



Insurance Institute for
Highway Safety



Vehicle LATCH Hardware Evaluation Rating Guidelines (Version III)

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Lower anchor ease-of-use criteria

- Depth less than 2 cm (0.79 in). Lower anchors with open access meet this criterion if the anchor is visible from a viewing angle of 60 degrees from horizontal.
- Clearance angle greater than 54 degrees; if the tool cannot attach to the bar, then the lower anchor fails the clearance angle criteria.
- Attachment force less than 178 N (40 lb); if the force tool cannot fully engage on the bar, then the lower anchor fails the attachment force criteria.

Tether anchor ease-of-use criteria

- Tether anchors located on the rear deck or the top 85 percent of the seatback
- No hardware present that could be confused for a tether anchor OR if confusing hardware is present, the tether anchor has a contrasting label less than 7.5 cm (3 in) from the anchor.

Vehicles are rated based on the best two full LATCH positions in the second row. For a good rating, the third tether anchor can be in the second or third row. A seating position is considered to have met a given lower anchor criterion only if both anchors meet it.

Good rating

- Two full LATCH positions meet all ease-of-use criteria (three lower anchor criteria and both tether anchor criteria).
- If an additional tether anchor is required by federal regulations for the specified vehicle, it must meet both tether anchor criteria.
- For vehicles with a tether router such as pickups, the tether router must accommodate the tether router tool.

Acceptable rating

- Two full LATCH positions meet a majority of the ease-of-use criteria. Specifically, lower anchors meet at least two of three ease-of-use criteria, and tether anchors meet at least one of two ease-of-use criteria.
- For vehicles with a tether router such as pickups, the tether router must accommodate the tether router tool.

Marginal rating

- One or two of the full LATCH positions either meet only one lower anchor criteria and one or both tether criteria OR two or three lower anchor criteria and neither of the tether anchor criteria.

Poor rating

- One or both of the full LATCH positions meet no lower anchor criteria OR one lower anchor criteria and neither tether anchor criteria.

Good+ rating

Vehicles earn a good+ rating if they meet the following criteria IN ADDITION TO the criteria for a good rating:

Two-row vehicles

- Have a third good or acceptable full LATCH position, either with dedicated or borrowed lower anchors.
- If the third full LATCH position is rated acceptable, its tether anchor must meet both ease-of-use criteria.

Three-row vehicles

- All seating positions have acceptable tether anchors (i.e., meeting at least one tether anchor criterion).
- There is one additional acceptable full LATCH position with dedicated lower anchors (meeting at least two lower anchor criteria and one tether anchor criterion).
- If there is a second-row center seating position, that seat must have acceptable full LATCH available, either with dedicated or borrowed lower anchors. (If it has dedicated anchors, the center position can simultaneously fulfill the requirement for an additional full LATCH position.)