

Appendix Table 14. Definitions of Types of Occupant Restraints*

Belt-positioning booster seat (BPB): A platform that raises the child (provides a taller sitting height) so adult lap and shoulder belts fit better; some have high backs as well. Never use with only a lap belt across the child.

Belt-shortening clip or heavy duty locking clip: A heavy-duty locking clip intended for use to shorten lap belts that have emergency locking retractors for use with a child restraint. Not to be confused with standard locking clips, heavy-duty locking clips can only be obtained through a vehicle manufacturer.

Booster seats: Are intended to be used as a transition to lap and shoulder belts by older children who have outgrown convertible seats (weight >40 lb). They are available with high backs, for use in vehicles with low seat backs or no head restraints, and without backs; booster bases only.

Car seat: Common term for a specially designed device that secures a child in a motor vehicle, meets federal safety standards, and increases child safety in a crash.

Child safety seat or child restraint (CSS): A crash-tested device that is specially designed to provide crash protection for an infant or a child. A general term for all sorts of devices, including those that are vests or car beds rather than seats.

Convertible child safety seats or restraints: A child restraint that can be used in more than 1 mode; usually rear-facing for infants and forward-facing for toddlers.

Forward-facing child restraint: A restraint that is intended for use only in the forward-facing position for a child at least age 1 year and at least 20 lb but up to 40 lb.

Infant-only restraint: A restraint designed only for use for a baby (usually weighing <17–22 lb) in a semi-reclined, rear-facing position.

Integral or integrated child seat: A child-sized, forward-facing restraint or belt-positioning booster built into a vehicle seat. Some have a full harness and hold children more than 20 lb; others are belt-positioning boosters for use with the adult lap and shoulder belts.

Lap belt: A safety belt anchored at 2 points for use across the occupant's thighs or hips.

Lap/shoulder belts: A safety belt that is anchored at 3 points and restrains the occupant at the hips and across the shoulder; also called a *combination belt*.

Rear-facing infant seat: Type of child restraint system that is specifically meant for use by children from birth up to approximately 20 lb and should be used in the rear-facing mode only.

Seat belt-positioning devices: Products marketed and sold to adjust the vehicle seat belt to fit a child. There are no federal safety standards for these products. The NHTSA recommends the use of child safety seats and booster seats instead of these products.

* Definitions are from reference 51. NHTSA = National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.