

# HEY JETSETTER WELCOME TO Safe Skies: A Quick Guide to International Travel

Hi, I'm Lia Tuso—Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. I'm a frequent flyer mom and aviation safety advocate

You may know me from Instagram (@lia\_tuso), where I've built a community of over 90,000 parents navigating the world with little travelers in tow. I specialize in helping families fly safely with babies and toddlers, especially when it comes to using car seats onboard airplanes, understanding airline policies, and mastering international logistics like passports, global car seat regulations, and navigating customs with kids.

My mission is simple: to empower caregivers with the tools, knowledge, and confidence they need to travel safely and smartly with their children—no matter the destination. I've worked alongside major airlines, consulted with aviation safety leaders, and created resources used by parents, flight attendants, and travel professionals across the globe.

This eBook is a streamlined, expert-backed roadmap to making your next international trip not just doable, but delightful. It has been reviewed and edited by a team of Global Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

Let's make travel safer, easier, and more fun...for everyone on board!



## THE COMPLEXITIES OF

# International Travel

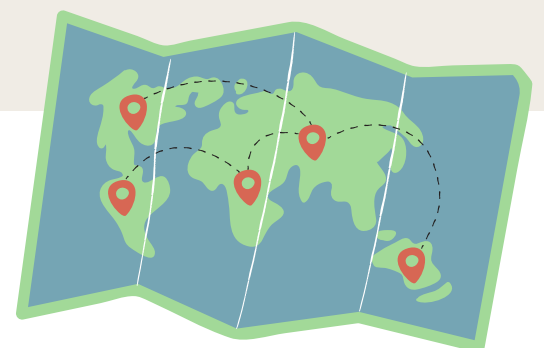
Traveling internationally with young children requires a lot of planning, and one of the most daunting aspects can be the logistics of car seats. Countries have different regulations and safety standards, and navigating these can be tricky.

When traveling to different countries, it's important to know that car seat laws and standards vary widely. For example, Europe uses the ECE R44/04 or R129 regulations, while the U.S. follows the FMVSS 213 standard. This means that your car seat may not be legally accepted in other countries. Despite having the same brand names, (like Doona and Joie for example) there are currently no American and/or Canadian car seats that are legal for use in the UK and EU. On the contrary, countries like Malaysia, Chile, Singapore and Mexico may recognize FMVSS 213 car seats. Given the complexities of global car seat laws, I encourage you to speak with a Child Passenger Safety Technician if you have questions related to your travels.

The reality is that our industry of Child Passenger Safety Technicians has not seen a single documented case of someone being ticketed or fined for using a foreign car seat while traveling. This isn't to say that it has never happened or won't happen in the future, but rather to reassure you that the chances of being fined are quite low.

Despite its illegality, using your own seat may sometimes be the safest and most reliable option. Renting a foreign car seat is generally not recommended, as an unfamiliar installation may the risk of misuse.

Some argue that using a foreign seat could void your insurance, but that would require both getting into an accident and someone disclosing the use of the foreign seat to your insurance. Ultimately, in the event of an accident, you would want a seat you trust and know how to install correctly to protect your child. I encourage you to speak with a Child Passenger Safety Technician before you travel to discuss these international logistics.



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Airline policies on car seats can vary significantly depending on the carrier and the country of travel. While many airlines, including international carriers, allow FAA-accepted car seats and the FAA CARES Harness onboard, some prohibit the use of Child Restraint Systems (CRS) entirely. In addition, certain airlines have restrictions on rear-facing car seats, with some allowing them only in specific seating classes or rows, or not at all.

To avoid any surprises, always verify the car seat policies of your airline ahead of time. Most airlines provide detailed guidelines on their websites, but some require you to call customer service to get your car seat approved for use during the flight.

Many airlines only permit car seats if you've purchased a separate seat for your child, so it's essential to book an additional seat if you plan to use a CRS. By confirming these details in advance, you can ensure a smoother and safer journey for your child.

I've put together a list of popular airlines that have rear-facing car seat restrictions or limitations, [click here to read more](#).



## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

# Q&A

### **1) I don't plan to use my car seat on the airplane, why can't I use a car seat that is available with the rental car at my destination?**

Rental car seats are often poorly maintained or missing crucial parts. There's no guarantee it will be the correct size or installed safely. Bringing your own seat ensures it's the right fit, safe, and familiar to your child. Furthermore, renting a foreign car seat increases the risk for misuse because of the unfamiliar installation. To learn more about the risks of rental car seats listen to [this Safe Skies Podcast Episode](#) (available on Apple too).

### **2) I see people say the Ride Safer Vest is not accepted in other countries but other people say it's fine, how do I know what's accurate?**

The Ride Safer Vest is certified for use in the U.S. but like any other child restraint system, is not universally approved worldwide. Acceptance depends on local car seat laws and enforcement. Safe Traffic Systems (the manufacturer) has provided a letter for caregivers to carry during their travels, explaining the adherence to US FMVSS213 regulations. You can access the letter [here](#).

### **3) Someone told me I need a locking clip, what is that?**

A locking clip is a small metal device used to hold the seatbelt at a fixed length to secure a car seat, especially in vehicles that don't have automatic locking seatbelts. It's placed near the buckle to prevent the belt from loosening during a crash. This is especially important to have during your international travels in case the vehicle you're riding in doesn't have a locking vehicle seatbelt. To learn more about how to use the locking clip [watch this video](#).

### **5) I don't know if I need a locking clip at my destination, where do I get one?**

Some car seats include a locking clip in a small storage area on the shell or base. If yours doesn't, you can request one from your car seat manufacturer by calling their 800 number. Beware, most of the locking clips available on Amazon are not from reputable sources.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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### **6) Do I need to use the top tether for a quick trip?**

If your car seat allows for a top tether, it should be used every single time, regardless of trip length. The top tether significantly reduces head movement in a crash, even during short drives. Furthermore, your car seat manufacturer may require its use. Be sure to read your car seat user manual for specific instructions.

### **7) The destination I am traveling to doesn't require car seats for taxis and/or ride shares, can I just hold my baby on my lap or in a baby wrap?**

Legal does not mean safe. Holding your baby, even in a wrap, puts them at serious risk in a crash. The safest choice is to use a car seat every time your child rides in a vehicle, regardless of the local laws.

### **8) I bought the Doona because I heard it's legal in every country... is that true?**

No, while Doona does sell to over 45 countries...just like any other car seat manufacturer, the seat meets different regulations. The Doona sold to the U.S. market is legal in countries that recognize FMVSS213 standards. Again, you may consider using it despite the legal regulations for the reasons listed throughout this document.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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