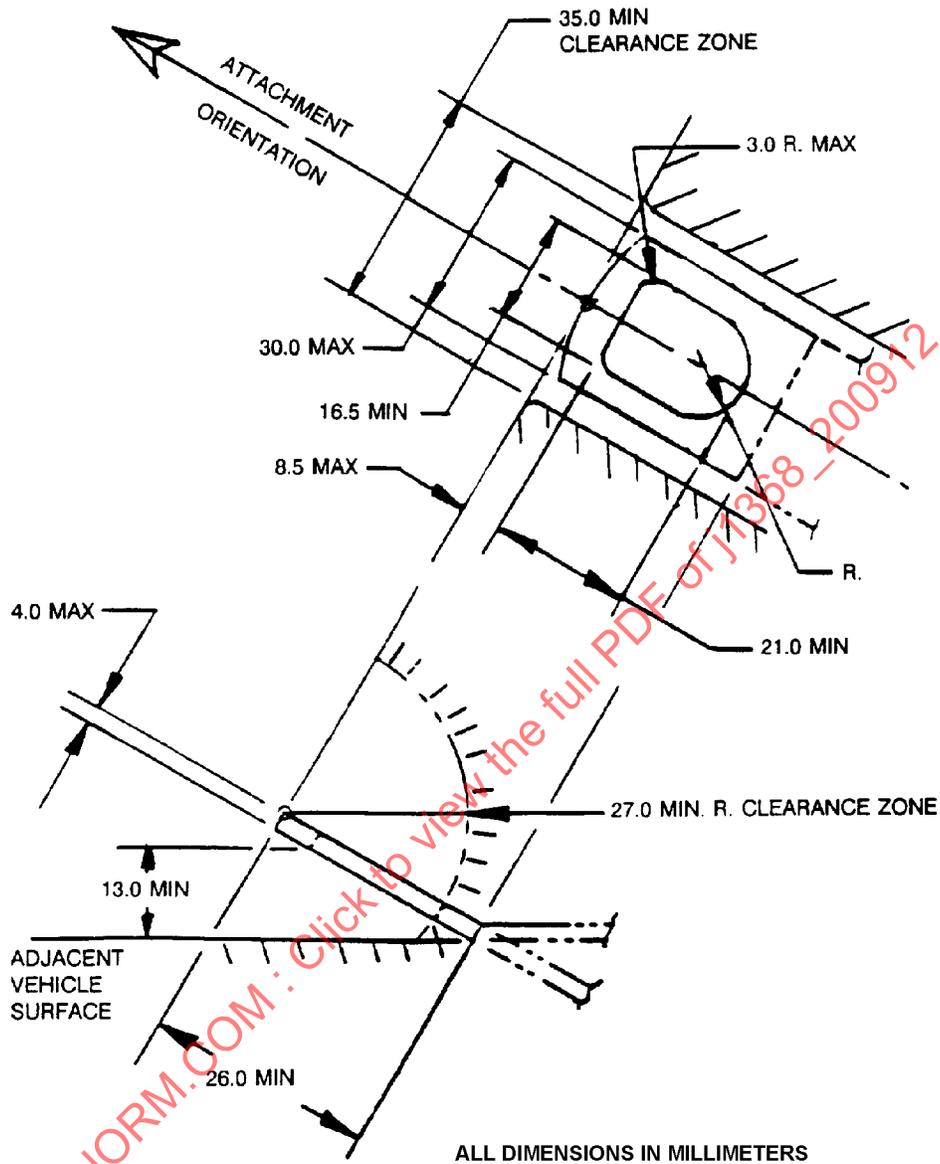


FIGURE 1—ATTACHMENT HARDWARE

- 3.2 Anchorage Location**—At the front seat outboard passenger seating position, the two anchorages should be located according to SAE J383, Section 4, Location of Pelvic Restraint Anchorages, and shall be readily accessible and visible from the passenger compartment.
- 3.3 Anchorage and Attachment Hardware Performance**—Strength requirements, the method of load testing, and corrosion protection shall be in accordance with the pelvic restraint requirement of SAE J383 (Section 6), J384 (Section 4), and J385 (4.1.1).
- 3.4 Identification**—The attachment hardware provided by this document shall be identified and be apparent to anyone installing child restraints thereto.