



What are shoulder height markers and do I have to follow them?

What are they?

Shoulder height markers are labels on child restraint covers that determine what size child the restraint is approved for and in what mode.

The label positions and instructions on these markers are determined by the Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1754: Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles.

This system, along with approximate age, has replaced the old system of using the child's weight to determine restraint suitability.

How do they work?

These images show what the markers look like on restraints.

In image 1, the lower marker represents the minimum shoulder height requirement. If the child's shoulder is below the marker, they're too small for that restraint and it's not approved for use for that child.

In image 2, the lower marker determines when the seat can be changed from rearward facing to forward facing. If the child's shoulder does not meet the marker and the child is turned to the forward facing position, the restraint is not approved for the child in that mode.

The upper height marker indicates the maximum shoulder height. When the child's shoulder reaches the top marker, they're ready to move to the next type of restraint.



Do I have to follow them?

The Australian Road Rules require that only approved child restraints be used. An approved restraint in South Australia is one that meets all the requirements of AS/NZS: 1754 and is certified as such.

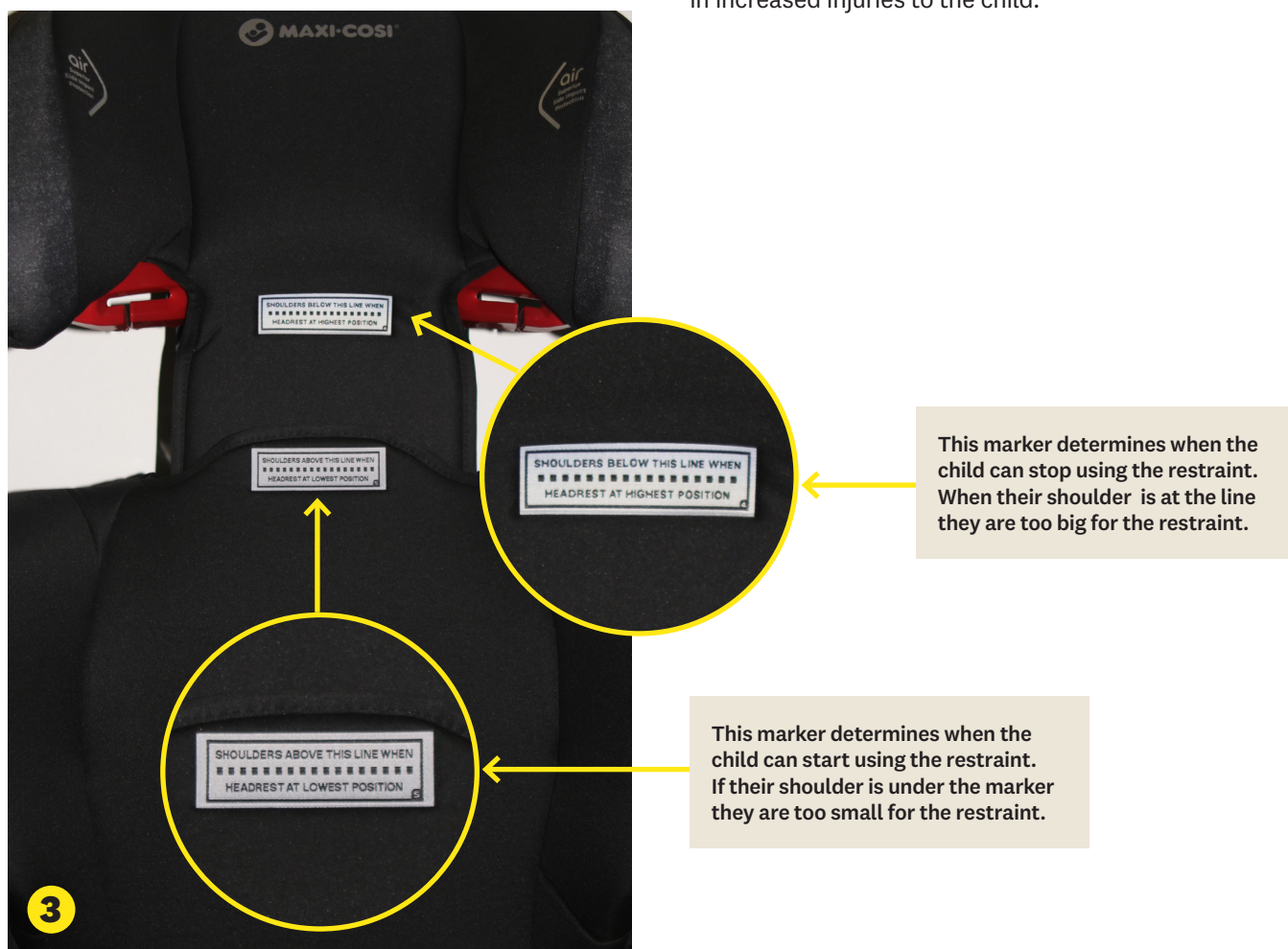
Using shoulder height markers and approximate ages (see image 3), AS/NZS: 1754 determines which restraints are approved for use, based on the age/size of the child.

Shoulder height markers are a requirement, not just a recommendation. Failing to use a restraint in line with these markers means you're using a restraint that's not approved for use for your child's size.

The Law

In South Australia, an additional requirement within the Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations states that the manufacturer's specifications, including the shoulder height markers, must be followed.

Failure to do so could result in a fine and demerit points. In the event of a crash, where the restraint isn't being used correctly and the child is injured, the personal injury insurance payout may be reduced. Above all else, if a child is in an unsuitable restraint for their size, or a restraint that's not fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, the restraint may not provide adequate protection in a crash. This could result in increased injuries to the child.



We're here to help

For more information on child restraints, call the RAA Safety Centre on **8202 4592**, email childrestraints@raa.com.au or visit raa.com.au/childsafety