



Evaluation Criteria
“Gobar Grades”
December 2024 — December 2025

November 2024

1 Introduction

For 2025, Gobar NCRAP will be assigning grades to passenger cars for three kinds of safety systems: rear seat belt reminders, curtain airbags and ISOFIX anchorages.

The motivation for grading seatbelt reminders stems from the fact that rear occupant detection is not required by either upcoming regulations due in April [1] or consumer tests [2] [3]. Anecdotal evidence has shown that systems without this feature are often too benign or too annoying, the latter encouraging tampering.

Many new vehicles have curtain airbags, despite the cancellation of the draft amendment to AIS-145 proposed in 2022. Many airbag systems were updated to comply with its coverage requirements, but other three-row cars continuing without third-row coverage form the motivation for this section.

Lastly, ISOFIX anchorages are graded so that consumers can identify vehicles with ISOFIX anchorages and i-Size seating positions, in a convenient manner and without having to wait for consumer test results.

2 Scope

M1-category vehicles of the following categories may be selected for assessment:

- vehicles fully homologated for sale in India and in serial production
- vehicles homologated outside India to ECE/FMVSS regulations and imported in limited units without local homologation

3 Application of results

It is not practically possible to evaluate every aspect of every variant of every vehicle on the market, as well as maintain the published result subsequently. Hence, each evaluation can be considered a “snapshot” of the car during the time of evaluation. The following is the *minimal spanning* information that can be used to identify an evaluated vehicle.

- vehicle make and model
- variant evaluated
- date of evaluation

Efforts will be made to publish supplementary information where available, for example, the sources of catalogues used for evaluation. Evaluations may be deleted or edited after publication without notice to users in case of errors, or if it is found that the information used in the evaluation is not consistent with the experience reported with serial production vehicles.

4 Evaluation criteria

4.1 Rear Seatbelt Reminders

Letter grade	Requirements
A	For all rear seats: a seat belt reminder compliant with section 2.4 of AIS-145 Amd 6, additionally satisfying: the second level warning must be activated when all of the following are satisfied: - the seat is occupied - the OEM's choice of 2.2.4.1.1 — 2.2.4.1.3 is met - the belt is not fastened, regardless of whether it was unfastened during or before the trip the second level warning must be discontinued when the seat is unoccupied
B	For both second row outboard seats but not all rear seats: a seat belt reminder compliant with section 2.4 of AIS-145 Amd 6, additionally satisfying: the second level warning must be activated when all of the following are satisfied: - the seat is occupied - the OEM's choice of 2.2.4.1.1 — 2.2.4.1.3 is met - the belt is not fastened, regardless of whether it was unfastened during or before the trip the second level warning must be discontinued when the seat is unoccupied
C	For at least all second row seats: a seat belt reminder compliant with section 2.4 of AIS-145 Amd 6, but not meeting requirements for A/B
D	No rear seat belt reminders

4.2 Curtain airbag rearward coverage

Letter grade	Requirements
A	Curtain airbags with coverage for all rows
B	(three-row vehicles only) Curtain airbags with coverage for only the first two rows
C	Side head protection airbags for only the first row
D	No side head protection airbags

4.3 ISOFIX availability

Letter grade	Requirements
A	At least two i-Size seating positions labelled with the i-Size logo
B	At least two seating positions with ISOFIX anchorages but less than two i-Size positions
C	Exactly one seating position with ISOFIX anchorages
D	No ISOFIX anchorages

5 Target audience

5.1 Consumers

Grades will be published on the Gobar NCRAP website and via social media, and feedback, public or private (address to theyawningchihuahua@gmail.com) will be appreciated. Errors, misinterpretation of documentation, or incorrect information in documentation could lead to the publication of incorrect information. It is impossible to formally account for all such errors in advance, so decisions about their handling will be made on a case-by-case basis. In these cases, public interaction will be extremely useful in improving accuracy.

5.2 Industry

This document defines a method for providing consumers with easy-to-understand information to identify differences in vehicle systems that *already* meet regulations and consumer test standards — the criteria have **not** been designed to independently be a benchmark for their performance or design. As such, it is not expected to be interpreted as a technical standard or a substitute. Care has been taken to make sure that the criteria fit within the requirements of known regulation frameworks/consumer tests and do not inhibit compliance in any way. This has been done by ensuring that for most possible grades, there exists a vehicle already on the market and compliant with said regulations. Any inquiries about the same may be addressed to theyawningchihuahua@gmail.com.

References

- [1] Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). AIS-145 and amendments, 2023. Accessed: 2024-11-28.
- [2] Global NCAP. Global ncap new market assessment protocol: Adult occupant protection july 2022, 2022. Accessed: 2024-11-28.
- [3] Euro NCAP. Euro ncap assessment protocol - safety assist v5.6, 2012. Accessed: 2024-11-28.