

## **CONNECTICUT TECHNICIAN REPORT APRIL 2004**

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### **Manufacturer Updates:**

**Snug Seat** is no longer going to be manufacturing child safety seats. Snug Seat will still continue to distribute car seats for children with special health care needs that have been manufactured by other companies. The first such product currently available from Snug Seat is the Britax Traveler Plus.

This means that the Snug Seat Car Bed and Spelcast as well as Gorilla seat are no longer being manufactured. Snug Seat is currently in discussions with other companies (including Britax) to find suitable replacements for these seats. The Spelcast is currently in production until June 2004 but quantities are limited. Programs are urged to place their orders ASAP.

**Columbia** has produced a small adult version of their large medical seat. The child size version (original product) is designed for children 20-102 pounds and up to 60" tall. The new Small Adult Version is designed for occupants 65 to 130 pounds and up to 66" tall.

**SAFEGUARD/IMMI** has introduced a new 5 point Student Transportation Add On Restraint: STAR. The restraint is designed for use on school buses for children 25-65 pounds and up to 47" tall. It does not require a seat belt as it uses a cam like wrap around the seat back. For details go to <http://www.safeguardseat.com/star/index.htm>

**Dorel** has discontinued production of the Grand Explorer. As a result there are no longer any shield boosters being manufactured in the United States.

**Evenflo** has partnered with AAA to promote booster seat use. The "Put Big Kids in Booster Seats" effort urges parents to keep their child passengers safe by learning the 3 B's: Ride Buckled up, in the Back seat in a Booster seat. The brochure and growth chart which accompany this campaign are available for free on [www.evenflo.com](http://www.evenflo.com) or through local AAA clubs. Additionally, Evenflo will conduct booster seat educational campaigns in select Wal-Mart Stores.

**Compass** Folding High Back Booster, B500 is a booster for children from 30 to 100 pounds. It folds, has an adjustable height seat back as well as energy absorbing foam and side wing padding. More information and pictures available at [www.compassbaby.com](http://www.compassbaby.com)

**Mercury Distributing** has launched it's new web site which carries Graco, Angel Guard, Dorel and Nania products. It is available at [www.mercurydistributing.com](http://www.mercurydistributing.com)

**Special Tomato** is the name of a new car seat for children with special health care needs. To find out more visit [Special Tomato](http://Special Tomato) on the adaptive mall website [www.adaptivemall.com](http://www.adaptivemall.com)

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## Recent Research

### Child Restraint Misuse Study:

The full text of NHTSA's new study on the misuse of child restraints has been posted on the NHTSA website. The web-link is <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/Misuse/index.html>

### Best Practice for Promoting Booster Seats:

A Best Practices Guide ("Best Practices for Promoting Booster Seat Use -- A How-To Guide Based on Community Demonstration Projects" is now available on the NHTSA website at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS/promote/index.htm>

The activities described in the publication were conducted by community-based organizations in Nassau County, NY; Phoenix, AZ; Houston, TX; Bismarck, ND; and King County, WA.

The Guide synthesizes the research findings and lessons learned from the demonstration projects and should be useful to child passenger safety and injury control advocates.

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## NHTSA: Child Safety Seats Can Be Reused After Minor Crash

"NHTSA recommends that child safety seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash in order to ensure a continued high level of crash protection for child passengers. NHTSA recommends that child safety seats do not automatically need to be replaced following a minor crash defined as crashes in which:

- The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site;
- The vehicle door nearest the safety seat was undamaged;
- There were no injuries to any of the vehicle occupants;
- The air bags (if present) did not deploy; AND
- There is no visible damage to the safety seat."

Full text of the press release if available at [NHTSA Statement on replacement of child safety seats after crash](#)

\*\* Please note that National SAFE KIDS has disagreed with this statement and expressed concern that it was included in the final stages of the new curriculum for child passenger safety technicians. **SAFE KIDS maintains that all child safety seats involved in a crash should be replaced as recommended by the manufacturer instructions. SAFE KIDS is concerned about NHTSA making a statement that contradicts most manufacturer instructions on what to do if a child safety seat has been involved in a crash. All SAFE KIDS sponsored events will continue to recommend replacement of child safety seats involved in any type of crash.**

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## Links of interest:

For all the policies and procedures related to the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program and its certifying body, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign go to:

## [NSK Certification Information](#)

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has posted the 2004 Car Seat Shopping Guide on their web site. The Guide contains a list of most of the currently available child safety seats, their specifications and retail cost. The Guide can be found at [www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/carseatguide.htm)

CDC's Injury Center is now offering royalty-free injury prevention images that model proper injury prevention techniques. These images will show children properly restrained in the back seat, drivers and passengers wearing safety belts, pedestrians safely crossing the street, and others.

[CDC Injury Center Injury Prevention Images](#)

Safe Ride news has compiled information on crashworthiness of wheelchairs and crash tested wheelchairs available on the market.

[Safe Ride News Wheelchair Information](#)

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### Updated Standardized Curriculum Released

As of March all classes will be teaching a newly revised standardized curriculum. The complete curriculum will not be sent automatically to all technicians. Technicians will find the updated information in the near future on the CPS Board website at [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org)

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### Upcoming Child Passenger Safety Certification classes:

April 5-8, 2004 Waterbury: Call Pat Zainc at (203)346-3908

April 13-16, 2004 South Windsor: Call Sgt. Tom Field (860) 648-6224

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### Technical Q & A: How many are too many noodles?

Q. How many noodles may be used when installing a rear facing car seat to get the correct angle?

A. From Joe Colella, Training Manager National SAFE KIDS:

There really isn't a maximum number of noodles or towels [that can be used]. The child safety seat needs to be installed, reclined and used according to manufacturer instructions, and the restraint selected needs to be the right one for the child and vehicle. Those are the only real constants. Vehicle seats, noodle sizes and child restraints vary greatly, and there is no data to support a specific maximum number.

Anecdotally, we can say that add-ons should be minimized and that we **TYPICALLY don't need more than 2 or 3 small noodles to accommodate proper recline (if any, now that many restraints have built-in recline adjusters), but there is NO accepted minimum or maximum that fits across the board.**