DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO CAREGIVERS

THIS IS A RESOURCE FOR CPSTS ONLY

NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Putting it All Together—What Locks the Seat Belt

To properly install a car seat, the lap portion of the seat belt must be locked at a fixed length at all times.

To test a seat belt in a vehicle and find what locks it, follow the steps in this chart. Step 1 Slowly and gently pull all the webbing out of the retractor. Do not pull the webbing out quickly, as this could trigger the emergency locking feature.

Step 2 Slowly release a few inches of the webbing into the retractor. Listen for a clicking sound.

Step 3 While still holding the webbing, gently try to pull the webbing out again.

LOCKING RETRACTOR

You heard a clicking sound when releasing the webbing back into the retractor, and the retractor does not allow you to pull the webbing back out. You have a locking retractor that you may use to install a car seat.

NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

NON-LOCKING RETRACTOR

You did NOT hear a clicking sound when releasing the webbing back into the retractor, and the retractor does allow you to pull the webbing back out. You have a non-locking retractor.

NOW TEST THE LATCH PLATE FOR LOCKABILITY.

Step 4

Buckle the seat belt.

Step 5

Give a firm tug on the lap portion of the seat belt while pulling up on it.

LOCKING LATCH PLATE

The webbing does not slide through the latch plate. You have a locking latch plate that you may use to install a car seat.

NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

NON-LOCKING LATCH PLATE

The webbing slides through the latch plate. It is a non-locking latch plate.

YOU MUST PROCEED WITH ADDITIONAL APPROVED LOCKING TECHNIQUES.

In the rare case when you cannot lock the belt, another seating position must

be used.

Step 6

Check the car seat for built-in locking features (lock-offs).

LOCK-OFFS

Lock-offs are present. You may use the lock-off to install the car seat.

NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

NO LOCK-OFFS

No lock-offs are present. You may use a locking clip to install the car

NO FURTHER LOCKABILITY CHECKS ARE NEEDED.

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