

## Connecticut Technician Report–Part 2

### May 2003

---

**Angel Guard:** mentioned in April's report is an infant car bed. The company plans on distributing through the Burlington Coat Factory. Cost ranges from \$55 to \$79 (less if obtained from Medical Suppliers). Web site will be coming soon.

---

**Basic Comfort:** Based on Australian/New Zealand standard. These seats are made with foam beads. During the process of steam and pressure they are fused together, more beads in a cubic inch are needed to get the proper density. Galaxy backless booster is \$35, highback booster is \$69.

---

**Britax:**

*Knap-SI* - new infant seat with emphases on side impact, minimum weight is 4lbs with a maximum weight of 22lbs. Anti-rebound bar, 2 crotch strap positions, 4 slots for harness, handle can be up or down, head pad moves up and down, no tether, shoulder belt if long enough can go around the back of the seat (for additional stability), side impact protection. LATCH has push on connectors. This seat should be out this summer. Under \$200 but price is not confirmed yet. Can purchase extra base. Car seat can attach to a stroller. Stroller is wide to prevent tipping yet fits in isles of stores. Stroller only comes as a travel system with car seat.

*Galaxy* – mentioned in April's report

*Wizard* – it is the Marathon seat (mentioned in April's report harness to 65lbs) with more side-impact protection, head pad, head rest slightly higher but harness slots are the same height. Price approximately \$269.

*Marathon* – (April's report) now has numerous covers including stars and stripes. Instruction book permanently attached with elastic loop in front near feet, an additional book is in the holder on back of seat.

*Body Guard* – BPB (belt positioning booster) holds child 40 to 100lbs, 60" max height, back is not removable, side pads, deeper wings for head and torso, back reclines, base expands to 13 inches, armrests, lock off under armrests removes load of the booster from the child

(still works if lock off not used) built in head phone wiring. Available in June.

*Star-Riser/Comfy, roadster* – all the same

*Traveler Plus* – up to 105lbs, (remember LATCH is only up to 48lb on all seats then you must use the belt), Belt can be threaded regular or serpentine belt path (depending on length of belt) using recline bar (please refer to instructions).

Mr. Baloga (rep from Britax) stated Britax is okay with ambulance use with 2 belt paths at once. Also, on school buses, non-use of tether is okay but tethering is preferred if anchor is available.

**\*\*Many of the labels on the new Britax seats (with the model number and manufacture date) are underneath the padding of the foot part of the seat. \*\***

---

**Car Seat Specialty / Nania** – car seat specialty name will be phased out and the name Nania will be used.

*Airway* (mentioned in April's report) – harness hold weight of child to 50lbs. Sold at Burlington Coat Factory, price \$99. Longer crotch strap allows it to pass 50lbs weight, a shorter strap would allow more head excursion. Presently the airway back is not shipped unattached. If seat should separate from base reattach by hooking into base, (push down hard on back, not on head rest, and it will stay connected).

*Basic and Amigo* – convertible seats up to 40lbs. Basic (K-Mart) \$60-79, Amigo \$149, specialty stores.

*Nuevo and Solo* – both combination seats, harness to 40lbs.

*Ola* – backless booster; extra padding for comfort; sold at Sears

Some seats sold in specialty stores, the low end seats can be found at K-Mart

---

**Combi International Corp: *New manufactuer, 199 Easy Street, Carol Stream, IL 60188***

*Tyro* – infant only birth to 22lbs (manufacture advises to consult physician for premie use) Five point harness, 3 sets of shoulder slots, puzzle buckle, LATCH stored in compartment under baby's feet, angle

adjuster are knobs on sides, angle adjuster affects entire seat base (not just a foot extender). Extender adjust up 15 degrees. Can use a noodle with the kick stand. To remove recline both buttons must be pressed to avoid a child next to the seat pressing the one button. Has lock off to hold seat belt. Can be found in Babies R Us and specialty stores \$129.

*Avatar* – convertible 5 to 22lbs rear facing (may go to 30lb in future), forward facing to 40lbs, 3 harness slots, middle slots can be used forward facing, child restraint turns on base to create reclined seat for infant and upright for forward. Can recline without changing belt tightness. Belt lock off in center under seat cushion in channel where belt path is.

*Apogee* – belt positioning booster, adjustable head restraint, belt guide is under side-wings of head restraint, back comes off. Upper weight and height limits not determined yet. \$89

---

**Dorel:**

*Arriva* – will add a third harness slot and use Waterbury adjusters. I am sending a picture of the Waterbury adjuster as an attachment.

*Designer 22* – 3 harness slots, and 3 crotch positions with Waterbury adjuster.

*Tote N' Go* – not new, vest with plate in back (Little Cargo)

*Grand Explorer* – shield booster is still available, 40 to 80lbs without shield, has LATCH, Walmart carries it.

*Dream ride* – car bed is still available

*Touriva* - will have 2 piece harness clip, polyester webbing (less rolling), \$49.95.

*High Rise booster* - (new) 30 to 100lbs, 57", \$16.99 strap based shoulder belt height adjuster, free sliding.

*Highback booster* - (combination seat coming this summer) front adjuster.

*Summit Combination* – 22 to 40lbs with harness, 30 to 100lbs as belt positioning booster, 5 locations for new c-shaped shoulder belt guide

*Alpha Omega Elite* - (July): up to 100lb forward facing as a booster, narrower footprint, easier recline, base still removable, 3 position buckle, polyester webbing, easier adjustment for head rest and harness height using tabs in front, tether to be tilt lock adjuster.

\*\*Other notes: tether adjusters will change to tilt-lock this year, all combination seats will have a-lock adjuster in front and all booster seats will have c-shaped shoulder belt guides that will not bind.

---

### ***Dorel Juvenile Group Special Market Advances***

- Waterbury adjustor for Arriva's
  - Phase in on all models across the board
    - Start phasing in on July/August 03
  
- Up-front adjustor
  - For all Highbacks
    - 6/1/0
  - Phase in for the new 1" adjustor across the board
    - Start phasing in on August of 03
  
- Tilt-lock Tethers
  - Phase in on all models across the board
    - Start phasing in on late July/early August 03
  
- New polyester webbing
  - Phase in on all models across the board

Start phasing in in July

---

### **Evenflo:**

*Big Kid Booster* - 80lb, one adjustment to raise back and lengthen base, back can be removed, arm rests flip up, shoulder belt guide under contoured head restraint. Available Oct/Nov.

*Chase combination* – 40lb with harness, 80lb as BPB, 53", front adjuster on strap.

*Comet combination* – 40lbs and 43" with harness yellow center knob to adjust harness, 54" as booster,

*New convertible Vanguard 5* - Victory with 5pt harness  
Overhead shields – Vanguard I, Tribute

---

**Graco:** did not have any new product at the present time. They did share the information listed below.

Turbo - BPB is made in China, so it needs to be ordered ahead of time to allow time for shipping.

STEs – convertible seat is still being sold but not with a T-shield at the present time

Nextstep – being discontinued.

For all orders under \$50,000, Mercury handles the orders for Graco.

**Jupiter:** not changing much at present time

**Peg Perego:** Primo Viaggio – infant seat with base, is still the only model (mainly a stroller company)

**Safeline Kids:** Sit'n'Stroll - convertible seat with a new higher seat shell so now rear faces to 30lbs, center pull adjuster for harness, 2 belt paths for forward facing, flexible LATCH stores in back, \$199 to \$219. All staff is trained as technicians so they provide services from their office.

**XACI: Airbag compatible seat:** changes are wider cradle and lighter, smaller plastic buckle, new fabrics. Testing has included worst case scenarios.

**Merry Go tots:** Australian design convertible with stroller (not close to market yet)

**Photos of many of the above products can be seen at the manufacturer's web sites. Refer to "Current Manufacturer's Contact Information" PDF on tech report page for a listing of manufacturers.**

### **Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Legislation**

Presently is waiting to be placed on the Senate agenda with an amendment stating that kids must remain in booster seat until they are over 6 years AND weigh at least 60lbs. Any questions concerning this bill, please contact your SAFE KIDS Coalition.