



Collision Position Statement

November, 2025

Seat Belt and Buckle Restraint Systems

Seat belts are safety-critical components which assist protecting occupants in a collision event. They work by restraining occupants and reducing impact forces, especially in conjunction with airbags. Ford Motor Company of Australia (Ford) suggests the collision repair industry adhere to the following guidelines regarding Ford vehicle seatbelts, buckles, pre-tensioners and attachment hardware.

All seatbelts, buckles, pre-tensioners, attachment hardware and mounting points should be inspected post collision. Ford recommends replacing seatbelts, buckles, pre-tensioners and that attachment hardware should not be repaired, disassembled or re-used post any collision where the Restraints Control Module has triggered a deployment. These components should be replaced even if the seat belts were not in use during a collision in which the front airbags are deployed.

Key Considerations

- Seatbelt mounting points should be inspected post-collision for any damage or distortion
- No form of repair or disassembly should be carried out to seat belt assemblies, buckles, pre-tensioners and attachment hardware
- Seatbelt assemblies, buckles, pre-tensioners and attachment hardware should be replaced even if the seat belts were not in use during a collision in which the front airbags were deployed - pretensioners in unoccupied seats also deploy in a frontal collision and are therefore 'expended' after the crash
- Seatbelt attachment hardware should be replaced post-collision and torqued to correct specifications when replaced
- Ford does not recommend the use of used or non-genuine parts. Seat Belts have a regulatory certification (i.e. E-mark) and only parts that are approved for the use in a vehicle should be installed. If not, the vehicle could lose its homologation status
- For these reasons, Ford only endorses new Genuine Ford seatbelt assemblies, buckles, pre-tensioners and attachment hardware, sourced from an authorised Australian Ford dealer

Ford has validated Genuine Ford Parts through extensive testing by Ford Motor Company engineers to return Australian market vehicles to the intended level of form, function, performance and safety.

Ford considers that vehicle owners and repairers are best protected by conducting quality repairs using Manufacturer's repair methods and new Genuine Ford parts sourced from an authorised Australian Ford dealer.

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