

Counterfeit and Foreign Car Seats

BY MONICA VIGIL



OBJECTIVES

▶ HOW TO SPOT A COUNTERFEIT OR FOREIGN CAR SEAT

▶ HOW TO SPOT A US REGULATED CAR SEAT

United States Regulated Car Seats

REGULATIONS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), sets and enforces the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS 213) for all car seats sold in the U.S. Each car seat must be in compliance with FMVSS 213, must be documented with labels on the child restraint systems, confirming that the product meets the safety standards. Child Restraint system means any device, except Type I or II seatbelts, designed for use in a motor vehicle or aircraft to restrain , seat, or position children who weigh 80lbs or less.

Please note each state have their own car seat laws that specify requirements for use based on a child's age, height, and weight.

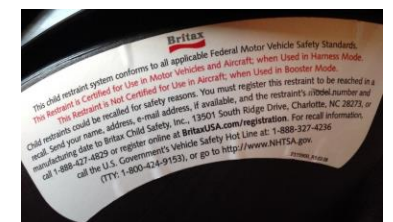
WHAT IS VISIBLE

All compliant car seats will contain a manufacturing label with name, model number, date of manufacture and/or expiration dates, and a warning label that states, "This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS)." The labels will be in both English and Spanish. Have Max and Min Height and Weight and more...

All seats must have a 5-point harness with straps that go over the hips and shoulders, a chest clip, and a splitter plate located on the back of the seat. If a car seat is missing one or more of these parts, especially the chest clip, it is a sign that the car seat is non-compliant with U.S. standards or is a counterfeit.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

All car seats sold in the United States must have a red, printed FMVSS 213 product label, certifying they are safe and compliant with the standards for crash performance and construction. Recent amendments have introduced FMVSS 213a to add side-impact protection requirements for car seats for children under 40 pounds.



COUNTERFEIT CAR SEATS

REGULATIONS

THERE ARE NONE!

WHAT IS VISIBLE

There will be no manual (ENGLISH AND SPANISH) and no registration card, attached to car seat (if it does have a registration card you will not be able to register it).

No chest plate.

No 5-point harness.

No labels are 1 or 2 of them.

There may be no visible signs.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

When these car seats are used and are in a crash they can completely crumble apart into pieces and provide no protection for your child.

Foreign Car Seats

REGULATIONS

European car seat standards require children to be in an approved child restraint system (either the newer ECE R129 (i-Size) or the older ECE R44 standards) until they are 150cm tall. R129 is height-based, tests for side impacts, and extends the mandatory rear-facing period (15 months), while R44 is weight-based.

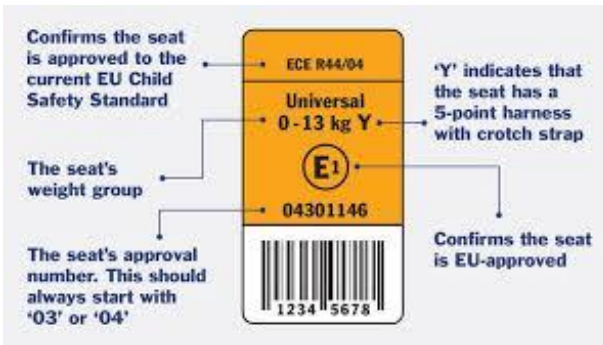
European car seats don't have chest clips because the region's safety regulations require that a child can be released from the seat with a single motion. A chest clip would require a second, separate motion to unbuckle after the main crotch buckle, which violates this rule. Instead of chest clips, European car seats use other design features, like angled shoulder straps and grippy materials, to keep the harness positioned correctly on the child's shoulders.

WHAT IS VISIBLE

Usually no chest plate.

Orange sticker in back or side of car seat.

Will not have as many labels as a US Standard Car Seat.



WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

European car seats are generally not legal to use in the US because they are not certified to meet US safety standards and lack features like top-tether straps required by US regulations. US-certified car seats are not legal for use in Europe, and vice versa

US vehicles have a specific locking mode on their seat belts designed for car seats, while vehicles outside the US/Canada typically do not.

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Missing FMVSS 213 labels,
ORANGE LABELS indicate it is
a foreign car seat.



Missing Harness Plate, indicates it
is foreign or counterfeit.

Has FMVSS 213 labels



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Knock-off



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HOW TO HELP YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Register Car Seat

Registering your car seat can also help prevent you from using counterfeit seats, since each car seat is connected to the manufacturer with a unique serial number. If you are able to successfully register your seat, it helps verify the legitimacy of the seat because some counterfeits will have fake or duplicate serial numbers that would not register properly.

Safer NM Now

If you want assistance evaluating your car seat, or with car seat installation, contact Safer New Mexico Now.

What to do if you have a counterfeit car seat.

If you determine that you have a counterfeit car seat or non-compliant car seat, discontinue use immediately and contact the retailer to notify them that they sold a counterfeit or non-compliant car seat. You may even be able to recover the cost of the seat if you used a credit card or purchased through a major retailer such as Amazon. Amazon has been good about removing those retailers as their vendor.

“ THANK YOU, FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO LISTEN AND LEARN TODAY TO
MAKE OUR CHILDREN SAFER IN A
VEHICLE! ”

ANY QUESTIONS

For more information you can look at the following websites:

Safer New Mexico Now

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Safekids.org

Monica Vigil

505-455-4415

mvigil@nambepueblo.org