

The Jefferson

**Instructions
for Use**

WARNING!

**The Yoke Must be
Attached Properly to
the Harness when
using this Restraint!**

**Never Remove the
Yoke from the
Harness!**

See inside for Details

Merritt Manufacturing

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WARNING!
**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE
FOLLOWING WARNINGS CAN RESULT
IN DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO
YOUR CHILD:**

- Use only in a rear-facing position when using it in a vehicle.
- Use only with children who weigh between 7.5 and 40 pounds (3.4 and 18 kg) and whose height is between 19 and 37 inches (48 and 94 cm). Top of child's head must be at least 1 inch (25 mm) below the top of restraint.
- Snugly adjust the belts provided with this child restraint around your child. A snug strap should not allow any slack. It lies in a relatively straight line without sagging. It does not press on the child's flesh or push the child's body into an unnatural position.
- Secure this child restraint with the vehicle's child restraint anchorage system if available or with a vehicle belt.
- Follow all instructions on this child restraint and in the written instructions located on the back of the restraint.
- Register your child restraint with the manufacturer.
- The yoke must be installed correctly on this child restraint at all times.
- Never use this child restraint in the front seat of a vehicle.
- Do not use risers with children greater than 25 lbs.
- According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions.
- Add-on child restraint systems should be securely belted to the vehicle, even when they are not occupied, since in a crash an unsecured child restraint system may injure other occupants.
- This child restraint conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. **This Restraint is not Certified for Use on Aircraft.**

WARNINGS, CONTINUED

- Child restraints could be recalled for safety reasons. You must register this restraint to be reached in a recall. Send your name, address, e-mail address if available, and the restraint's model number and manufacturing date to P.O. Box 17152 Indianapolis, IN 46217 or call 1-317-409-0148. For recall information, call the U.S. Government's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.NHTSA.gov>.
- Use this restraint rear facing only.
- **NOTE: This restraint must never be used forward facing!**
- This restraint must only be used in a motor vehicle or bus.
- Never leave a child unattended in this restraint.
- Do not modify this restraint in any way. Do not use any accessories unless provided by Merritt Manufacturing.
- Never use this restraint if it has damaged or missing parts.
- Do not place anything between the vehicle seat and the child restraint.
- Do not leave loose objects in the passenger compartment of your vehicle. In the event of a crash, these objects can become projectiles and cause serious injury or death.
- Consult with a child passenger safety technician certified by Safe Kids Worldwide for specific vehicle seat belt instruction.

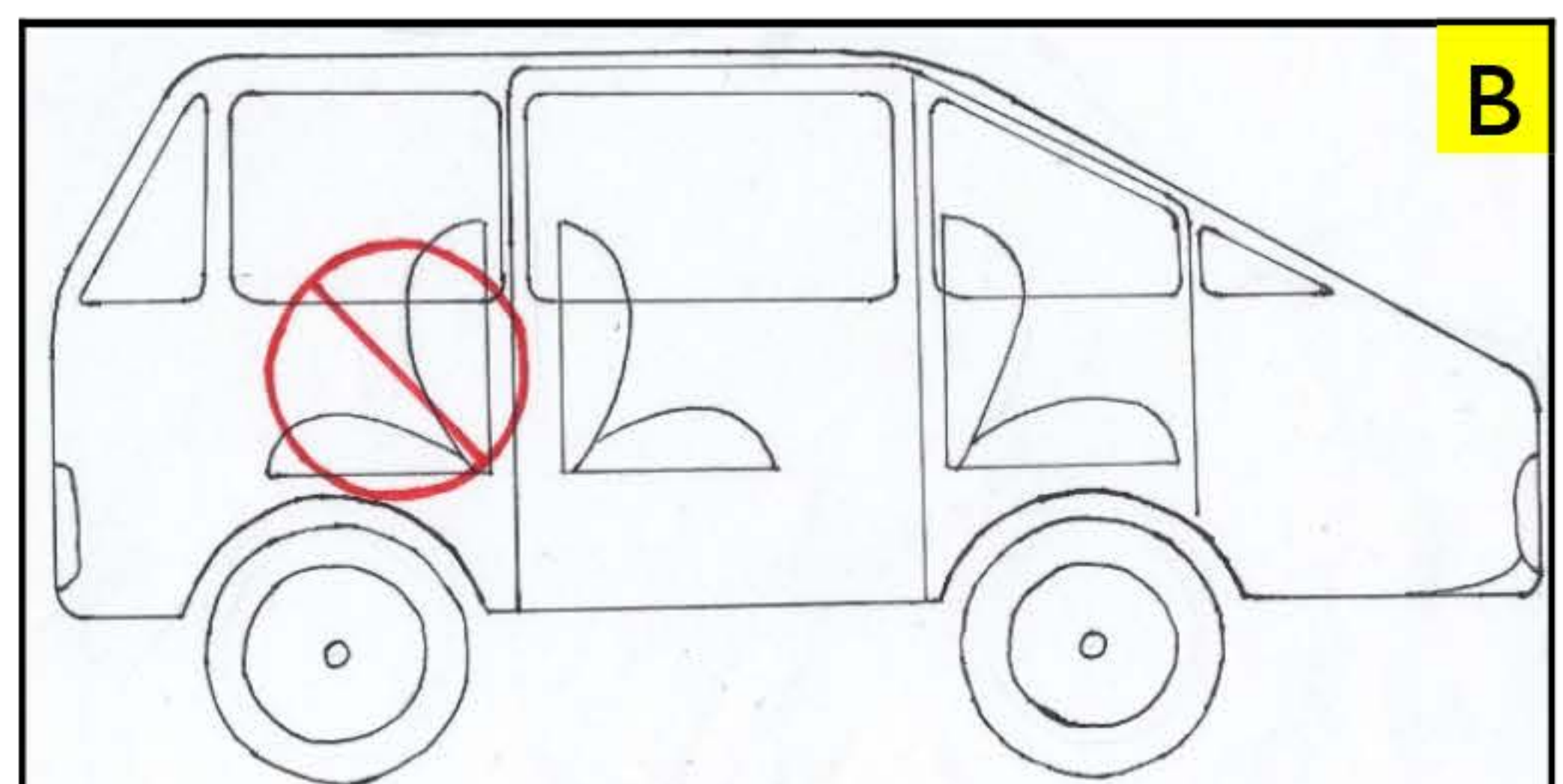
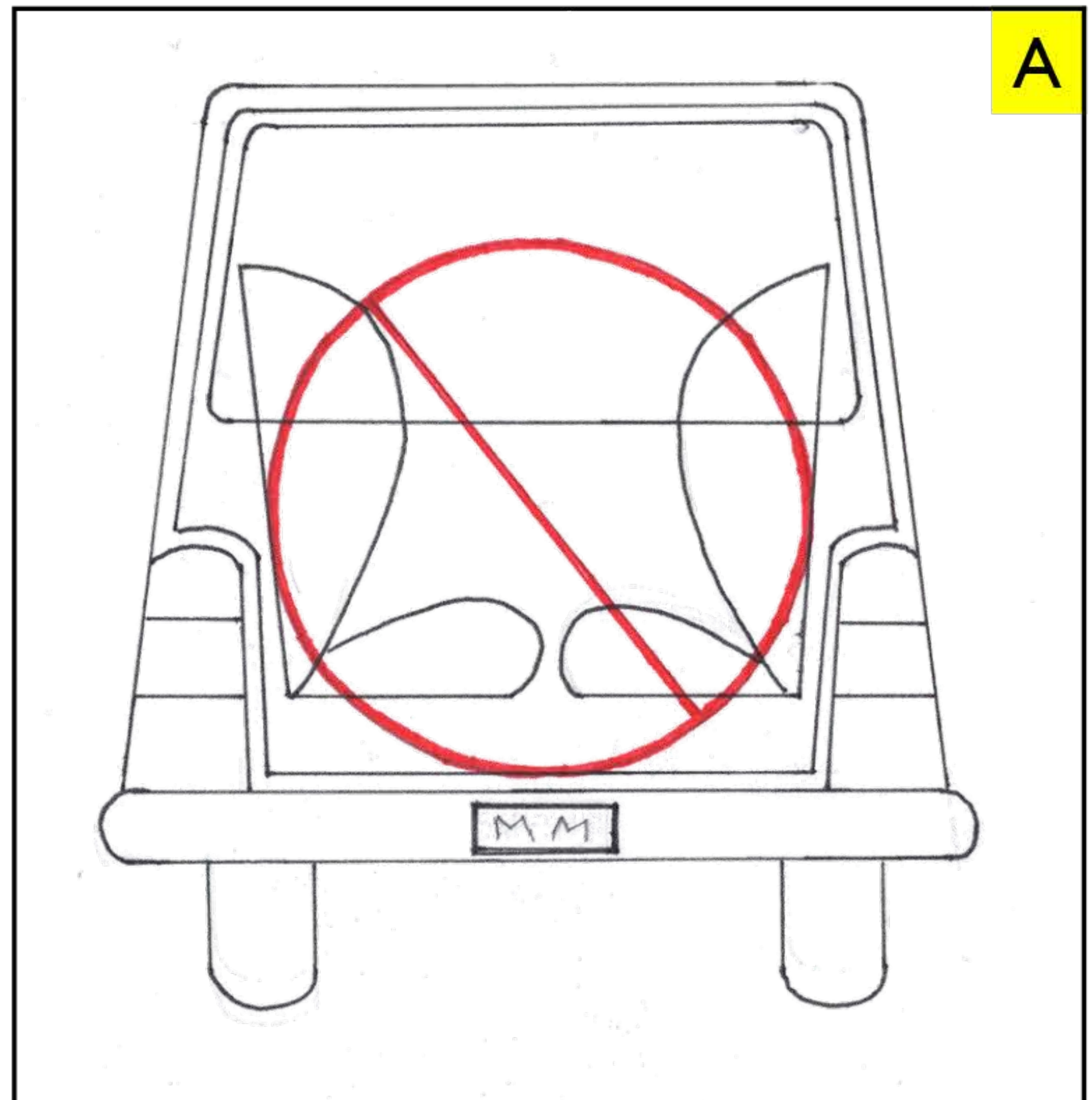
WARNINGS, CONTINUED

- A list of child passenger safety technicians can be found at the Safe Kids Worldwide website: www.safekids.org.
- A list of child passenger safety technicians that have received training in the transport of children with special health care needs can be found at the Automotive Safety Program's website: www.preventinjury.org.
- When parking your vehicle in direct sunlight, cover the entire seat to avoid burns.
- Do not use this restraint once it is older than six years.

- This restraint must only be installed in forward facing vehicle seats.

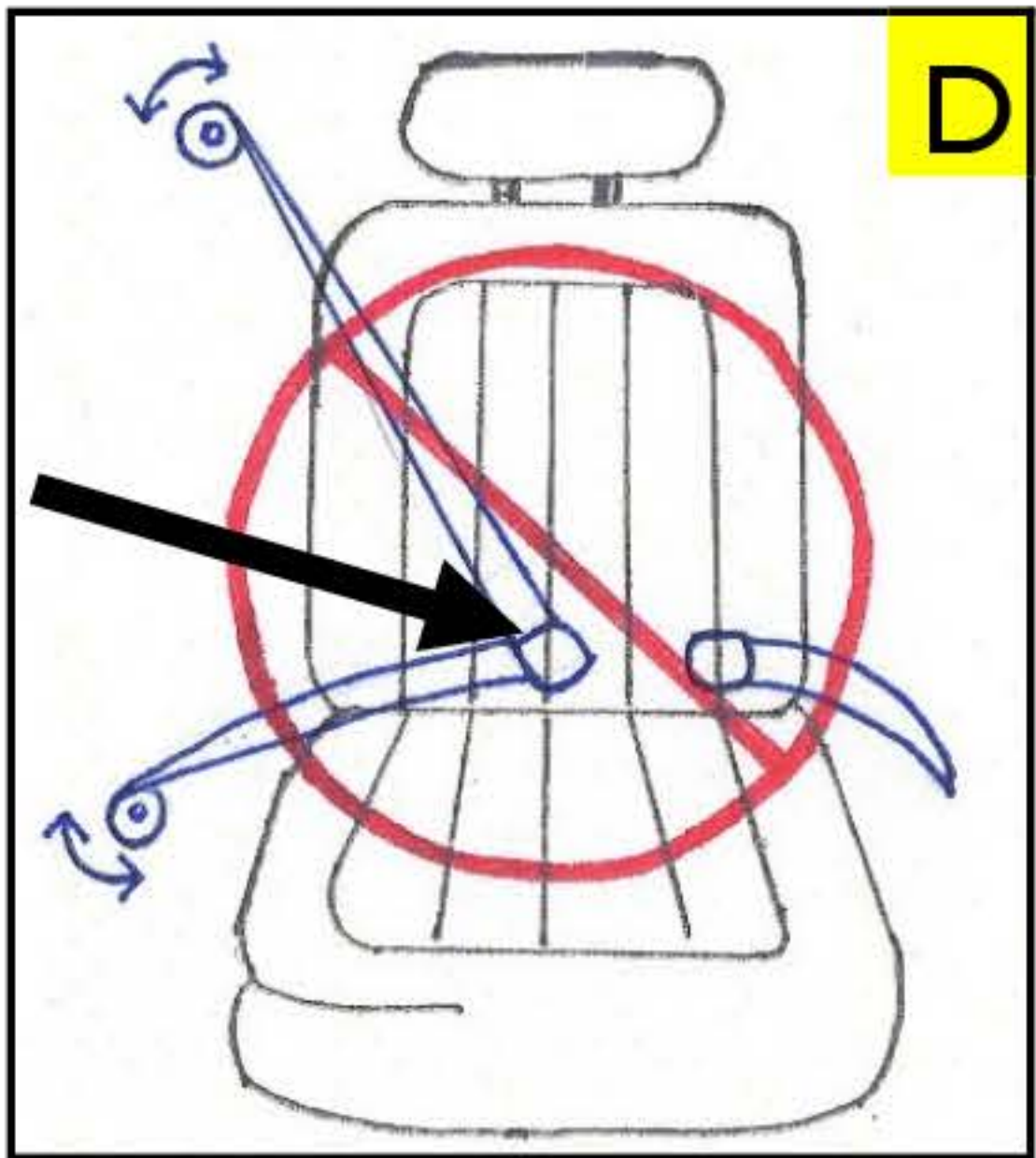
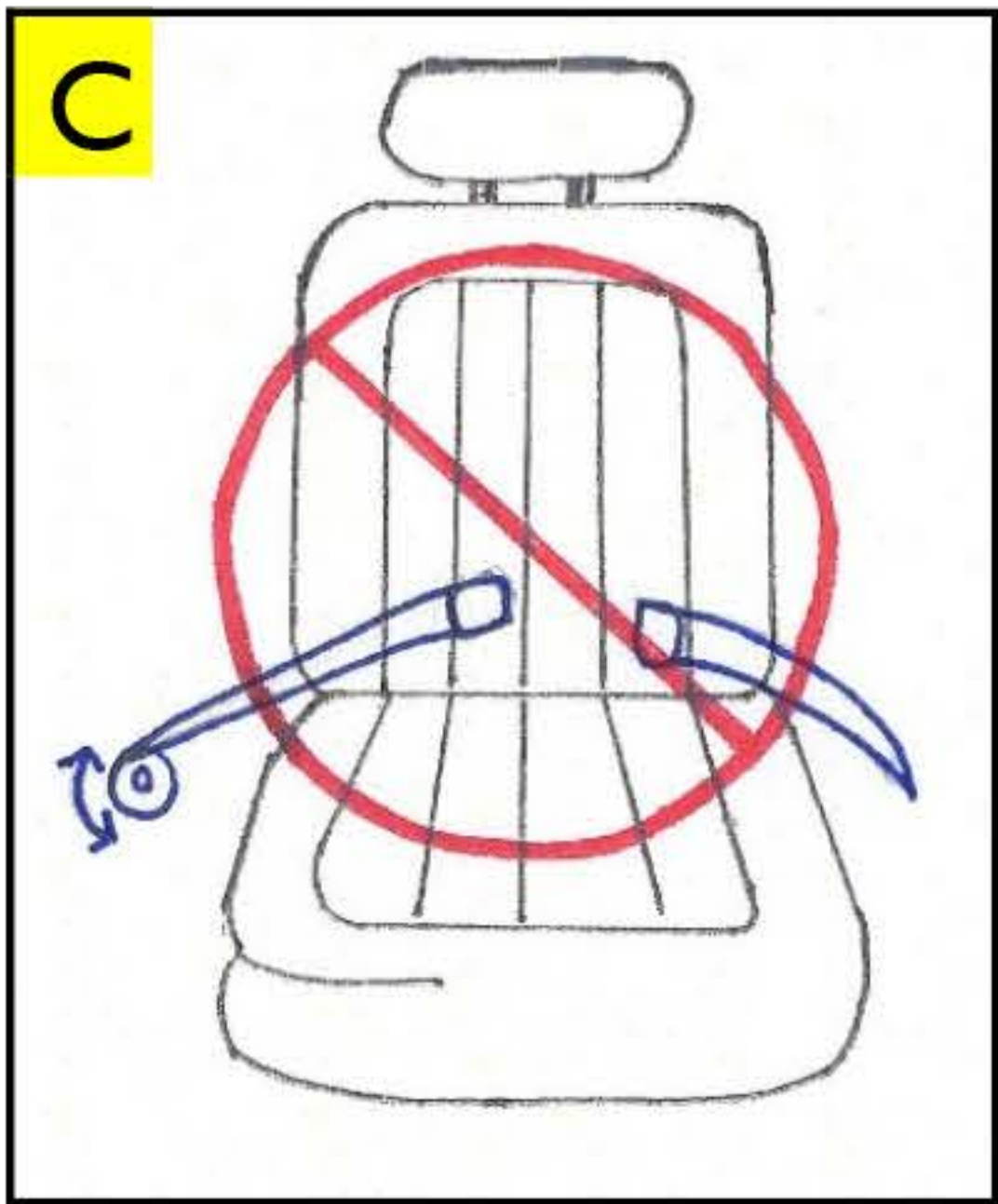
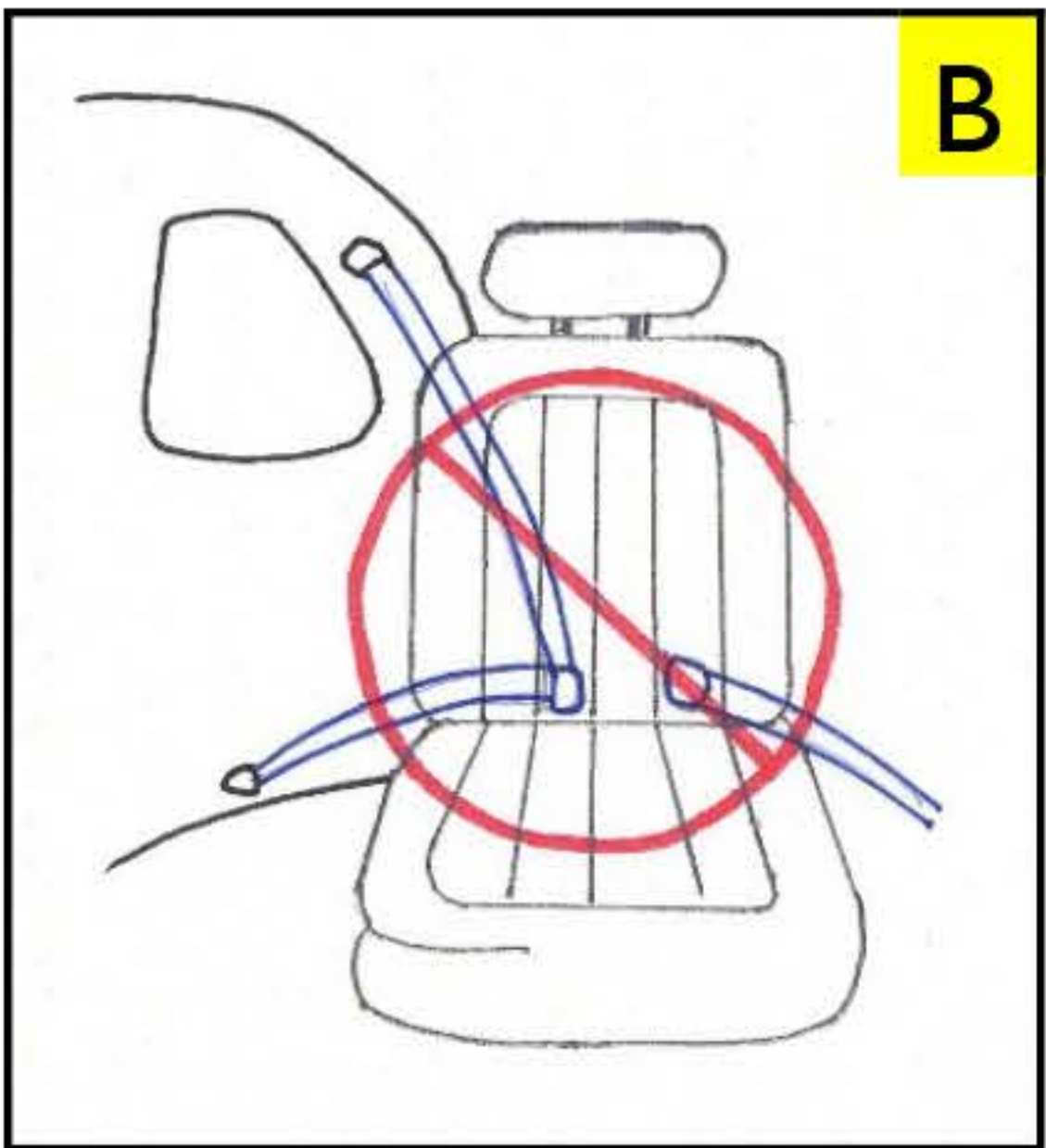
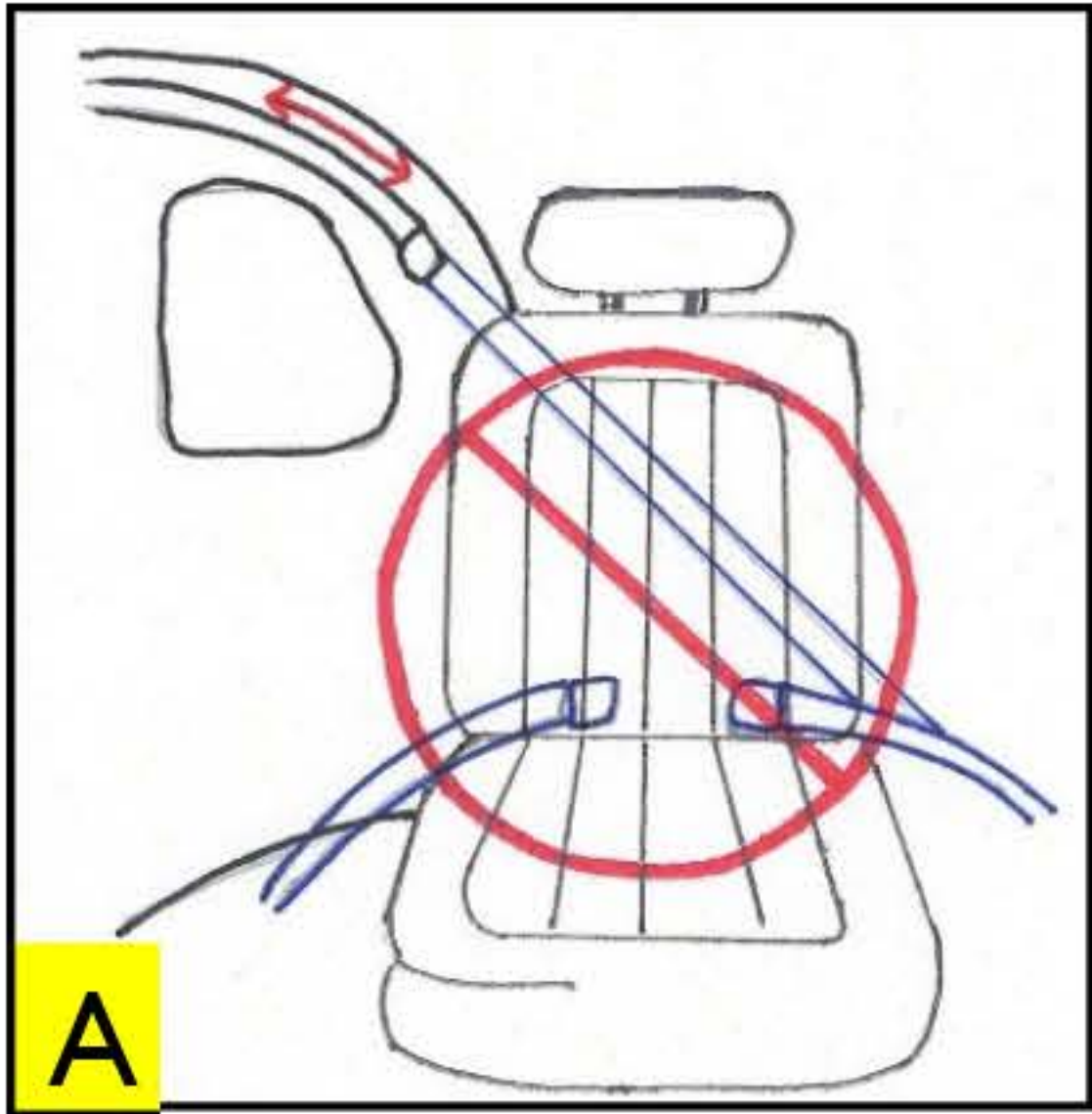
- Never install this restraint in side facing (Figure A) or rear facing (Figure B) vehicle seats.

- According to research sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, children are significantly safer when properly restrained in the back seat, compared to the front seat.



NOTE: Do not use the following types of vehicle seat belts with this child restraint:

- Automatic motor driven vehicle belts (Figure A).
- Vehicle belts with the top and/or bottom anchor attached to the vehicle door (Figure B).
- Lap belt with an emergency locking retractor (ELR), which means the lap belt will only lock in a sudden stop or crash (Figure C).
- Combination lap-shoulder belt with two retractors. The best way to identify this condition is to observe the latch plate (see arrow). Both the lap and shoulder belt portions will be sewn to it so that it cannot slide (Figure D).



NOTE: The following types of seat belts can be used. Read your vehicle owner's manual and Pages 18-23 of this manual to determine the correct way to lock your seat belt.

- Combination lap-shoulder belt with a sliding latch plate.

This type of seat belt has a latch plate (Figure A) that slides freely up and down the webbing. The latch plate does not lock.



- Combination lap-shoulder belt with a locking latch plate.

This type of seat belt has a latch plate (Figure B, yours may differ) that locks into place for securing child restraints.



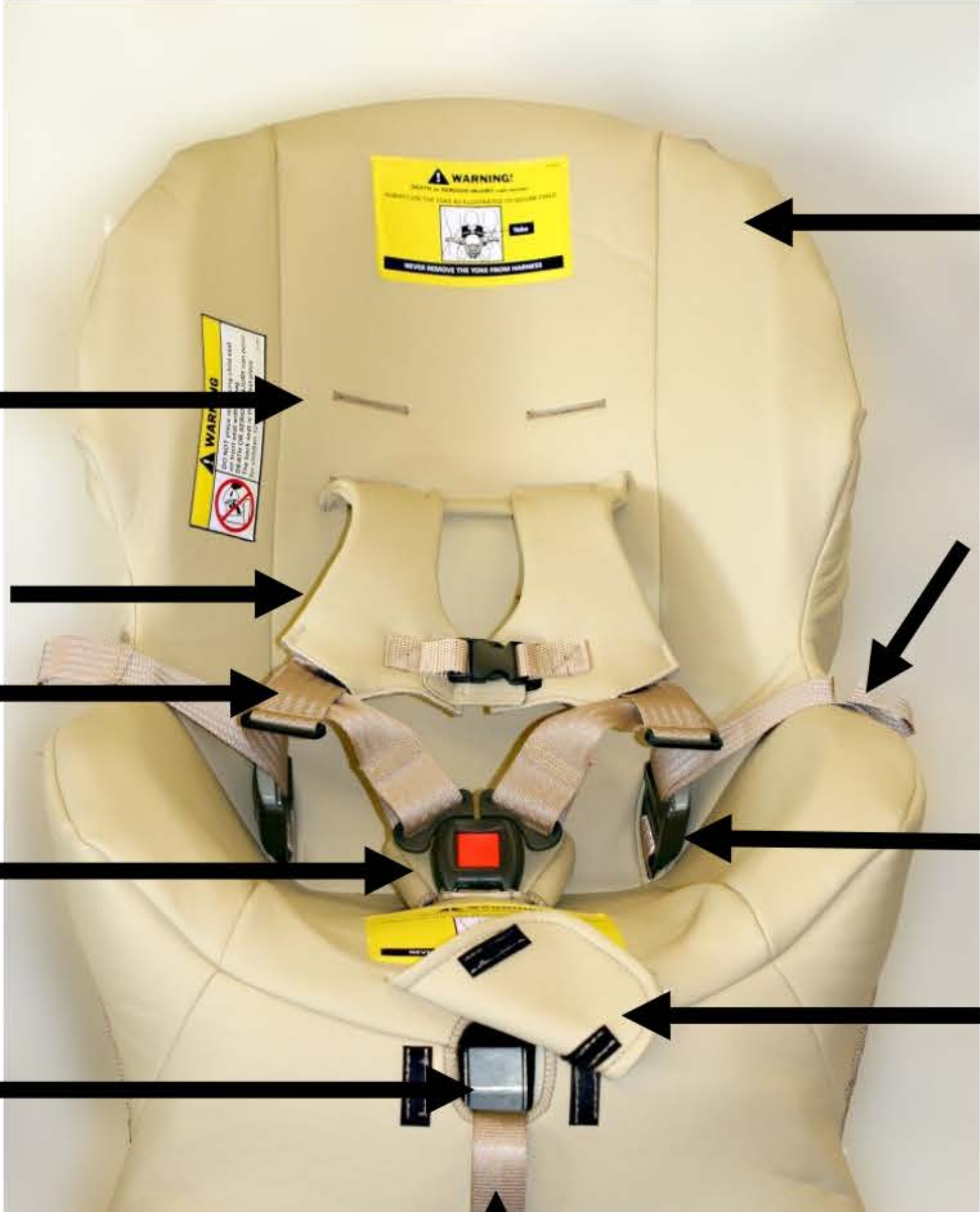
- A lap belt with a locking latch plate (Figure C).

This type of seat belt stays locked after the seat belt is tightened by pulling the free end (See Arrow).

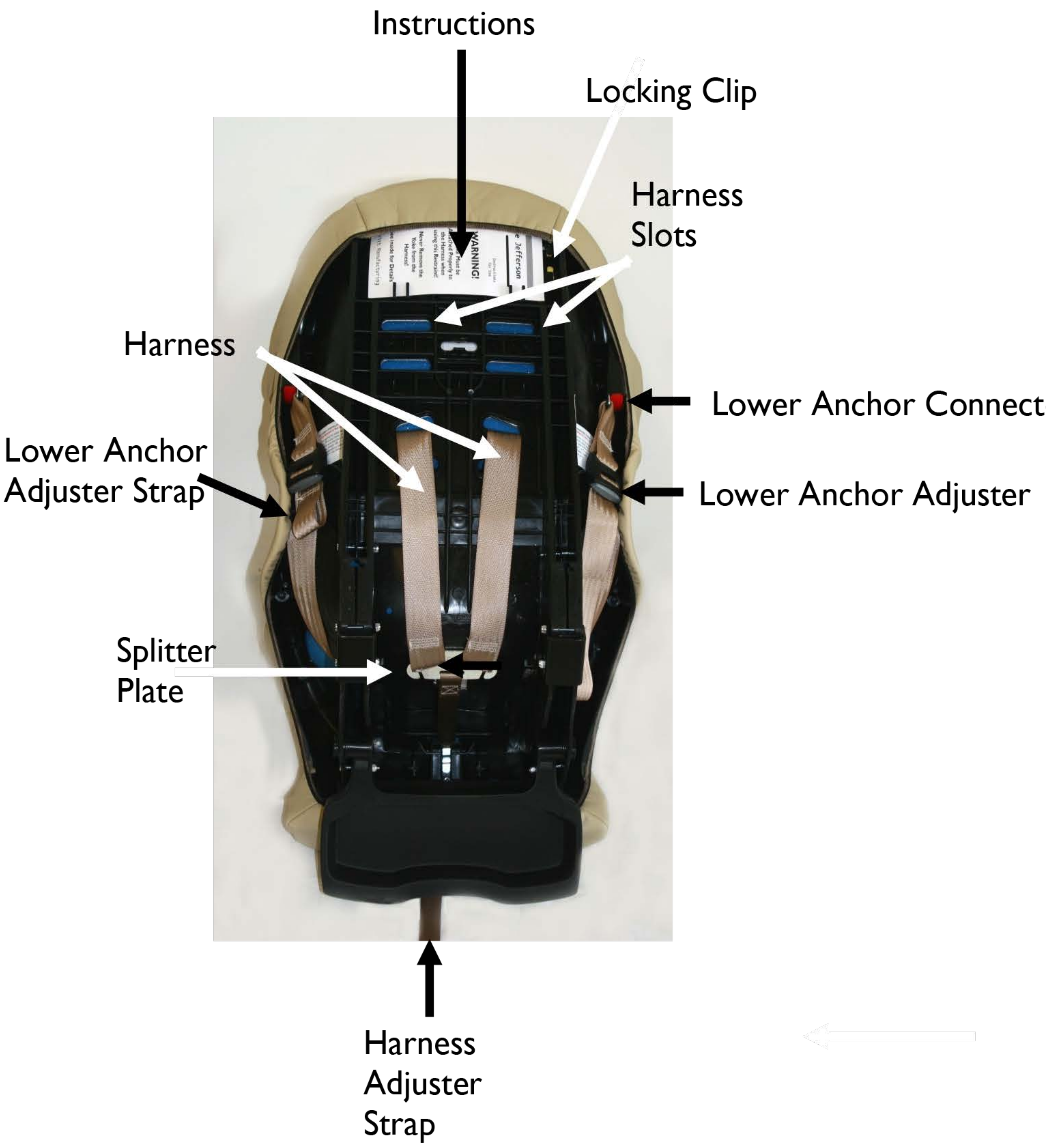


- A lap belt with an automatic locking retractor (ALR).
This type of lap belt looks like the one shown in Figure C on Page 6. However, it will automatically lock (and stay locked) after being pulled to any length.

Jefferson Features



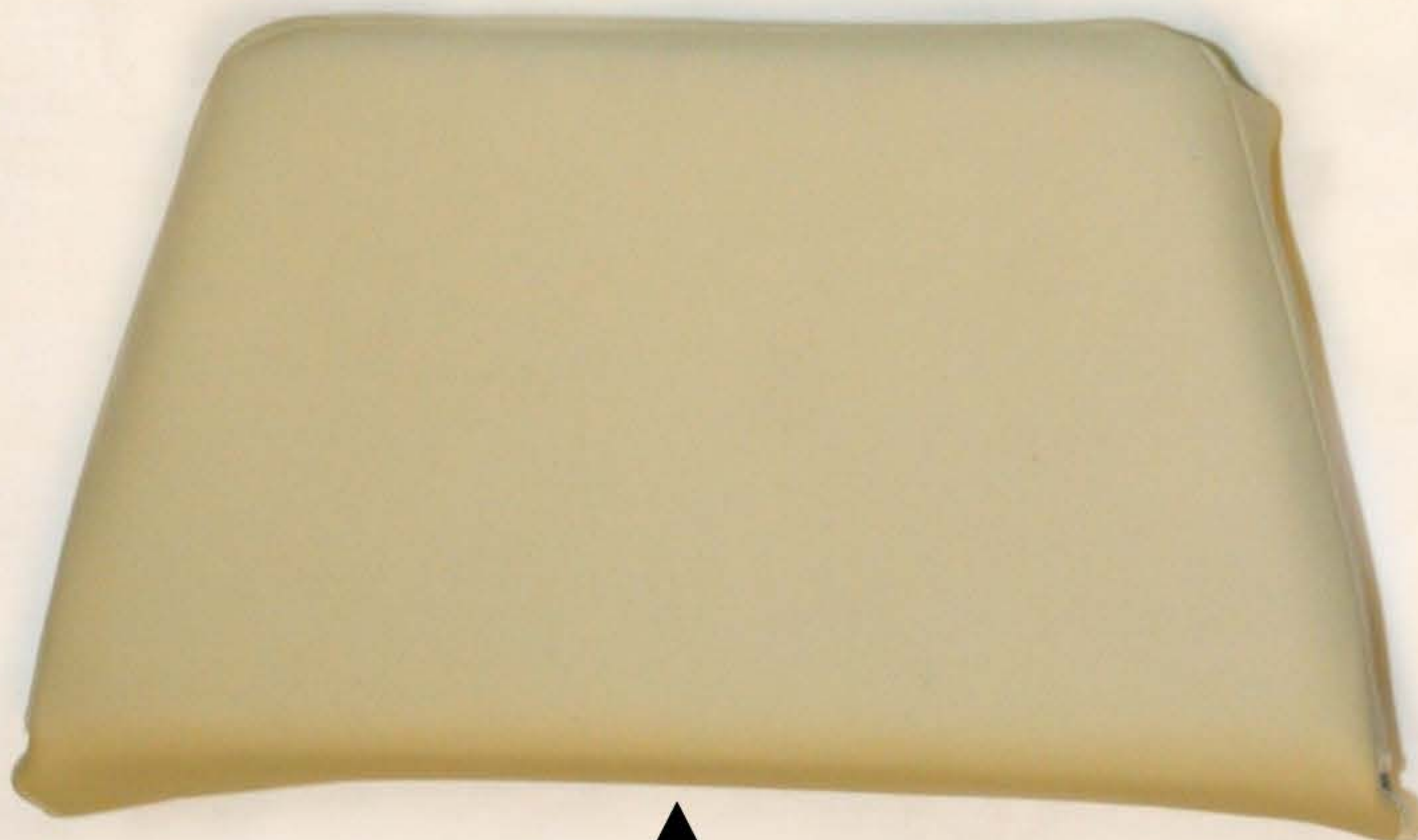
Jefferson Features, Continued



Newborn Risers

NOTE: Use of the risers is optional

Riser for use when Buckle is in 1st position



Riser for use when Buckle is in 2nd position

Installation of Newborn Risers

Do not use risers with children greater than 25 lbs



Riser for use when Buckle is in 1st position (Installed)



Riser for use when Buckle is in 2nd position (Installed)

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Adjusting Harness Height

1. Loosen the harness by pushing the harness adjuster (See Arrow, Figure A) and pulling the top of both harness straps forward (Figure A).
2. Disconnect the buckle and lay the yoke over the back of the restraint and each hip strap over it's respective side of the restraint (Figure B).
3. Carefully place your child in the restraint to determine the appropriate height for the harness straps.
4. Identify the set of harness slots that is closest to being even with the top of the child's shoulders, but not above it (Figure C).
5. Remove the child from the restraint.
6. If necessary, move the harness straps to the appropriate location according to Steps 7-11 on the next page.



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Never Remove the Yoke from the Harness!

Adjusting Harness Height, Continued

- 7. Remove one of the harness straps from the splitter plate (Figure D) and pull it through the harness slot to the front side of the restraint (Figure E).
- 8. Insert the harness strap through the appropriate slot (Figure F) and pull it through to the back side of the restraint (Figure G- opposite page).



Adjusting Harness Height, Continued

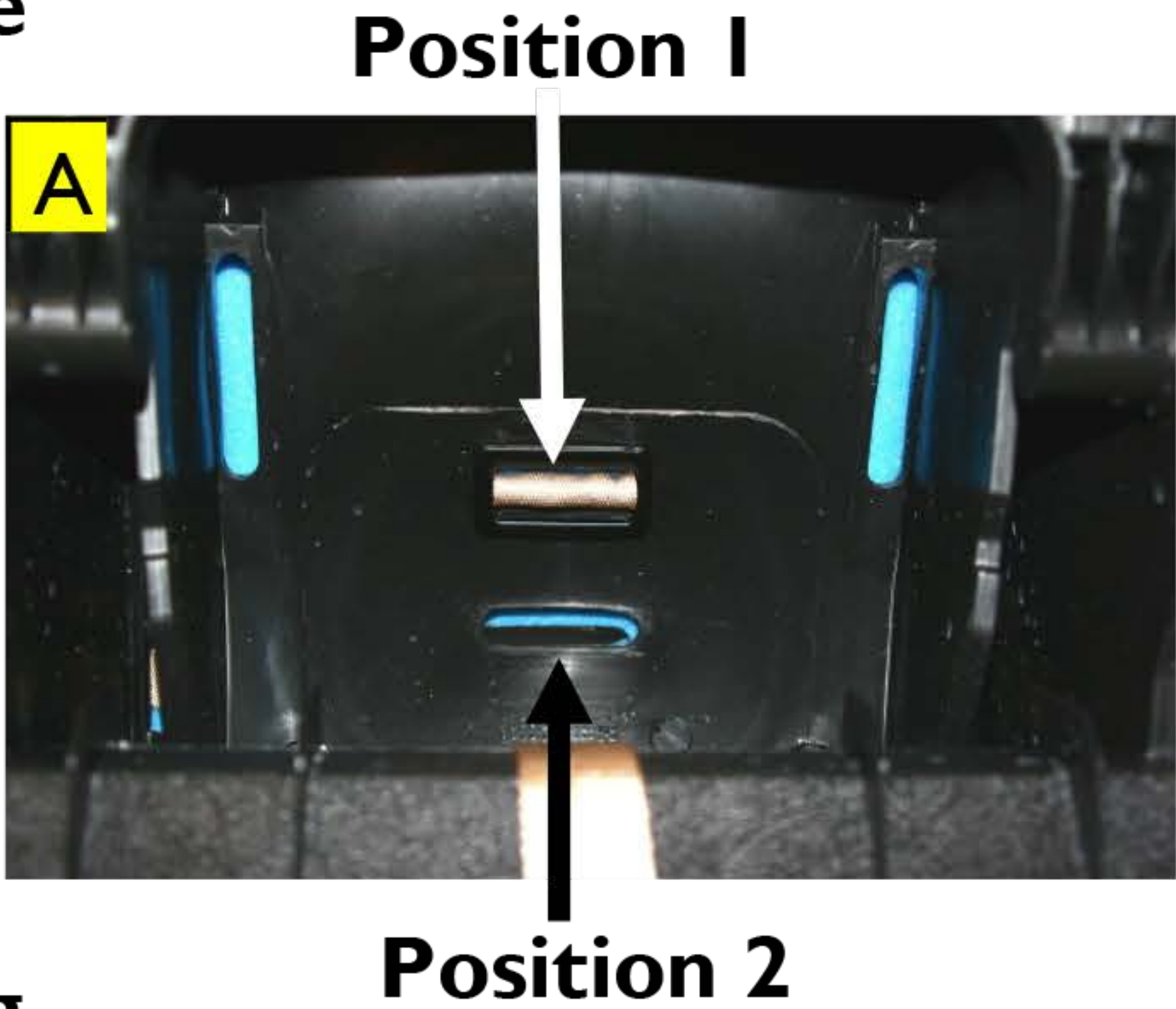
9. Re-attach it to the splitter plate (Figure H).
10. Repeat Steps 7-9 for the other harness strap (Figure I).
11. Carefully place the child back in the restraint and verify that the harness is in the set of slots that is closest to being even with the top of the shoulders, but not above it.



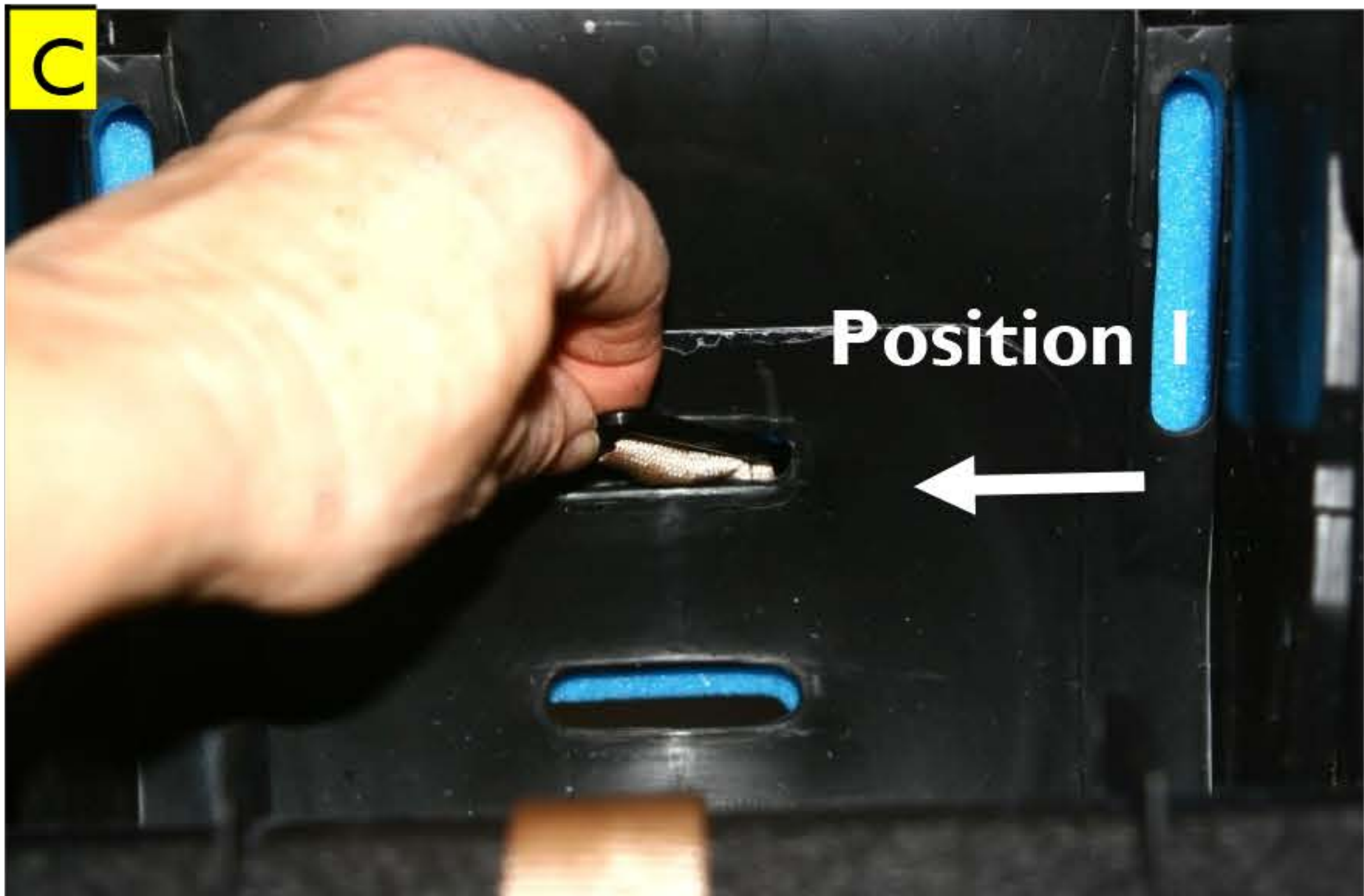
Adjusting the Buckle

Note: Figure A shows the bottom side of the restraint.

Note: This child restraint has two buckle positions. The restraint is shipped with the buckle in *position 1* (Figure A). If necessary, move the buckle to *position 2* according to the following steps.



1. Loosen the harness by lifting the harness adjuster (See arrow, Figure B) and pulling the top of both harness straps forward (Figure B).
2. Turn the restraint over onto a flat, secure surface.
3. To remove the buckle from *position 1*, grasp the buckle anchor, twist it 90 degrees, and insert it through its locator slot (Figure C).



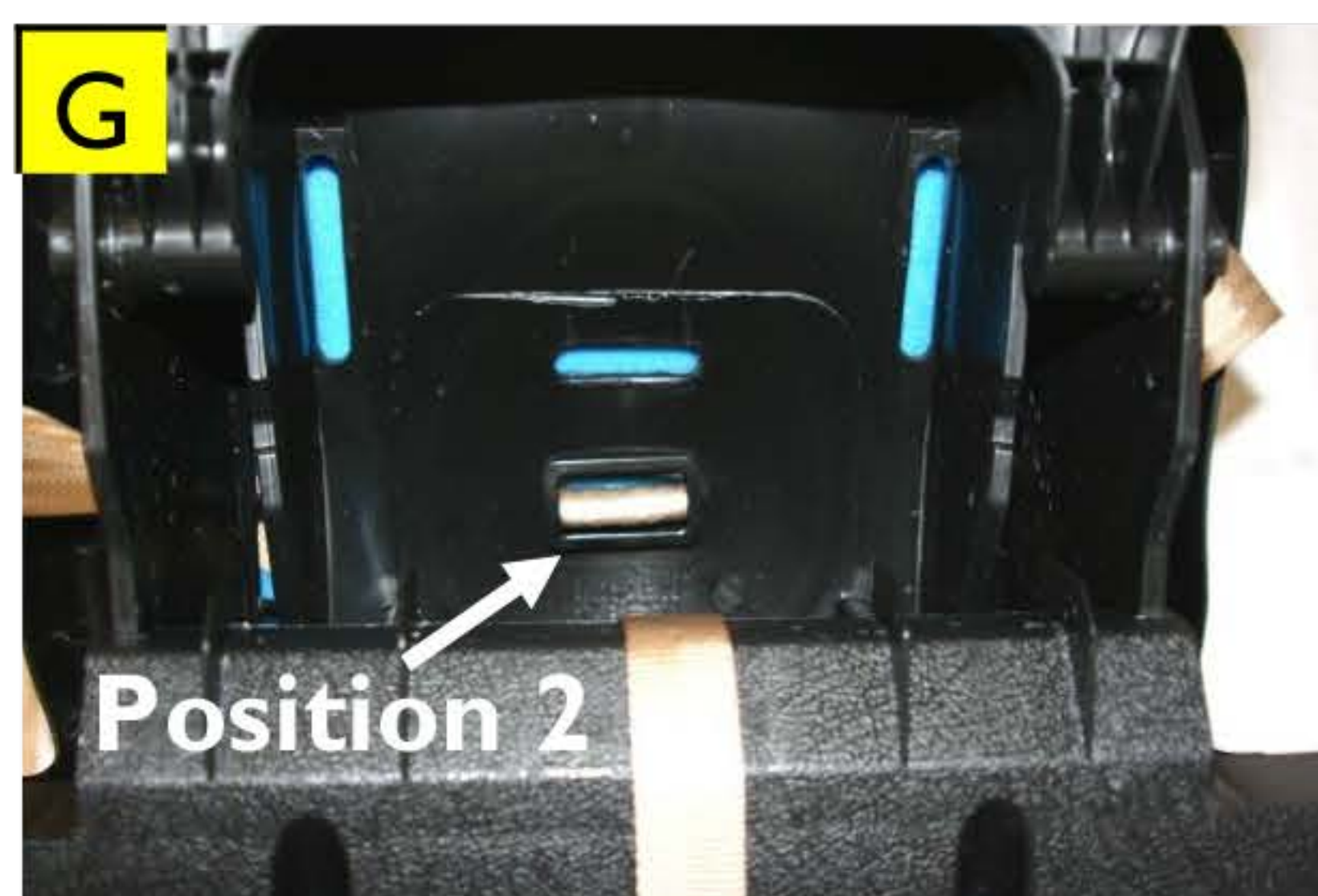
Adjusting the Buckle, Continued

4. Pull the buckle anchor through the slot in the plastic shell and through the top of the cover as shown in Figure D.



Installation of the Buckle into Position 2

5. From the front side of the restraint, grasp the buckle anchor and insert it through the slot in the cover nearest the warning label (See arrow, Figure E).
6. Pull the buckle anchor through the slot in the plastic shell and out of the bottom side of the restraint (Figure F).
7. Position the buckle anchor flat against the plastic shell (Figure G).



Locking the Lap-Shoulder Belt

Note: Pages 18-23 describe how to lock a lap-shoulder belt. First, install the restraint using one of the installation methods described on pages 24-31. If you used a lap-shoulder belt to install the restraint, then return to this section to determine how to lock it.

- The three options discussed on pages 18-23 describe how to install this restraint with a combination lap and shoulder belt only. They do not apply to “lap belt” installations.
- There are three primary methods for locking a lap-shoulder belt. It is important to know the correct way to lock your vehicle’s lap-shoulder belt in order to ensure a safe installation of this restraint.
- Review your owner’s manual to determine if your seat belt is designed to lock child restraints in place.
- While there may be exceptions, 1996 model year vehicles or newer should have either a locking latch plate (Figure A) or a switchable retractor (Figure B).



Note: Locking Clip is located on back of restraint.



- If your vehicle’s lap-shoulder belt is equipped with an emergency locking retractor, then the locking clip (Figure C) provided will have to be used.

Locking the Lap-Shoulder Belt, Continued

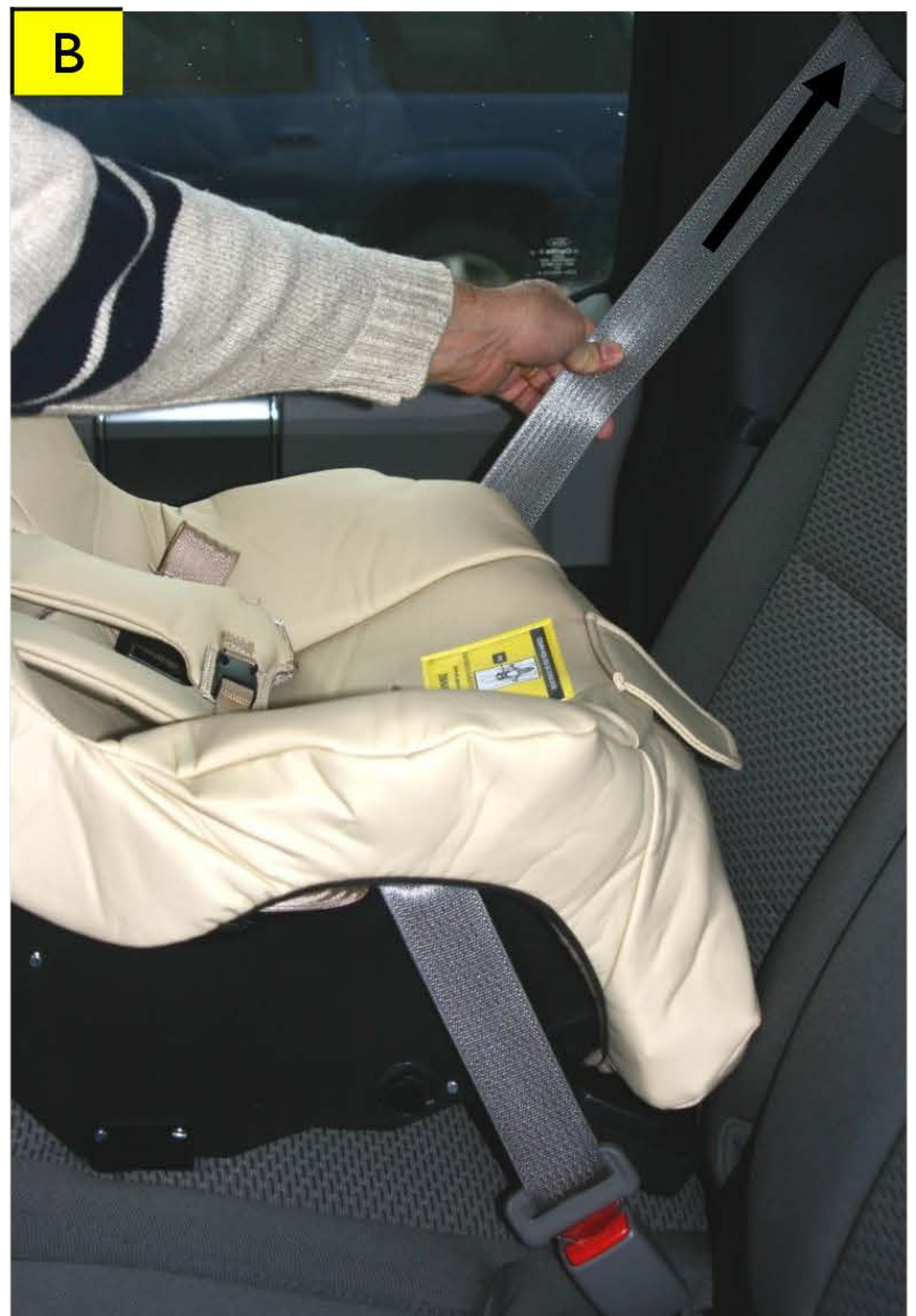
Option 1—Locking Latch Plate

- If your owner's manual indicates that the vehicle seat belt is equipped with a locking latch plate, then lock the restraint according to the following steps:

1. While pressing down with your hand, remove slack from the lap belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the lower end of the shoulder portion (Figure A).



2. While still pressing down with your hand, remove slack from the shoulder belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the upper end of the shoulder portion (Figure B) and feeding the excess webbing into the retractor (Figure B).



3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until the restraint is stable as described in the section “Checking the Stability of the Restraint” on the bottom of Page 23.

Locking the Lap-Shoulder Belt, Continued

Option 2—Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR)

- If your owner’s manual indicates that the vehicle seat belt is equipped with an emergency locking retractor (ELR), then you must use a locking clip as specified below.

1. After buckling the safety belt, remove slack from the lap portion of the safety belt until the restraint is as tight as possible (Figure A).



2. While keeping the shoulder portion of the seat belt tight with one hand, use your other hand to pinch the lap and shoulder belts firmly together next to the latch plate (Figure B).



3. While continuing to pinch the belts together, release the buckle (Figure B).

Locking the Lap-Shoulder Belt, Continued

Option 2—

4. While keeping the seat belt in the restraint's belt path and continuing to pinch the belts together, thread both portions of the vehicle seat belt into the locking clip (Figure C and D).



5. While pressing your hand firmly into the restraint, re-buckle the seat belt (Figures D and E).



6. Determine if the restraint is secure as described in the section “Checking the Stability of the Restraint” on the bottom of Page 23. If necessary, repeat Steps 1 - 5 until the restraint is secure.

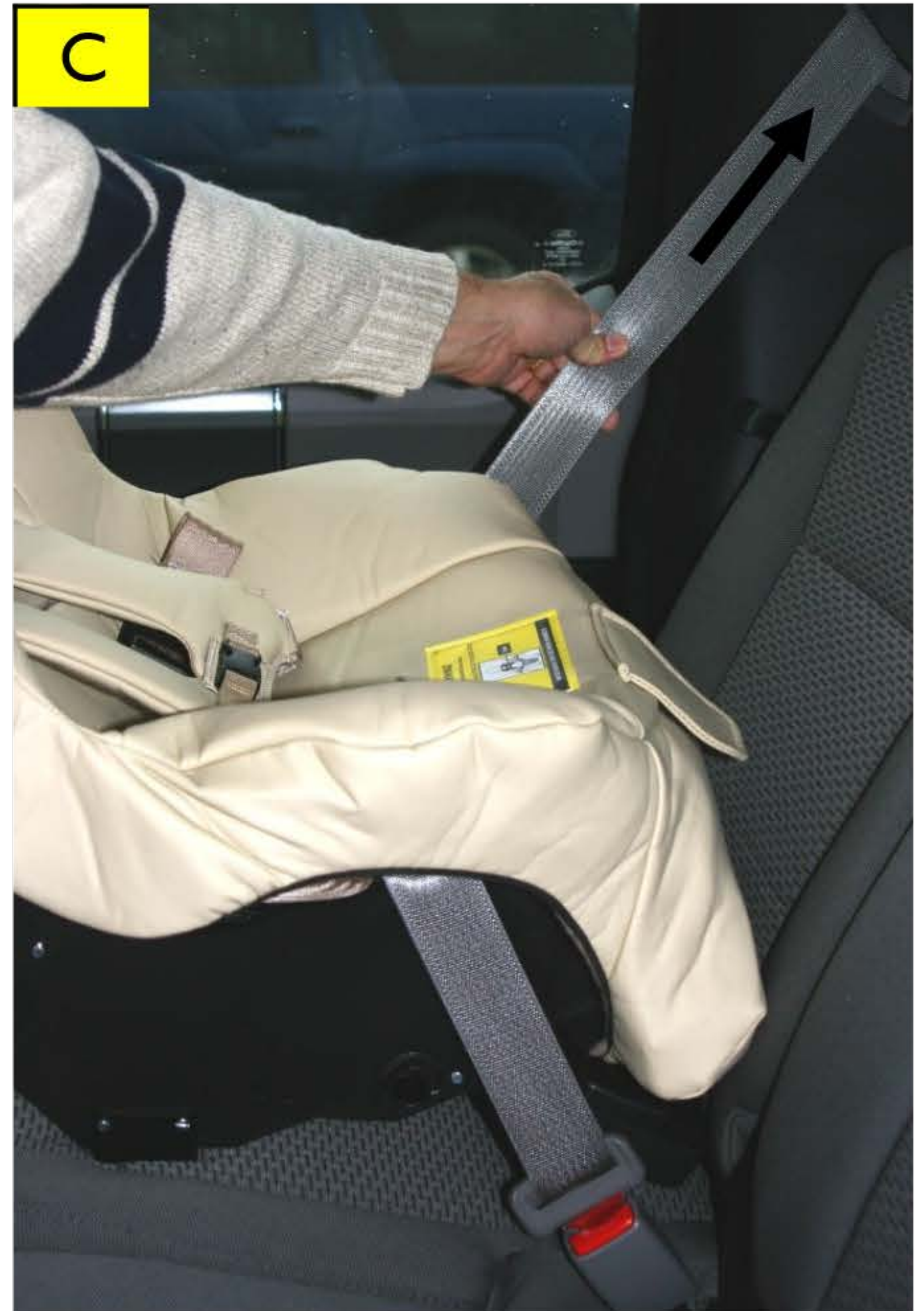
Option 3—Switchable Retractor

1. If your owner's manual indicates that the vehicle seat belt is equipped with a switchable retractor, then engage the retractor as specified in the manual. Usually this is done by slowly pulling the shoulder portion all the way out (Fig. A) and then feeding it back into the retractor. However, there may be alternate methods in some vehicles (Read your vehicle manual).
2. While pressing down with your hand, remove slack from the lap belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the lower end of the shoulder portion (Fig. B).



Option 3—Switchable Retractor, Continued

3. While still pressing down with your hand, remove slack from the shoulder belt portion of the lap-shoulder belt by pulling up on the upper end of the shoulder portion (Fig. C) and feeding the excess webbing into the retractor (Fig. C).
4. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until the restraint is stable as described in the section below. The shoulder belt must be locked in place, not allowing any webbing to be pulled from the retractor.



Checking the Stability of the Restraint

With your hands positioned at the lower portion of restraint (Figure D), verify that the restraint does not move more than one inch in any direction when you attempt to move it side to side and front to back. The restraint must remain securely installed in order to protect your child in a crash. Check your restraint frequently for a tight fit.

Lap-Shoulder Belt Installation

1. Place the restraint on the vehicle seat. (Figure A).
2. Grasp the seat belt and push it through the nearest belt slot underneath the foam. (Figure B).
3. Lift up the seat cover and foam as shown in Figure C.
4. Then route the seat belt between the foam and the plastic shell. Make sure to route the seat belt in front of the crotch strap (See Arrow) as shown in Figure C.
5. Pull the seat belt through the belt slot on the opposite side of the restraint (Figure D).
6. Replace the foam and cover.



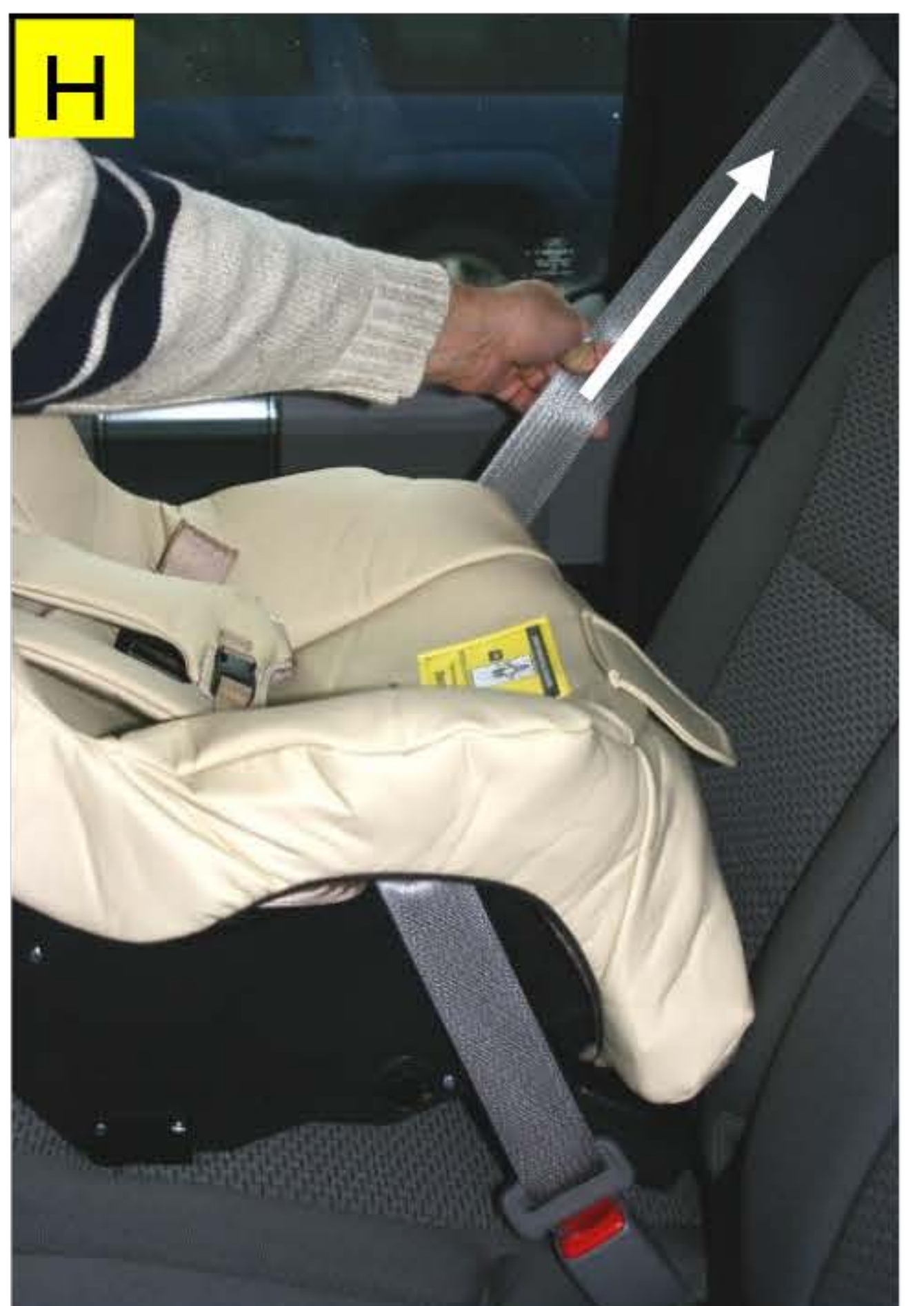
Lap-Shoulder Belt Installation, Continued

7. Attach the seat belt to the buckle (Figure E).

NOTE: For best results, place your hand on the seating surface of the restraint and push down firmly while performing Steps 8 and 9.

8. Remove as much slack from the system as possible; first from the lap belt portion by pulling up on the lower end of the shoulder belt portion (Figure G), then from the shoulder belt portion by pulling up on the upper end of the shoulder belt (Figure H).
9. “Feed” all of the slack into the shoulder belt retractor (Figure H).
10. Verify that there is no slack in the seat belt. If there is any slack, remove it as described in Steps 8 and 9.
11. Review pages 18-23 to determine the appropriate method for locking your vehicle seat belt and proceed to lock it now.
12. The leveling arrow must be level with the ground (Figure I).
13. Check the stability of the restraint according to the guidelines at the bottom of page 23.

Note: To remove the restraint, perform Steps 2-5 in reverse.



Lap Belt Installation

1. Place the restraint on the vehicle seat. (Figure A).
2. Grasp the seat belt and push it through the nearest belt slot underneath the foam. (Figure B).
3. Lift up the seat cover and foam as shown in Figure C.
4. Then route the seat belt between the foam and the plastic shell. Make sure to route the seat belt in front of the crotch strap (See Arrow) as shown in Figure C.
5. Continue to route the seat belt through the belt slot on the opposite side of the restraint (Figure D).
6. Replace the foam and cover.



Lap Belt Installation (Continued)

7. Attach the seat belt to the vehicle buckle (Figure E).
8. While pressing your knee into the restraint, remove as much slack from the lap belt as possible by pulling the lap belt's free end (Figure F).
9. The leveling arrow must be level with the ground (Figure G).
10. Check the stability of the restraint according to the guidelines at the bottom of page 23.

Note: To remove the restraint, perform Steps 2-5 in reverse.



LATCH Installation

- 1. Remove one of the LATCH connectors from its storage location on the side of the restraint by pushing the red release button (Figure A).
- 2. Lengthen the LATCH Assembly by pressing the gray button on the adjuster and pulling the strap (See arrow) through it (Figure B).
- 3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for the other end of the LATCH assembly.



LATCH Installation, Continued

4. Place the restraint on the vehicle seat (Figure C) and lift up the cover and foam to expose the LATCH Assembly and crotch strap (Figure D).



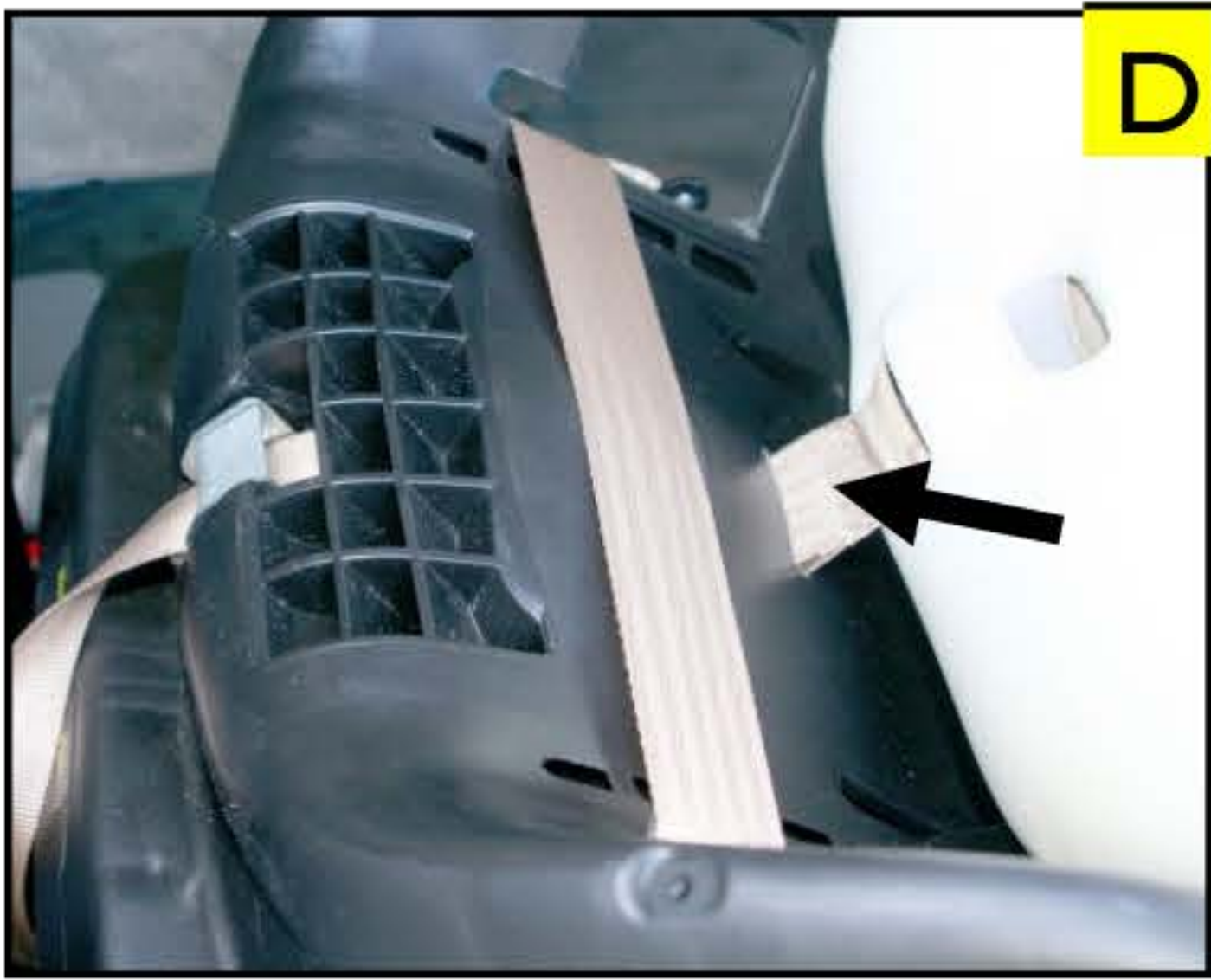
Crotch
Strap →



Crotch
Strap →

LATCH Installation, Continued

- 6. Make sure the LATCH assembly is routed in front of the crotch strap as shown in Figure D.
- 7. Replace the cover.
- 8. Grasp one of the connectors and push it onto the lower anchor within the seat bite until you hear a click (Figs. E and F).
- 9. Make sure the connector is locked in place.
- 10. Repeat Steps 8 and 9 for the other connector.
- 11. While pushing down on the restraint, remove slack from the webbing by pulling the free end on each side of the restraint. (Figure G).
- 12. Verify that there is no slack in the webbing. If there is any slack, remove it as described in Step 11 and shown in Figure G.
- 13. The leveling arrow must be level with the ground (Figure H).
- 14. Check the stability of the restraint according to the guidelines at the bottom of page 23.



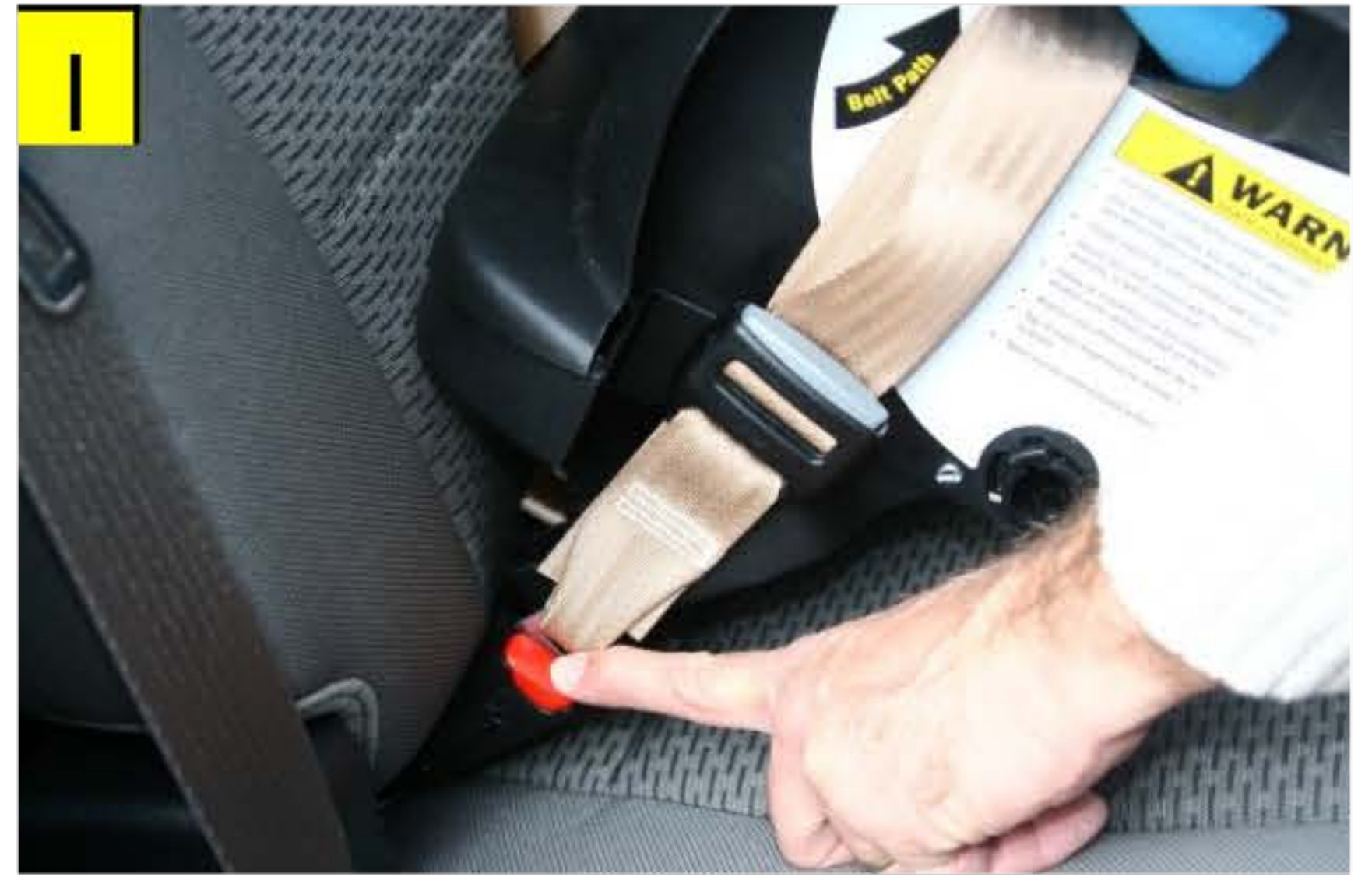
Note: Remove the restraint as follows:

15. Press the red button on one of the lower connectors to release it (Figure I).

16. Repeat Step 15 with the other connector.

NOTE: When not using the LATCH installation, proceed with the following steps to properly store it.

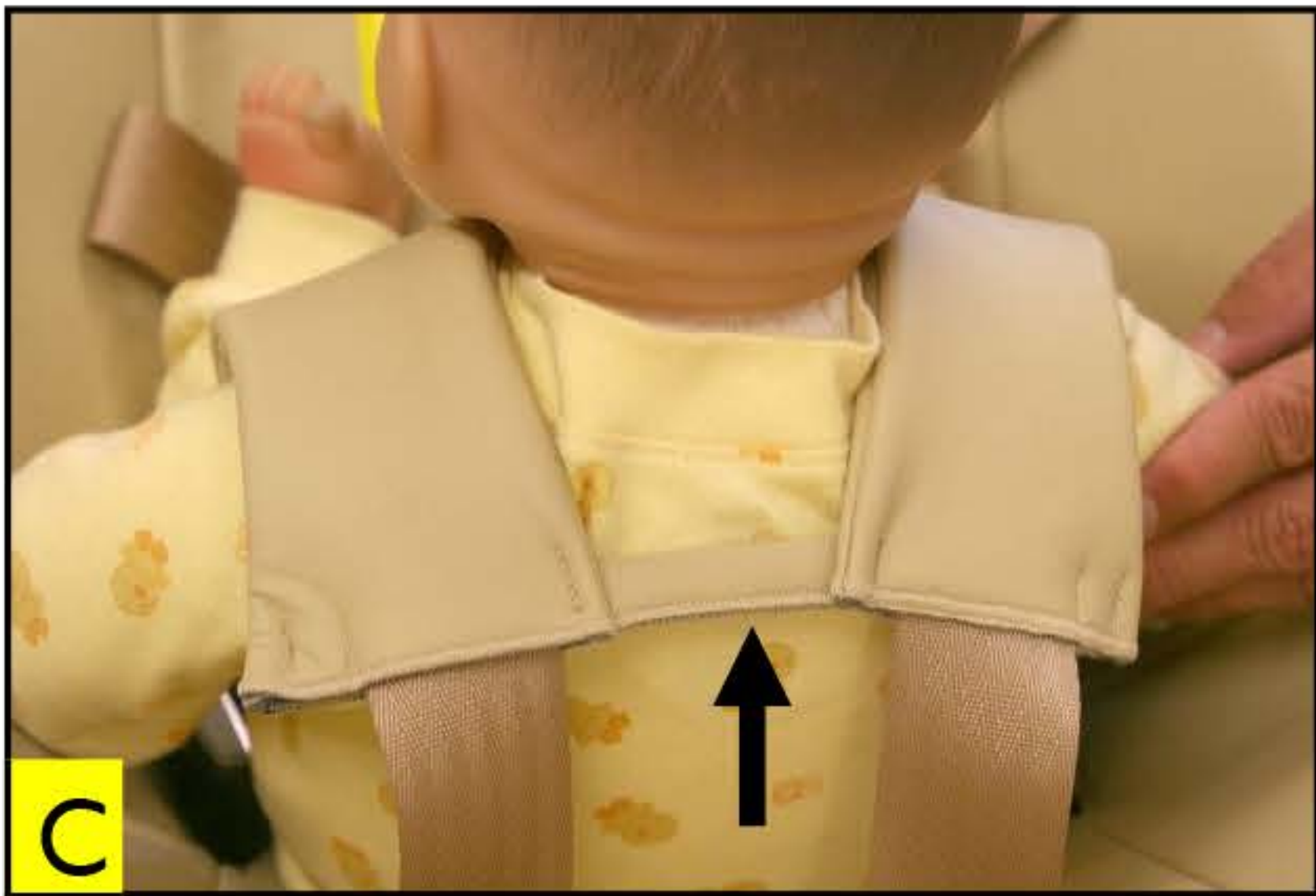
17. Attach each connector to its respective LATCH Storage Hook on each side of the restraint as shown in Figure J and on Page 9.



Securing Your Child in the Restraint

Warning! You must use the yoke when securing your child in this child restraint.

- 1. Place the yoke and harness up out of the way and each of the hip straps to the side to make room for your child (Figure A).
- 2. Carefully place your child in the restraint with his/her back positioned against the backrest (Figure B).
- 3. Place the yoke over your child's shoulders, making sure that the neck strap (See Arrow-Figure C) on the yoke is positioned behind the neck (Figures B and C).
- 4. Verify that the harness straps are located in the slots closest to the top of your child's shoulders, but not above it (Figure D).
- 5. If the harness straps are not in the appropriate position, then move them according to the steps on pages 13-15.



Securing Your Child in the Restraint, Continued

6. Velcro the two tabs on the front of the yoke together (Figures E and F).
7. Fasten the buckle on the front of the yoke (Figures G and H).



E

WARNING!

The Yoke Must be Attached Properly to the Harness when using this Restraint!

Never Remove the Yoke from the Harness!



F



G



H

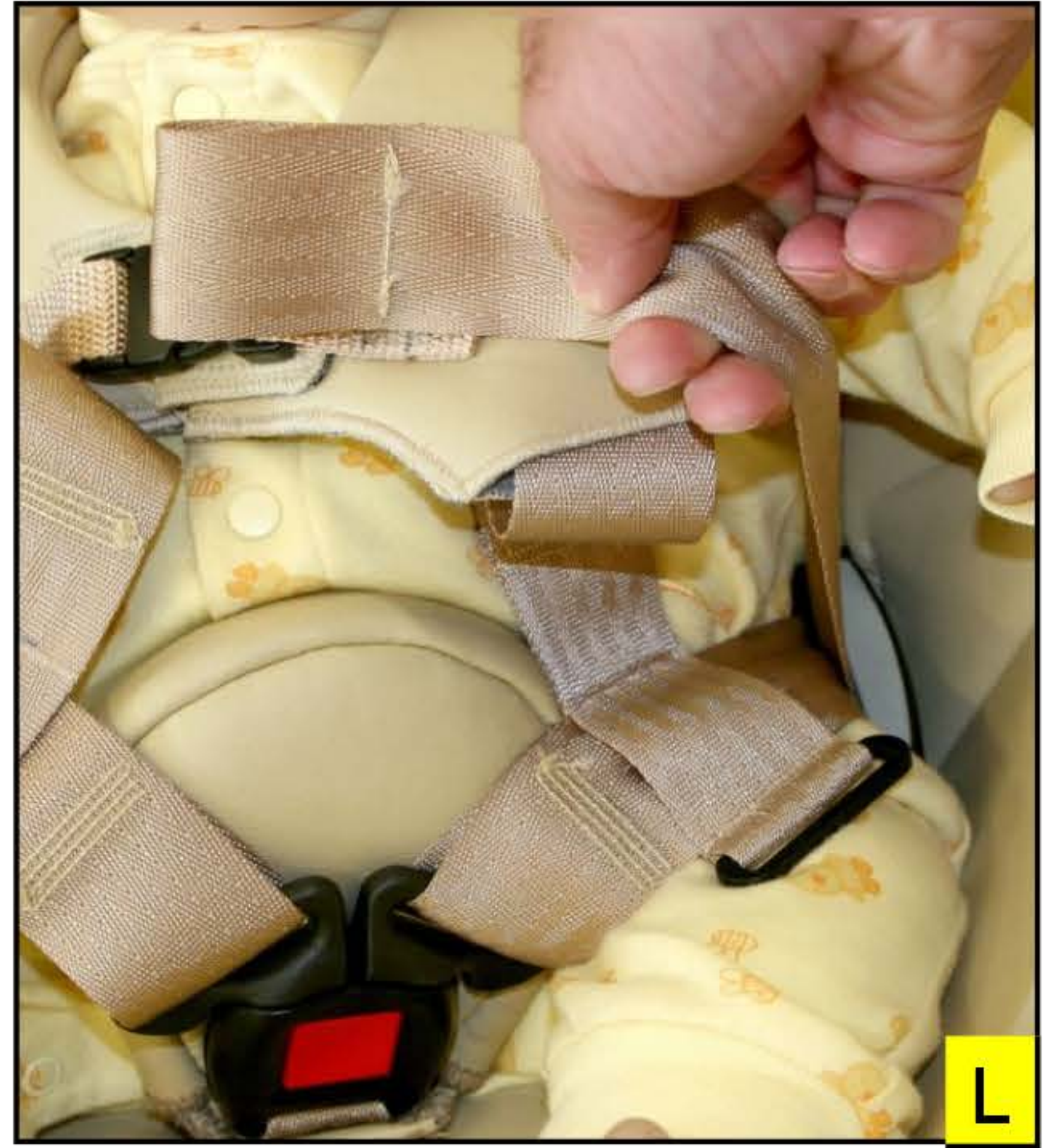
Securing Your Child in the Restraint, Continued

- 8. Grasp the buckle tongue on one of the hip straps, route it over the child's leg, and insert it into the buckle (Figure I).
- 9. Repeat Step 8 with the other hip strap (Figure J).
- 10. Make sure both buckle tongues are inserted into the buckle as shown in Figure K.



Securing Your Child in the Restraint, Continued

11. Pull one of the hip adjuster straps until the hip strap is snug around the child's leg (Figure L).
12. Repeat Step 11 for the other hip strap.
13. Make sure that both hip straps (See arrows) are snug as shown in Figure M.



WARNING!

The Yoke Must be Attached Properly to the Harness when using this Restraint!

Never Remove the Yoke from the Harness!



Securing Your Child in the Restraint, Continued

- 14. Grasp the loose end of the adjuster strap and pull it forward (Figure N, see arrow) to tighten the harness snugly against the child.
- 15. Position the yoke appropriately between the omphalocele and neck, keeping it as low as medically possible (Figure N).
- 16. Make sure that the harness and leg straps are snug as shown in Figure O.



Warning! You must use the yoke when securing your child in this child restraint.

Warning! Do not use this restraint if your child's head is less than one inch from the top of the restraint.

Note: To remove your child from the restraint, perform Steps 3-10 in reverse.



Infection Control

Cover

The cover is made of medical grade anti-microbial nalgahyde material and can be cleaned by wiping down with mild soap and water or bleach free approved hospital disinfectants. Do not use bleach.

Plastic Shell

The shell can be cleaned with mild soap and warm water. Wipe dry.

Do not use strong chemicals or bleach.

Harness Webbing

Harness webbing can be cleaned with mild detergent and warm water. It can also be wiped down with bleach free approved hospital disinfectants. Do not use bleach.

Do not machine wash.

Buckle

Rinse under warm water only. Allow to drain and dry before reusing.

Never lubricate or use bleach or any type of detergents.

Limited Warranty

Merritt Manufacturing, Inc. (Merritt) provides the following limited warranty on the Jefferson:

Merritt warrants to the original purchaser of the Jefferson that, if properly used strictly in accordance with the instructions and specifications included in the original packaging, it shall be free from defects in materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. Proof of purchase is required, including, but not limited to furnishing to Merritt proof that the owner registration card was returned to Merritt within thirty days of the original purchase or furnishing to Merritt proof of purchase that identifies the claimant as the original purchaser. If any component covered by this warranty fails for reasons covered by this warranty, Merritt will, at its option, provide the original purchaser with repair or replacement components for the covered product or component. This limited warranty is available only for purchasers in the United States and Canada. Merritt reserves the right to discontinue or change fabrics, parts, models or products, or to make substitutions. Please note that the upholstery fabric is subject to some degree of wear as a result of normal use. This kind of normal wear is not covered under warranty.

To make a claim under this warranty, you must contact Merritt via telephone at (317) 409-0148 or write to the company using the address on the back cover of this booklet. PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THE OWNER REGISTRATION CARD WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF PURCHASE TO PRESERVE YOUR WARRANTY RIGHTS.

WARRANTY LIMITATIONS

This warranty does not include damages due to external sources, including, but not limited to accident, negligence, misuse, neglect, alteration, repair, improper installation, improper testing or use that is not in conformance with the instructions and specifications in the instruction booklet.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND DAMAGES

THE WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AND ARE PROVIDED IN LIEU OF ALL OTHERS, ORAL OR WRITTEN, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. IN NO EVENT WILL MERRITT, OR THE RETAILER/DISTRIBUTOR SELLING THIS PRODUCT, BE LIABLE TO THE PURCHASER, OR ANY USER OF THIS RESTRAINT OR OTHER THIRD PARTY, FOR ANY DAMAGES; INCLUDING LOST PROFITS, LOST BUSINESS, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES. IN NO EVENT SHALL MERRITT OR ITS AFFILIATED COMPANIES BE LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY

Limited Warranty, Continued

AMOUNT OF DAMAGES ABOVE THE AGGREGATE DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID BY THE CUSTOMER FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PRODUCT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY.

LIMITATIONS OF WARRANTIES AND OTHER WARRANTY TERMS AND STATES' LAW

MERRITT FULLY DISCLAIMS AND MAKES NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE, AND MAKES NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES BEYOND THOSE STATED HERE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, IF ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARE DEEMED TO BE GIVEN BECAUSE THE APPLICABLE LAW PROHIBITS THEIR EXCLUSION, THEN ANY SUCH IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE DURATION AND TERMS OF THE EXPRESS WRITTEN WARRANTY. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES, LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. THEREFORE, IN THOSE STATES, THE LIMITATIONS LISTED ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY AFFORDS YOU WITH SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS AND YOU MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS, DEPENDING ON THE STATE IN WHICH YOU RESIDE.

BINDING ARBITRATION

Any dispute, controversy or claim (whether in contract, tort or otherwise, whether pre-existing, present or future, and including statutory, common law, intentional torts and equitable claims) against Merritt, its agents, employees, successors, assigns or affiliates (collectively for purposes of this warranty, "Merritt"), arising from or relating to this warranty and agreement, its interpretation, or the breach, termination or validity thereof, the relationships which result from this warranty and agreement (including, to the full extent permitted by applicable law, relationships with third parties who are not parties to this warranty and agreement), SHALL BE RESOLVED EXCLUSIVELY AND FINALLY BY BINDING ARBITRATION ADMINISTERED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION under its code of procedure then in effect. Any award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on each of the parties and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. Information for submitting claims with the American Arbitration Association may be obtained at www.adr.org.

The Jefferson

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