

## Connecticut Technician Report July 2003

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### ***Extended recall of Cosco Arriva and Turnabout:***

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and Dorel Juvenile Group Inc., of Columbus, Ind. is again voluntarily recalling Cosco Arriva and Turnabout infant car seats/carriers to address a problem with the carry handle. On July 8, 1999, the two federal agencies and Cosco, now known as the Dorel Juvenile Group, announced the recall of 670,000 of these infant car seat/carriers made from March 1995 through September 1997. **This recall adds 1.2 million of the same model infant car seats/carriers made through January 2000.** Consumers should continue to use the Arriva and Turnabout as a car seat but should stop using it as a carrier immediately and contact Dorel Juvenile Group to receive a free repair kit.

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### ***AAA leaving the CPS certification process***

NHTSA's Occupant Protection Division was recently notified by AAA that as a result of organizational restructuring and program re-direction, effective 12/31/03, AAA will no longer serve as the certifying body for the National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program.

The new certifying body has yet to be determined. However, until the end of December, the certifying process will continue as is with no break in service.

Please feel free to contact Carole S. Guzzetta at 202-366-3665 or [cguzzetta@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:cguzzetta@nhtsa.dot.gov) for additional information. Also, beginning July 1, the CPS Board will provide on-going updates at their website: [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org).

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## ***New Products (from Safety Belt Safe):***

- **Combi International** has just begun importing 3 new child restraints from Europe ([www.combi-intl.com](http://www.combi-intl.com)).
    - **Tyro**: infant-only seat with adjustable base
    - **Avatar**: convertible with 5-point harness, in-car recline adjustment, 3-position recline for infants, and pivoting, 2-position base height adjustment to improve vehicle fit.
    - **Apogee**: belt-positioning booster with removable backrest for children 33 to 80 pounds. It has an adjustable headrest, armrests, and a cupholder.
- These seats are available in Connecticut in stores such as The Right Start, Toy Chest, and Baby and Toy Superstore.

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## ***NHTSA "Ease of Use" Child Safety Seat Ratings***

Under NHTSA's new rating system, child safety seats – including booster seats – are given an overall ease-of-use rating at the "A," "B," or "C" level. Such letter grades are also used to rate seats in each of five categories:

- Whether the seat is pre-assembled or requires assembly after purchase.
- Clarity of labeling attached to the seat.
- Clarity of written instructions on the seat's proper use.
- Ease of securing a child in the seat.
- Whether the seat has features that make it easier to install in a vehicle.

To date, 68 seats have been rated by NHTSA, representing about 95% of the seats available to consumers. Convertible seats were rated in both the rear-facing and forward-facing mode and combination seats were rated in both the forward-facing and booster modes. Thirty-nine overall "A" ratings were given and 68 overall "B" ratings were given. While no seat received an overall "C" rating, several received a "C" rating in one or more individual rating categories.

Further information on the ratings is available at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/CPS/CSSRating>.

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## ***The (formerly-known-as) Tri-state Conference***

The states of New York and New Jersey presenting the Third Annual Child Passenger Safety Conference. This year, it will be held September 18 through September 20, 2003 at the Marriott Hotel in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The goal is to continue to provide the most up-to-date information on all aspects of child passenger safety through a series of workshops and hands-on learning. The registration fee for this conference is \$85 and attendance is limited to 450 people. For more information contact:

(New York) Debbie Lotito [dloti@dmv.state.ny.us](mailto:dloti@dmv.state.ny.us) or visit <http://www.safeny.com>

(New Jersey) Ed O'Connor [lphocon@smtp.lps.state.nj.us](mailto:lphocon@smtp.lps.state.nj.us)

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## ***Classes and Updates***

### **Connecticut Child Passenger Safety Update**

South Windsor Police Department will be holding a CPS update in South Windsor on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Tom Field of South Windsor Police Department at 860-644-8716 for more details.

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS is holding the 2003 version of the SAFE KIDS update in Middletown on October 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 are three 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.

A class is planned for August 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> at Ocean Beach 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.

A class is planned September 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup> in South Windsor. Please contact Tom Field of South Windsor Police Department at 860-644-8716.

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