

Cross Border Shopping is Not the Best Deal for Your Child's Safety

(Burnaby, BC) – Cross border shopping may be cheap and convenient, but when it comes to buying a child's car safety seat or booster seat for use in Canada, the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation (TSF) warns parents that it is illegal.

TSF is receiving a significantly increased number of inquiries from parents who have either purchased a seat, or are considering purchasing a seat from outside of Canada, and is also seeing an increase in the number of seats at Child Passenger Safety Inspection Clinics that have been purchased in other countries, for use in Canada.

The TSF is concerned that parents don't know that it is illegal to do this. "Many parents are looking for the best deals, and without knowing the facts, are buying child safety seats from south of the border, the UK, and other countries," says David Dunne, Director of Provincial Programs for the BCAA TSF. Child passenger safety seats and booster seats sold in the United States and other countries do not meet Canadian regulations and are therefore illegal for use in Canada, explains Dunne.

Anyone importing a child safety seat or booster seat for use in Canada must ensure that it complies with Canada's Motor Vehicle Restraint Systems and Booster Cushions Safety Regulations (RSSR) and appropriate Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS). Every country has its own child safety seat standards. Canadian regulations are rigorous and differ from other countries. For example U.S. approved booster seats allow for a lower weight limit than Canadian standards.

A child seat bought in the U.S., or any other country is not legal for use in Canada. It will not carry the CMVSS - National Safety Mark and does not comply with Canadian standards. Also, if the seat is purchased outside of Canada and there is a recall notice issued, the parent will have no way of knowing about the recall.

The use of non-compliant safety seats may pose a serious danger to the public and risks children's safety. Additionally it may result in legal repercussions that could include:

- Confiscation of the seat at the border or after it has entered Canada
- Fines
- Voided insurance coverage in case of injury or death
- Possible criminal charges and / or civil litigation

When purchasing a child safety seat for use in Canada, parents are strongly advised to ensure the seat has the National Safety Mark indicating that the seat complies with Canadian regulations and standards and is legal for use in Canada.

Additionally parents are reminded to;

- always use a child safety seat appropriate for you child's age, weight and size
- ensure that the child seat is used and installed correctly in the vehicle

BCAA's Traffic Safety Foundation, together with program partner ICBC, has developed a comprehensive **Child Passenger Safety Program** to help you ensure your child's safety on the road.

For more information about child safety seats and child passenger safety visit **www.ChildSeatInfo.ca** or call **1-877-247-5551** to speak to a certified child passenger safety technician. Information regarding importation of child safety seats and as well as Canadian child safety seat regulations and standards is available at from Transport Canada at;

www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/importation/pcl/search.asp

www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/childsafety/notices/TP14563C/2007c02/menu.htm

www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/childsafety/notices/TP14563C/2007c06/menu.htm

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IMAGE: National Safety Mark



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