

Appendix B

NHTSA Ease of Use Rating Form

NHTSA Child Restraint Usability Rating Form – 2001

Date _____ Evaluated by _____ Seat # (on tag) _____

Manufacturer _____ DOM _____

Make & Model _____ Model # (on CRS) _____

If optional base, model # on base _____ DOM on base _____

Style: Infant (RF) Convertible (RF/FF) Combination (FF harness/booster) Booster Other

Harness: 5-point "V" or 3-point T-shield OH shield Shield booster No shield booster

Measurements (imperial units for North American consumer guide) – *take out slack in seat cover*

Total number of crotch strap positions 1 2 n/a (booster only)

Distance crotch strap opening on base to seat bight Position 1 _____ Position 2 _____ n/a

Lower harness slot height (bottom center slot to seat bight) _____ Upper harness slot height _____ n/a

Seat height (from seat bight) n/a (no back-booster)

Size range given in owner's manual: _____ Date on manual: _____

	WEIGHT (kg and lb)		HEIGHT (cm and inches)	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
RF				
FF				
Booster				

Yes No, note any differences _____

Infant restraint has optional base Yes No n/a (e.g. convertible)

Type: Booster Only
 Combination (harness/booster)

Style: No-back with non-removable shield
 No-back with removable shield
 No-back NO shield
 High back with soft back
 High back with hard back

Booster recommended for use with: Lap/torso Yes No not shown on seat

Lap belt Yes No not shown on seat

If shield booster, recommended t/belt position: front of child behind child not shown on seat r

Assembly (When first out of box)

	A	B	C	Notes
All functional parts including seat pad or cover attached and ready to use	Yes*		No	*parent may still need to adjust system to fit child
Tether attached to child restraint	Yes		No	n/a
Owner’s manual easy to find	Attached to child restraint in a clearly location visible	Attached to child restraint but not clearly visible	In box, not attached	
Obvious storage (pocket) for manual	Easily accessible when installed in all modes and manual can be removed and replaced easily	Easily accessible When installed in all modes but manual cannot be removed and replaced easily (any use of plastic clips as the sole means of storing the instructions will not be higher than “acceptable”)	Not accessible when installed in all modes	

Evaluation of Labels/Instructions

	A	B	C	Notes
Clear indication of child’s size range	Separate clear text with illustrations of child in upper range	Separate clear text Independent paragraph	Size range buried in other text	
All mode/s of use clearly indicated e.g., rear-facing only or forward-and rear-facing if convertible	CRS illustration in complete vehicle seat (not FSP) Mode/s clear, no need to read text	CRS illustration in outline vehicle seat (could be front seat) Need to read text	No illustration, text only May be illustrated, but not all modes shown	<i>Infant restraint = RF</i> <i>Convertible = RH and FF (+tether could be separate illustration)</i> <i>Combination = FF (+harness/tether and booster)</i>
Air bag warning in written instructions	Separate, highlighted & illustrated	Separate & highlighted	Buried in other text or no warning	
Show harness slots okay to use for occupant size	Clear illustration or markings –no need to read text	Markings of top slot – need to read text	Other, includes text only or in manual only	n/a, all harness slots can be used
Instructions for routing for both lap belt and lap/shoulder belt in all modes	All modes illustrated clearly with CR in seat S/belt (tether) in illustration with s/b No need to read	All modes illustrated with CR in seat (tether may have own illustration of s/belted CRS in seat) Need to read text	Not all illustrated (e.g. tether not shown)	<i>All modes = RF/FF & lap, lap/torso and for infant restraint if torso belt shown behind CRS, alternative if torso belt not long enough and for FF harness systems + tether and for booster – whether or not okay for both lap and lap/torso seat belt</i>

Evaluation of Labels/Instructions (Continued)

		A	B	C	Notes
Visibility of seat belt routing (for lap belt and lap/torso) when CRS in position in vehicle i.e. is seat belt routing obvious	Without base	Clear routing illustration or clear contrast belt path marking both sides No need to read text	Markings or some form of routing illustration both sides Need to read text	Other incl illustration only one side or illustrations do not match CRS or belt direction or hidden by seat cover	
	Installing add-on base (alone) or n/a	Clear routing illustration or clear contrast belt path marking both sides No need to read text	Markings or some form of routing illustration both sides Need to read text	Other incl illustration only one side or illustrations do not match CRS or belt direction or hidden by seat cover	
Visibility of tether use		Yes		No	
Information in written instructions and on labels match		Yes		No	
Durability of labels		All labels molded or embossed	Sticky label	Sticky label if one or more are already peeling when restraint removed from box	

Securing the Child

	A	B	C	Notes
Buckle can be secured in reverse	No, or yes but usual release works with same degree of effort	Yes, but usual release requires more effort	Yes, but can't use release mechanism	
Harness adjustment easy to tighten or loosen when child restraint installed	One had to tighten Max 2 to loosen	Two hands to tighten, but easy No re-threading	Other	<i>Do not count one hand to support CRS</i>
Number of harness slots/ usable slots	3	2*	Top only	*2nd slot okay to 30 lb then top only
Ease of attaching/removing base (infant restraint systems only)	One had to attach Max two to release –handle easy to access	One hand to attach Max two to release –handle not easy access	Other includes need to tilt or tip to release	n/a, not an infant restraint n/a, no base offered with this infant restraint
Ease of conversion rear-facing to forward-facing or forward-facing to booster and back again	One had to change Easy to access	1-2 hands to change – not easy access or binds	Other	n/a, single mode
Visibility of harness slots	Clear view of both slots (slots aligned)	Clear view cloth slots, not aligned with plastic slots	Something in way when sold, e.g. pad, head hugger	n/a, no harness slots (booster only)

Securing the Child (Continued)

	A	B	C	Notes
Ease of changing harness slot position	No need to rethread Possible for one person to do	Possible for one person to do, easy to attach/remove Large slots easy to thread	Other, slot size too small for easy threading Loose mandatory pieces Could misroute through buckle	
Ease of reassembly if pad/cover removed for cleaning	No loose parts Easy to attach/remove – clear slots No realignment necessary	No loose parts Slots maybe misaligned	Loose parts, need hand tool Slot size too small for easy threading Could misroute through buckle	
Ease of adjusting/removing shield	Clear illustration simple action shield marked	Need to read text, simple action, shield not marked	Other tool/s required	n/a, no shield n/a, shield not adjustable

Installing in Vehicle

	A	B	C	Notes
Separation of vehicle belt path	Without base	No contact possible	Cover to avoid contact	Possible contact including crotch strap
	Installing add-on base (alone) or n/a	No contact possible	Cover	Possible contact
Ease of vehicle belt routing (hand clearance)	Without base	Male hand can route s/b through including flap in seat, nothing in way	Male hand fit but need to move CRS (no x-tilt), or move padding	Hand does not fit
	Installing add-on base (alone) or n/a	Male hand can route s/b through including flap in seat	Male hand fit but need to move CRS (no x-tilt)	Hand does not fit
Ease of seat belt routing (boosters)	Single action (could be done by child in seat)	Includes 2 hands to operate belt positioning hardware	Detachable or multiple steps	
Ease of use of any belt-positioning hardware on CRS including lock-off	One hand to use	Two hands to use	Detachable or multiple steps	n/a, no belt positioning hardware
Tether easy to tighten (& release)	One hand to tighten	Two hands but easy	Other	
Does belt-positioning device allow excessive slack to occur including lock off	Guides only		Slack could be introduced	n/a, no belt positioning hardware
Ease of tightening belt around CRS	???	???	???	

