

Inflatable Seat Belt Policy



October 31, 2024

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:

- Britax G Series Marathon and Boulevard (not the CLICKTIGHT models) (all will expire by end of 2025); and
- Pioneer (all will expire by end of 2028); and
- Frontier CLICKTIGHT (all will expire by end of 2029); and
- Pinnacle CLICKTIGHT (all will expire by end of 2028);

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.

- ❖ For convertible car seats (Britax G Series Convertibles Marathon and Boulevard; (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.*

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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 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 (Pioneer, Frontier CLICKTIGHT, Pinnacle CLICKTIGHT):
 - 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 CLICKTIGHT and Pinnacle 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.

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- 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.