

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
COMPETITION AND CONSUMER ACT 2010

Consumer Protection Notice No. 36 of 2011

WARNING NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Pursuant to section 129 the Australian Consumer Law (consisting of Schedule 2 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*), I, DAVID BRADBURY, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, warn of possible risks involved in the use of the goods specified below.

Particulars of goods

Baby Car Seat Pouch*, Portable belt baby car safety seat for 1-5 years old and Portable baby car safety seat for 20-40 lbs which may be available to Australian consumers as child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles. The products are supplied online on Australian and overseas websites. Suppliers claim the products are safe for children to use in motor vehicles.

Possible risks

The products may pose a serious safety hazard as they may be incapable of sufficiently protecting the child passenger in the event of a motor vehicle impact.

Based on the website information, these products do not appear to comply with the mandatory safety standard as they do not appear to have an upper tether strap. This is a very important element of the unique Australian design requirements, compared to International Standards. It has been the long standing mandatory Australian requirement for top tether straps as part of the vehicle/child restraint interface. The overriding benefit of a top tether is its influence on reducing sudden child head movement. Studies have shown consistently and conclusively that the head is the most vulnerable body region of a child in a motor vehicle.

The products also appear noncompliant with the mandatory safety standard as they appear to have been supplied without a minimum five point harness. The crotch strap is not designed and located to avoid loading the genital region of the child in the event of a frontal impact. Further, they do not appear to provide any side impact protection and can be used in the front seat of a vehicle.

Advice to consumers

Consumers should not purchase these products. Any consumers using this product are advised to cease using them immediately.

Dated this 21st day of November 2011



DAVID BRADBURY
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

* Called on eBay Australia 'Baby Car Seat Pouch'. Also has been called 'Multi-function Safety Car Cushion, Child Car Seat Bag, Baby Car Seat Pouch' on an overseas website.