

Connecticut Technician Report October 2003

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Evenflo Revision

Evenflo has updated its rear-facing child restraint instructions to include a revised fold down armrest warning. The new warning is:

Fold down armrests could pose a hazard to a rear-facing child in certain types of collisions. Consult your vehicle owner's manual before installing any rear facing child restraint in front of a fold down armrest.

Instructions reflecting this language will begin appearing in October. This warning can be considered retroactive.

Randy Kiser
Director, Product Safety, Research & Development

Evenflo Company, Inc.

Former CT SAFE KIDS Director coordinating CPS certification process after transfer from AAA

We are very proud of our former CT SAFE KIDS Director! From National SAFE KIDS: As announced last week, National SAFE KIDS Campaign will serve as the new certifying body for the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program. Karen (DiCapua) Farnsworth has stepped forward to coordinate this new endeavor for the Campaign. Karen has been managing the SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP program for the past five years and has done an outstanding job building the program.

Baby Trend

From the CPSP listserve:

In case you missed it, Baby Trend has recently released the Latch Loc 22. It has rigid latch, like their LatchLoc 20. But it has a moving back piece which extends higher than the old shell, accommodating children up to 22 pounds, and I think 29 inches. It also has a front harness adjuster and 5-point harness.

I think this is pretty cool to finally have all the features I'd like to see in an infant seat, all in one seat!

But a lot of parents were cranky that BRU is only carrying this seat as part of a travel system. Apparently enough of them wrote to Alan and Denise Fields, authors of the Baby Bargains book, that they talked to Baby Trend about the problem. This notice came out in the latest Baby Bargains Book email update:

2. Baby Trend car seat now available direct

Readers of our last edition may have wondered what happened to the BabyTrend Latch-Loc Adjustable Back infant car seat. While the non-adjustable version has been available for over a year, the Adjustable Back version has been AWOL. What happened? Apparently, Babies R Us has only agreed to carry this seat as part of a travel system. And no other retailers carry this seat as a stand-alone unit.

But there is good news: Baby Trend has agreed to sell the Adjustable Back infant car seat to our readers if they contact the company directly (800-328-7363). Tell them you read about this in our newsletter!

Toby McAdams, CPS tech
www.carseatdata.org

New Advanced Airbag Rule

From the American Public Health Association...

ADVANCED AIRBAG RULE NOW IN EFFECT

Through consumer research, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that there are many misconceptions about advanced frontal air bags, even among the small percentage of people who are aware of them. This latest generation of frontal air bags will be introduced into a portion of new vehicles (20%) beginning

September 1st, 2003 with the 2004 model year. By September 1st, 2006, all new vehicles will have AABs.

The agency, vehicle manufacturers, dealerships and safety advocacy groups are concerned that the buying public understand the capabilities and benefits of AABs but not revert to past behavior of allowing children age 12 and under to ride in the front seat. NHTSA is urging all those concerned with child passenger safety to do the same – wear your safety belt, place your child age 12 and under in the back seat in an appropriate child restraint system and read your owner's manual – even with advanced frontal air bags.

What should parents and other children's caregivers do with AABs? NHTSA continues to recommend that children 12 and under be transported in the rear seat in an appropriate child restraint system. Children are safer in the rear seat. In the event there is no available rear seat and parents have no other option than to place a child in a front passenger seating position, take these steps: 1) ensure the child is properly restrained, 2) move the seat as far back as possible, 3) make sure the child is not leaning out of position, and 4) set the ON-OFF switch, if available, to the OFF position.

This applies to all children 12 and under - an infant riding in a rear-facing infant seat, a child riding in a forward-facing child restraint, an older child riding in a booster seat and children large enough to wear a safety belt.

Further information can be found on NHTSA website (<http://www.nhtsa.gov/airbags>) or by calling the DOT Hotline

1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

Classes and Updates

Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Update

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS is holding the 2003 version of the SAFE KIDS update in Middletown on October 21st. Please contact Karen Brock at 860-545-9977 to register or for additional details. This class is free of charge.

Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Classes

There is one upcoming 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.

Another class is planned for October 7th through 10th in Fairfield County. Please contact Bob Cordes of Fairfield County SAFE KIDS at 203-863-4744.

Congratulations!

On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mark and Eileen Blake (Henzy) on their recent marriage.

Take care and have a safe and Happy October and Halloween.