

BUCKLE-UP

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The Canadian Air Regulations (CARs) state that **no person shall operate an aircraft, other than a balloon, unless it is equipped with a seat and safety belt for each person on board the aircraft.**

Specific to parachuting, the CARs further state that **a restraint system secured to the primary structure of the aircraft must be provided for each person who is carried for the purpose of parachuting from the aircraft.**

Seatbelts or “restraint systems” (much like a seatbelt or restraint that routes through your harness) are largely required to be worn for the take off, and for the potential likely hood of landing with the aircraft. Seatbelts are to be worn until the prescribed altitude set by the individual drop-zone and are to be removed prior to the opening of the aircraft door either for the purpose of ventilating the cabin or for jumping. For cabin ventilation, doors should be in either a completely opened or completely closed position, to avoid, for example, a loose pilot chute from escaping through an opening in which a person cannot fit.

When putting on your seatbelt or restraint system, consider threading it through one of the stronger parts of your harness, taking particular care to avoid the reserve handles. Understand that during a hard braking event or a sudden stop, you will likely travel forward in the aircraft to the full extent of your restraint device therefore, it is worth your time to take out as much slack out of your attachment as possible. Try and keep the buckle in an available place where you can find and remove it quickly following a dynamic event, enabling your egress from the aircraft.

Helmets should also be worn for takeoff and landing. If the configuration of the aircraft does not allow the jumper to wear it in the cabin, the helmet should be secured to the harness or seatbelt to stop it from becoming a projectile in the event of a sudden deceleration or a complete stop.

To summarize:

- The use of seat belts is mandatory for movement on the ground, takeoff and landing;
- There shall be one jumper per seat belt;
- Seat belts must be worn until the minimum altitude set by the dropzone has been reached;
- All loose items should be secured;
- Seat belts must be unfastened before opening a door in flight;
- The door should be fully opened.

Seatbelts are an important part of your safety equipment. Whether or not the aircraft is full, consider that you are putting yourself and others at risk in if it is not worn and treated with respect.

