

WARNING

STATUS Newsletter August 2008

SVA & FITTING OF DOUBLE SEATS

This issue crops up regularly and we thought it was time to revisit it again. The SVA guidelines for seat belt anchorages were written by STATUS for VOSA some years ago and stipulate effectively that all standard pedestal type seats should have a minimum of two legs per seating position. This would preclude the use of double seats on two or three legs and triple seats on three to five legs unless these arrangements had been tested in-vehicle.

Whilst it is known that seat manufacturers have double seats on two legs tested in their own right to M1 loads the likelihood of sufficient reinforcement could be provided to prevent the legs from pulling out of the vehicle are slim and when we wrote the guidelines we could not prescribe any reinforcement that we could be happy with.

We know that the seat manufacturers develop such seats because it is market led but STATUS have seen enough failures of doubles on two legs in vehicle to know it is a tall order to design a strong enough system to meet the loads stipulated in the directive.

It is estimated that the upward loads at the rear of each leg for a double on two legs is in the order of 6 tonnes with a similar force punching the front of the leg downwards. If they are fixed to a panel van floor therefore they inevitable pull through unless vehicle longitudinal and cross members can be utilised with significant reinforcements. It will also depend on the strength of the base vehicle as they differ in the respect enormously.

If you are happy fitting with 2 legs on a double or 3 legs on a triple we are happy to supply you BUT if we fit them we will only certificate with 4 legs or 6 legs.

YOUR CHOICE.