

Counterfeit / Non-Compliant Car Seats

Beware: Counterfeit and non-compliant car seats are being advertised and sold online and are found on many ecommerce platforms. These car seats do not meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (FMVSS 213) and are potentially dangerous for children. The Cable Network CNN purchased a copycat Doona car seat and had it crash-tested at the University of Michigan Research Institute.

In a simulated 30 mph crash-test:

- ◆ The car seat was thrown forward and rotated beyond the allowed rotation limit as the car seat shell broke apart at the designated seat belt path.



Listed for \$299, the copycat car seat was \$200 cheaper than the Doona Car Seat and Stroller.

Car seats that meet FMVSS 213 are made using a safe, thoroughly tested design, while counterfeit car seats are made with cheaper materials using unsafe, non-federally-regulated designs. The materials and engineering in the counterfeit car seats have not been tested adequately enough to be considered safe, and some have design flaws that can be very dangerous.

Pennsylvania law states:

§ 4581 Restraint systems (d) Standards.--

- (1) A **child passenger restraint system** shall be used as designated by the manufacturer of the system in motor vehicles equipped with seat safety belts and **shall meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (49 C.F.R. § 571.213).**
- (2) A **child booster seat** shall be used as designated by the manufacturer of the system in motor vehicles equipped with seat safety belts and **shall meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (49 CFR § 571.213)** that is designed to elevate a child to properly sit in a federally approved safety seat belt system.



This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. **When used with the harness system: This Restraint is Certified for Use in Motor Vehicles and Aircraft. When used without the harness system as a belt positioning booster: This Restraint is Not Certified for Use in Aircraft.** Child restraints could be recalled for safety reasons. You must register this restraint to be reached in a recall. Send your name, address, e-mail address if available and the restraint's model number and manufacturing date to Nuna Baby Essentials Inc., 70 Thousand Oaks Blvd. Morgantown, PA 19543 or call 1-855-NUNA-USA (1-855-686-2872).

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>.

Register your child restraint with the manufacturer. WL-0449A

Required Labels on Car Seats Approved for Use in the United States

FMVSS 213 requirements for child restraints, intended for children up to 80 pounds, are required to have labels affixed to the car seat that provide important safety and use information. When selecting a car seat, look for the following labels:

- ◆ The following statement must be on one or more labels:
 - ◆ **“This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.”**
 - ◆ Statement indicating whether a child restraint has met additional requirements for use in an aircraft. The statement must be in red and follows the certification bullet in the previous bullet.
 - ◆ **“This Restraint is Certified for Use in Motor Vehicles and Aircraft.”,**
 - or
 - ◆ **“This Restraint is Not Certified for Use in Aircraft.”**
 - ◆ Name and address of car seat manufacturer
 - ◆ Information on Contacting the Federal Government for Recall information:
 - ◆ **“For recall information, call U.S. Government’s Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to <http://www.NHTSA.gov>.”**

Car seats that meet FMVSS 213 will have:

- ◆ A car seat instruction manual and registration card.
- ◆ The required safety labels:
 - ◆ Name and address of the Manufacturer
 - ◆ Verification that it conforms to federal standards
 - ◆ Model number and date of manufacture
 - ◆ Basic instructions for correct use and installation
 - ◆ Air Bag WARNING label on rear-facing car seats

MODEL NAME: NEXTFIT MCODE: 10840 T-01
 MODEL NO. 07 079749 970 070 Made in China
 SERIAL NO. 18 11 30 0306 Artsana USA, INC.
 MANUFACTURED IN: NOV2018 Lancaster, PA 17601
 DO NOT USE AFTER: NOV2026 chiccousa.com
 Patent info: chiccoshop.com/patents/patents.html

Model Name/Number & Manufacture Date

Air Bag Warning Label



Basic Car Seat Use and Label

Level indicator for **REAR-FACING ONLY**
Vehicle must be on level ground.

REAR-FACING: 5-40 lb (2.2-18 kg)

LATCH Strap **Lap/Shoulder Seat Belt** **Lap Only Seat Belt**

Shoulder harness must be AT or JUST BELOW child's shoulders.

Top of head MUST be at least 1" (2.5 cm) below the handle.

Store Top Tether

CHECK level indicator to be sure ball is entirely within the blue zone.

3+ months
0+ months

NWL0009441938

FORWARD-FACING: 22-65 lb (10-30 kg) 49" (125 cm) or less

With Top Tether: Do not install by this method for a child weighing more than 45 lb (20 kg)

LATCH Strap **Lap/Shoulder Seat Belt With Top Tether** **Lap Seat Belt Only With Top Tether**

Harness height MUST BE AT OR JUST ABOVE child's shoulders.

Top of child's ears BELOW top of headrest.



1-800-CAR BELT
www.pakidstravelsafe.org

Guide to Avoiding Counterfeit / Non-Compliant Car Seats

Tips to ensure a car seat meets federal safety requirements and Pennsylvania Law:

- ◆ **Check the Labels:** NHTSA recommends to always check for a car seat label that states, “This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards”. If a label with this statement is not present on the car seat, it is likely a counterfeit or noncompliant car seat.
 - ◆ Federally-compliant car seats and booster seats have the following safety labels:
 - ◆ Car seat manufacturer’s contact information,
 - ◆ Model number and manufacture date,
 - ◆ Basic use and installation information using a seat belt or LATCH
 - ◆ Child weight and height ranges for each mode of use (rear-facing, forward-facing or belt-positioning booster seat), and
 - ◆ Air bag warning label for all car seats that can be secured rear-facing.



Look for the car seat manufacturer model number and manufacture date labels

Non-compliant or counterfeit car seats are often missing the required warning labels or have poorly worded safety labels with grammatical errors that seem to have been translated to English from another language.

- ◆ **Locate the car seat instruction manual and a car seat registration card:** In addition to safety labels, car seats and booster seats are required to come with instruction manuals and a registration card. If your car seat is missing this essential paperwork, there is a high probability the car seat is counterfeit.
- ◆ **Register your car seat:** Register your car seat with the manufacturer to be certain of its authenticity. Every car seat comes with a model number and a manufacture date. Some counterfeit car seats will print copies of the stickers that belong to a car seat manufacturer, but they will use a model number already in use or create a fake model number. Registering your car seat allows the manufacturer to contact you if there is ever a recall or issue with your car seat. Car seats can be registered:
 - ◆ Online at the car seat manufacturer’s website using the model number and manufacture date found on a sticker on the car seat. **OR**
 - ◆ Online at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/car-seats-and-booster-seats#registration>. “SELECT BRAND/MAKE”, then hit “GO TO WEBSITE”. Complete the online form using the model number and manufacture date found on a sticker on the car seat and submit. It takes just a few minutes to register your car seat. **OR**
 - ◆ By filling out the registration card that came with the car seat. The registration card has the car seat’s information. Mail the card; no postage required.



Register your car seat to receive important safety updates

Registering your car seat makes sense

The car seat manufacturer can contact you directly about recalls and safety notices.

Registering your car seat is easy

Send in the card that came with your car seat or complete a quick registration on the manufacturer’s website. Your child’s safety could depend on it.

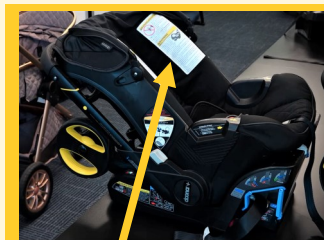
SELECT BRAND/MAKE

Car seat manufacturers use the registration information to contact owners about safety issues, including recalls.

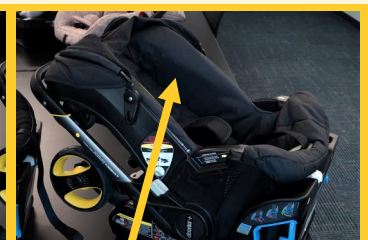
- ◆ **Look for obvious design flaws:** Counterfeit car seats may a commonly present feature or use material that may easily deform with little pressure. **When examined, counterfeit car seats were found to have:**
 - ◆ All seat parts made of plastic; including the buckles.
 - ◆ A poorly fitting harness for the child, with webbing less than 1.5 inches wide.
 - ◆ A loose piece of plastic used for the harness adjuster on the underside of the carrier.
 - ◆ A flimsy part provided to attach the carrier to the base. With very little pressure that part almost snapped.
 - ◆ Plastic so flimsy that it could be bent by hand.



- ◆ **Buy in person:** Go to a retail store to help ensure the product you’re buying was bought directly from a car seat manufacturer that meets FMVSS 213 or order seats sold directly from these brick-and-mortar stores.
- ◆ **Beware of third-party sellers and generic brand names:** If buying online, research products from online retailers and steer clear of third-party sellers with strange and unfamiliar names. They may very well be non-compliant or counterfeit car seats. When buying online, ask the following questions:
 - ◆ Does the manufacturer have a website you can find easily?
 - ◆ Does the cost of the car seat seem too good to be true? If so, there is a good chance you’re looking at a knockoff.
 - ◆ Is the car seat it being sold directly by a trusted retailer, such as Target, Buy Buy Baby and Nordstrom? Online sites, such as Amazon, may sell car seats from a third party. Be certain that the car seats are being sold directly by a United States car seat manufacturer.
 - ◆ Is the car seat on the American Academy of Pediatrics list of FMVSS 213 child safety seats?



Example: Doona with real stickers



Example: Doona with fake and missing stickers

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Product-Listing.aspx>

- ◆ When there are any questions about whether a car seat is genuine, contact the manufacturer. Car seat manufacturers can be contacted through customer service by phone or through their website. Representatives are easy to contact and they want to help.