



MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA

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Competitors will be aware that safety harnesses (seat belts) approved for use in South African motorsport all have an expiry date, after which they are currently no longer permitted to be used.

MSA has received a number of requests for reconsideration of the issue of the expiry of safety harnesses. These requests have been motivated by the need to replace what many competitors deem still to be serviceable equipment even though an expiry date has been reached, as well as the cost implications of replacement. This especially relates to the examples of race cars that are only raced a handful of times in a given year, stored indoors and generally well looked after.

MSA has established that the Australian motorsport federation (CAMS), confronted with similar requests, commissioned a detailed study and, following extensive investigation, now allows safety harnesses to be used beyond their normal expiry date.

Having studied and considered the report commissioned by CAMS, MSA has decided to follow the Australians' example and allow safety harnesses **to continue to be used for up to five (5) years beyond their normal expiry date**. This dispensation is however granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Competitors are best positioned to know the history regarding their safety equipment, and the onus must therefore logically rest with each individual competitor to decide whether or not to continue using his/her safety harness beyond the normal expiry date.
2. Technical officials retain the right to reject any safety harness obviously damaged/defective, regardless of whether such harness is within, or outside, its expiry date.
3. Where it is impossible to determine the expiry date of a safety harness (such as in instances where the label is missing or damaged) such harness shall automatically be rejected – see GCR 239.

The above dispensation is in no way intended to compromise safety, but is a genuine attempt to address the issues raised by the participants in the sport. It simply empowers competitors to, after consideration of all relevant factors, make a conscious decision that their safety harnesses are still in a serviceable condition beyond their normal expiry date and therefore to continue using them in competition. Competitors are accordingly reminded to, at all times, act responsibly in the interests of their own safety.

ADRIAN SCHOLTZ
MANAGER – SPORTING SERVICES

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