How to Determine That a Child Restraint System Can Be Used Legally in the U.S.

Potential Red Flags

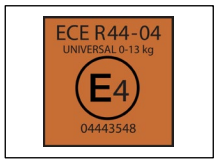
If any of these boxes can be checked, additional research is required to determine if the child restraint can be used legally in the U.S.

- ☐ Unrecognized manufacturer name with a foreign physical address
- ☐ Non-U.S. telephone number
- ☐ Foreign languages on the labels that do not include English
- ☐ Incorrect grammar, spelling, or sentence structure
- ☐ Foreign Compliance Labels
- ☐ Missing U.S. mandatory information on labels and in instruction manuals

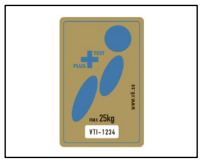
Foreign Compliance Labels

Foreign countries and regions often require a specific symbol on a label that depicts information about where the certification is valid. A few examples of foreign compliance labels are in the graphics below. The U.S. does NOT have a dedicated symbol that signifies compliance. Some U.S. child restraints may be certified for use in foreign countries and may include these graphics along with the U.S. labeling as outlined in the following section.

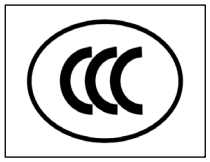












Information that is mandatory in the U.S. on labels that are permanently affixed on the child restraint

U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 213 includes very stringent labeling requirements. The mandated information that you should be able to locate on the labels ***must*** be in English, in letter sizes that are not smaller than 10-point type, are on a prescribed color of contrasting background, and permanently affixed to the child restraint. U.S. labels must include the following information and verbiage in order to be compliant:

a) Model name or number
b) Manufacturer's name, address, and telephone number
c) The statement: "Manufactured In" followed by the month and year of manufacture (or year-month-day)
d) Place of manufacture (City and State, or foreign country)
e) The following statement(s) must be on one or more labels:
   i) "**This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards**."
   ii) If the child restraint has met additional requirements for use in aircraft, "**This Restraint is Certified for Use in Motor Vehicles and Aircraft**" or if not, "**This Restraint is Not Certified for Use in Aircraft**" must be in red print following the certification statement in the previous bullet.
f) Minimum and maximum weight and height requirements labeled in English imperial (lbs. and in. or) or (lbs. and ") and metric (kg and cm) units
g) The statement: "For recall information, call the U.S. Government's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to http://www.NHTSA.gov."

2) Spelling, grammar, and punctuation must be correct. Incorrect syntax may be evidence of a noncompliant car seat.

Manufacturer Confirmation

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration enforces the Federal regulations for all child restraints intended for children up to 80 lbs. that are sold in the U.S. but does not certify them. FMVSS 213 specifies the requirements for child restraints.

The following are trusted resources for manufacturers that manufacture (or have in the past) provided restraints for use in the U.S.:

- ✓ **American Academy of Pediatrics**: https://healthychildren.org/carseatlist
- ✓ **Safe Ride News:** https://www.saferidenews.com/resources/tools-for-cpsts/cr-mfg-contacts-for-cpsts/ or LATCH Manual
- ✓ **SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.**: https://www.carseat.org → Resources → Child Restraint Manufacturers and Distributors and Recall List
- ✓ **Local Child Passenger Safety Program**