

Inflatable Seat Belt Policy



July 23, 2020

Q. Can I use an inflatable seat belt to install my BRITAX car seat?

A. Not all models of BRITAX car seats are approved for use with inflatable seat belts.

The Ford Motor Company (Ford and Lincoln vehicles) Inflatable seat belt system is approved for use, in vehicles certified for the United States and Canada, with the following BRITAX models:

- B-SAFE (please note: this is the retired model with 30 lb. capacity);
- Britax G Series Convertibles (Roundabout, Marathon, Boulevard, Advocate; – not the CLICKTIGHT models);
- Pioneer 70, Pioneer;
- Frontier, Frontier 85, Frontier 90, Frontier CLICKTIGHT;
- Pinnacle 90, Pinnacle CLICKTIGHT; and
- Parkway SG and Parkway SGL.

Any model not expressly listed above are not approved for use with the Ford Inflatable seat belt system or any other inflatable seat belt system.

When installing a BRITAX car seat with a harness and a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt, we recommend the following:

❖ For Rear-Facing only car seats:

- B-SAFE (please note: this is the retired model with 30 lb. capacity);
 - If the vehicle seating position has an inflatable seat belt system and a manufacturer designated LATCH system, install the B-SAFE using LATCH. Follow the instructions in the User Guide for installation with LATCH.
 - Installation with the base and a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt system:
 - Open the built-in lock-off
 - While holding the shoulder and lap belt portions together, route the vehicle belt under and through the first belt guide, through the open lock-off and down through the second belt guide. Be sure the belt webbing is not twisted.
 - Do not route the shoulder part of the vehicle belt through the lock-off
 - The shoulder part of the vehicle belt will lie on top of the closed lock-off when installation is complete.
 - *Continue installation as per the Ford or Lincoln Vehicle Owner's Manual:*
 - *Insert the belt tongue into the proper buckle (the buckle closest to the direction the tongue is coming from) for that seating position until you hear a snap and feel the latch engage. Make sure the tongue is latched securely by pulling on it.*

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- *To put the retractor in the automatic locking mode, grasp the lap portion of the inflatable safety belt and pull upward until all of the belt is pulled out.*
- *Allow the belt to retract to remove the slack (storing excess webbing). The retractor will click as it retracts to indicate it is in the automatic locking mode.*
- *Remove remaining slack from the belt. Force the base down with extra weight, e.g., by pressing down on the base while pulling up on the shoulder belt (pull down on the lap belt for inflatable safety belts) in order to force slack from the belt.*
- Verify that the vehicle belt is tight and that the base is secure. The base is secure when it moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) front-to-back or side-to-side at the vehicle belt path.
- Close the lock-off over the lap portion of the vehicle seat belt.
- Installation without the base and a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt system:
 - Pull the vehicle belt out and route the lap part of the vehicle belt through each belt guide.
 - Do not route the shoulder part of the vehicle belt through the belt guides.
 - The shoulder belt will route diagonally from the seat belt buckle up to retractor.
 - *Continue installation as per the Ford or Lincoln Vehicle Owner's Manual:*
 - *Insert the belt tongue into the proper buckle (the buckle closest to the direction the tongue is coming from) for that seating position until you hear a snap and feel the latch engage. Make sure the tongue is latched securely by pulling on it.*
 - *To put the retractor in the automatic locking mode, grasp the lap portion of the inflatable safety belt and pull upward until all of the belt is pulled out.*
 - *Allow the belt to retract to remove the slack (storing excess webbing). The retractor will click as it retracts to indicate it is in the automatic locking mode.*
 - *Remove remaining slack from the belt. Force the seat down with extra weight, e.g., by pressing down on the child restraint while pulling up on the shoulder belt (pull down on the lap belt for inflatable safety belts) in order to force slack from the belt.*

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- Verify that the vehicle belt is tight and that the base is secure. The base is secure when it moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) front-to-back or side-to-side at the vehicle belt path.
- B-SAFE 35, B-SAFE 35 Elite, B-SAFE ULTRA, Endeavours
 - If the vehicle seating position has an inflatable seat belt system and a manufacturer designated LATCH system, install using the lower anchors of the base. Follow the instructions in the User Guide for installation with lower anchors.
 - Installation with the base and any inflatable seat belt system:
 - Not approved.
 - Choose an alternative seating position that does not have an inflatable seat belt system.
 - Installation without the base and any inflatable seat belt system:
 - Not approved.
 - Choose a seating position with lower anchors install the base with lower anchors.
- ❖ For convertible car seats (Britax G Series Convertibles: Roundabout, Marathon, Boulevard, Advocate; please note: these are all retired seats – not the CLICKTIGHT models);
Note: The steps are the same for installing a convertible rear or forward facing.
 - If the vehicle seating position has an inflatable seat belt system and a manufacturer designated LATCH system install using LATCH. Refer to your vehicle owner’s manual or contact the vehicle manufacturer for the maximum weight rating for their lower anchors. Use vehicle belt (not lower connectors) for installations with children who weigh more than the vehicle lower anchor limit. Unless specified otherwise by the vehicle manufacturer, assume a 40 lb child is the vehicle lower anchor limit.
 - Follow the instructions in the User Guide for installation with LATCH.
 - Installation with a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt system:
 - Do not use the built-in lock-offs if the car seat includes lock-offs – keep the lock-offs closed.
 - While holding the shoulder and lap belt portions together, route the vehicle belt through the appropriate belt slots. (rear or forward as necessary) Be sure the belt webbing is not twisted.
 - Rear-facing: ensuring that the vehicle belt is routed UNDER the harness buckle strap.
 - *Continue installation as per the Ford or Lincoln Vehicle Owner’s Manual:*
 - *Insert the belt tongue into the proper buckle (the buckle closest to the direction the tongue is coming from) for that seating position until you hear a snap and feel the latch engage. Make sure the tongue is latched securely by pulling on it.*
 - *To put the retractor in the automatic locking mode, grasp the lap portion of the inflatable safety belt and pull upward until all of the belt is pulled out.*

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- *Allow the belt to retract to remove the slack (storing excess webbing). The retractor will click as it retracts to indicate it is in the automatic locking mode.*
 - *Remove remaining slack from the belt. Force the seat down with extra weight, e.g., by pressing down on the child restraint while pulling up on the shoulder belt (pull down on the lap belt for inflatable safety belts) in order to force slack from the belt.*
 - Verify that the vehicle belt is tight and that the base is secure. The base is secure when it moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) front-to back or side-to-side at the vehicle belt path.
 - Attach the Versa-Tether to a designated anchor (see vehicle owner's manual) and remove slack
- ❖ For Harness-2-Booster seats in Harness Mode (Frontier and Frontier 85):
- If the vehicle seating position has an inflatable seat belt system and a manufacturer designated LATCH system install using LATCH. Refer to your vehicle owner's manual or contact the vehicle manufacturer for the maximum weight rating for their lower anchors. Use vehicle belt (not lower connectors) for installations with children who weigh more than the vehicle lower anchor limit. Unless specified otherwise by the vehicle manufacturer, assume a 40 lb child is the vehicle lower anchor limit.
 - Installation with a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt system:
 - Refer to the CRS User Guide for installation Lap-Shoulder Belt – Short Path OR Lap-Shoulder Belt – Long Path for proper routing.
 - While holding the shoulder and lap belt portions together, route the vehicle belt through the appropriate belt slots. Be sure the belt webbing is not twisted.
 - *Continue installation as per the Ford or Lincoln Vehicle Owner's Manual:*
 - *Insert the belt tongue into the proper buckle (the buckle closest to the direction the tongue is coming from) for that seating position until you hear a snap and feel the latch engage. Make sure the tongue is latched securely by pulling on it.*
 - *To put the retractor in the automatic locking mode, grasp the lap portion of the inflatable safety belt and pull upward until all of the belt is pulled out.*
 - *Allow the belt to retract to remove the slack (storing excess webbing). The retractor will click as it retracts to indicate it is in the automatic locking mode.*
 - *Remove remaining slack from the belt. Force the seat down with extra weight, e.g., by pressing down on the child restraint while pulling up on the shoulder belt (pull down on the lap belt for inflatable safety belts) in order to force slack from the belt.*
 - Verify that the vehicle belt is tight and that the child seat is secure. The child seat is secure when it moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) front-to back or side-to-side at the vehicle belt path.
 - Attach the Versa-Tether to a designated anchor (see vehicle owner's manual) and remove slack.

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- ❖ For Harness-2-Booster seats in Harness Mode (Pioneer, Pioneer 70, Frontier CLICKTIGHT, Frontier 90 Pinnacle CLICKTIGHT and Pinnacle 90):
 - If the vehicle seating position has an inflatable seat belt system and a manufacturer designated LATCH system install using LATCH. Refer to your vehicle owner’s manual or contact the vehicle manufacturer for the maximum weight rating for their lower anchors. Use vehicle belt (not lower connectors) for installations with children who weigh more than the vehicle lower anchor limit. Unless specified otherwise by the vehicle manufacturer, assume a 40 lb. child is the vehicle lower anchor limit for the Pioneer 70 & Frontier 90 and assume a 38 lb. child is the vehicle lower anchor limit for the Pinnacle 90.
 - Installation with a Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belt system:
 - Refer to the CRS User Guide for installation Lap-Shoulder Belt.
 - Frontier 90/CLICKTIGHT and Pinnacle 90/CLICKTIGHT the lap-shoulder belt is routed through belt path with CLICKTIGHT open
 - While holding the shoulder and lap belt portions together, route the vehicle belt through the appropriate belt path. Be sure the belt webbing is not twisted.
 - *Continue installation as per the Ford or Lincoln Vehicle Owner’s Manual:*
 - *Insert the belt tongue into the proper buckle (the buckle closest to the direction the tongue is coming from) for that seating position until you hear a snap and feel the latch engage. Make sure the tongue is latched securely by pulling on it.*
 - *To put the retractor in the automatic locking mode, grasp the lap portion of the inflatable safety belt and pull upward until all of the belt is pulled out.*
 - *Allow the belt to retract to remove the slack (storing excess webbing). The retractor will click as it retracts to indicate it is in the automatic locking mode.*
 - Continue installation as per the child restraint user guide – closing CLICKTIGHT.
 - Verify that the vehicle belt is tight and that the child seat is secure. The child seat is secure when it moves less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) front-to-back or side-to-side at the vehicle belt path.
 - Attach the Versa-Tether to a designated anchor (see vehicle owner’s manual) and remove slack.
 - NOTE: Top tether use is always recommended by BRITAX. Top tether is required for children above 65 lbs.
- ❖ For Belt Position Boosters (Parkway SG & Parkway SGL):
 - When using a BRITAX belt positioning booster seat with Ford or Lincoln inflatable seat belts, we recommend following the instructions in the booster seat User Guide and the Vehicle Owner’s Manual.