

Connecticut Technician Report June 2003

New Information on LATCH (from Safe Ride News):

- **Overweight vehicles:** Two SUVs are above the weight limit of 8,500 pounds for vehicles covered by FMVSS 225 and therefore do not have to comply with the LATCH standard. They are the Ford Excursion and the Hummer H1. The smaller Hummer model does have LATCH.
- **Going beyond the minimum:** Some vehicle models have more than the minimum required number of LATCH anchors. They do offer more options for where a child restraint could be installed with LATCH, but, if more than two sets of LATCH anchors are in one row of seats, instructions usually advise not to use all three LATCH positions at one time. Examples: 2003 Ford Expedition (three LATCH) and 2000-03 Windstar (four LATCH); 2000-2002 Mercury Villager (four LATCH); 2001 Chrysler Town & Country and Voyager (four LATCH); 2001-03 PT Cruiser and Sebring four-door (three LATCH); 2003 Buick Century, LeSabre, Park Avenue, and Regal (three LATCH); 2002-03 Chevrolet Impala and Monte Carlo (three LATCH).
- **Booster installation:** One belt-positioning booster (BPB), the Recaro Start from Baby Trend, which weighs 22 pounds, **requires** tether use. Other combination child seat / BPBs are not to be used with tether or LATCH in the BPB mode, except early versions of Century combination seats, which allowed tether use in the BPB mode.
- **Medical seats shying away from LATCH:** Snug Seat and Columbia, makers of Special Needs child restraints that can be used by children weighing much more than 50 pounds, are providing LATCH but prefer that the seat belt be used instead. They do not want LATCH used beyond 50 pounds. Snug Seat's Gorilla must be retrofitted for LATCH at the factory; Columbia's kit instructions go so far as to state that, if LATCH is used by children under 50 pounds, the seat belt must be used as well as the LATCH strap (and the tether). Over 50 pounds, the seat belt and tether must be used without the LATCH attachment.

Possible NHTSA Ratings

- **Ratings of Child Restraints on Web:** The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's website includes its innovative rating page: www.icbc.com/Road_Safety/carseat_buying.html. It has been adapted by NHTSA, which should be publishing its own ratings this spring.
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Parked Car Hazard Resources

Posters, brochures, magnets, PSAs, many in Spanish as well as English, are now available from Kids 'n Cars. Order from www.kidsncars.org.

Classes and Updates

Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Update

The Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS is holding the 2003 version of the SAFE KIDS update in Waterbury on June 26th. Please contact Pat Zainc at BELT0001@aol.com to register or for additional details. This class is free of charge.

Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Classes

There is one upcoming and two possible CPS classes. If you do not see a class that fits the needed time frame or geographic location, please contact an instructor as they might have additional information on classes. A list of instructors is located on the technician report homepage.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS will be hosting the 32-hour class from June 10th to June 13th in Storrs. The cost of the class is \$100 per student. Please contact Karin Davis at Windham County SAFE KIDS at 860-423-4534 or wrcc.kdavis@snet.net.

A class is planned for late August in New London. Please contact Esther Schuman of New London County SAFE KIDS at 860-442-0733 or Eddie Hedge of New London Police Dept at 860-447-5280.

Another class is planned for October 7th through 10th in Fairfield County. Please contact Bob Cordes of Fairfield County SAFE KIDS at 203-325-7332.

