



## CAR SEAT REGULATIONS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND CANADA

Car seats and booster seats are regulated by country, provincial and state standards. This is an important consideration when deciding to purchase a car seat as you must meet the regulations and standards of the country you reside in. Some car seats on the market are compliant for both the US and Canada. Please do your research before making your purchase.

As a visitor, you will be fine using your Canadian seat as visitors receive special consideration. If you were to move and become a resident of the US, you would need to have a seat that says it conforms to FMSS213 (which yours may, if it is a model that is also sold in the US). Buying a non-US child seat and bringing it into the country risks US Customs seizure and fines. This also applies to bringing a US seat into Canada.

### Car Seat Regulations while OUTCAN

- The Car Safety Seat (CSS) Label can be found stuck to or embossed on the plastic with the CSS expiration date. For any questions contact the Manufacturer.
- In states that require a child to be secured in a safety system that meets the requirements laid out in FMVSS 213, using a Canadian seat is illegal.
- There are many labels on car seats that provide important information for using your car seat properly. These labels are required by the government. They are located on the seat and indicate the following:
  1. NHTSA certification of conformation to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS213);
  2. Weight and height guidelines for the specific seat;
  3. A basic outline of the installation procedures;
  4. Manufacturing data;
  5. Air bag warnings;
  6. FAA certification for use in an aircraft; and
  7. Weight limits for when lower anchors must be discontinued and replaced with the seat belt.

All car seats rated by NHTSA meet Federal Safety Standards and strict crash performance standards.

- [Child Passenger Safety Laws by State](#)
- [National Highway Traffic Safety Association Guide](#)
- [Inspection Station Locations](#)
- [Car Seat Events across the US](#)

You will want to register your car seats, boosters, and strollers to receive information about safety recalls, insurance, and laws. A postage-paid return card comes with every new child seat and should be returned to the manufacturer so owners can be notified of any recalls or safety issues with the car seat. Owners who have a car seat that was never registered can go online at any time and contact/register with the manufacturer by providing the manufacturing data found on the seat's label.

### Car Seat Regulations when Returning to Canada

Canadian Car Seat Regulations state that all car seats must have a National Safety Mark. This means that they comply to the appropriate Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.

- A label or text embossed into the plastic containing the following information, in English and French, must be permanently affixed to the product:
  1. Name and address of manufacturer or retailer;
  2. Model name and number;
  3. Date of manufacture;
  4. Statements for weight and height range of user;
  5. Features of vehicles the product is not to be used;
  6. Warning statements; and
  7. Installation diagrams.
- The instructions, in English and French, for proper installation and use must be provided with the product.
- All forward-facing car seats must have a tether strap.
- All car seats must have a functional restraint system (harness system).

For further information on car seats, including recalls, contact [Transport Canada](#) at 1-800-333-0371 or visit their website at: [Road and Motor Vehicle Safety Bringing Car Seats into Canada](#).

- [Bringing Car Seats into Canada](#)
- [Child Car Seat Safety](#)
- [Child Car Seat Cross Border Shopping What Parents and Caregivers Should Know](#)

This information is offered to help direct you and your family to the correct locations to find the benefits and services available during your OUTCAN posting. Please be vigilant in doing the research appropriate for your situation, as each is different!

