

FAQ

HARNESSED SEATS for LARGER CHILDREN - BRITAX REGENT (USA)

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We have received a number of calls related to the Britax USA Regent seat.

The Australian situation

By law (Trade Practice Act) we must sell child restraints that comply with the Australian Standard AS/NZS1754.

Also by law (The road rules) drivers must ensure children are properly secured and if in a Child Restraint and the Child Restraint meet the Australian Standard.

The Australian Standard specifies the occupant mass range that we must marked on the child restraints. That is:-

- Infant devices up to either 9 or 12 kg (Unity and Convertibles except the BSC are 12 kg, BSC is 9 kg)
 - Toddler Seat - Forward facing seats with harnesses - 8 to 18kg.
 - Booster seats and booster cushions - 14 to 26 kg (Also when Boosters are used with the Child Harness)
 - Child Harness when used by itself - 14 to 32 kg
- and
- Convertible Type A/B up to 12 kg rear facing, 8 to 18 kg forward facing
 - Convertible Booster seat 8 to 18 kg forward facing with it's own harness, 14 to 26 kg as a booster seat (with a lap sash seat belt or Protecta child harness.)

A child should stay in a seat that suits their size for as long as they can before graduating in to the next type of child restraint. This determination is based only on size and weight.

- Facing rearward in an Infant restraint for as long as the child fits the restraint is highly desirable.
- Using a harness in a Toddler seat for as long as possible is also desirable (usually if the shoulders are more that 25 mm above the top shoulder strap slot then the next type of seat is required.)
- For boosters, the child should stay in the seat until their eye level reaches to be in line with the back of the car's headrest or seat back, or the eye level reaches the top of the back of the Booster Seat.

Recent coverage of Britax Regent (USA) on the Internet

The awareness of the Britax USA Regent has come from a short video on YouTube on the internet. The Video covers a mother's views of child restraints that could have saved her son's life which was tragically taken as a result of a roll over crash. The video is not technically correct and may convey an incorrect message to viewers in Australia. The cause of the death was the seat belt releasing in the crash thus releasing the occupant. Possibly the seat belt was not engaged. The child was just 18 kg and had just graduated to a Booster seat with a lap sash seat belt. This is no different to Australia. The mother believes that her child would have been better in a Britax Regent with the Harness. She is probably right but again if the seat belt was defective or not engaged the child would still be in danger.

Consumers have been rushing to buy the Regent in USA. The Regent cannot be sold in Australia as we are unable to meet the Australian Standard with the Regent seat.

Anyone looking at information on the Internet for child restraints in USA, Europe or elsewhere overseas are not necessarily looking at child restraint information that relates to Australia. They can be easily misled and may think Australia has inferior child restraints. This is not correct.

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The USA situation

As far as the Britax USA Regent is concerned, the American standard allows seats to be used with children with greater weight; for the Britax USA Regent it can be used up to 37 kg with it's harness. The Regent seat is around 130 mm taller than our convertibles such as Premier and Royale, 70mm taller than Meridian/Platinum AHR and MaxiRider 2.

For many seats in USA, their higher weight rating often relates not so much to taller children but to obese children. Regent is an exception.

The USA standard is different to the Australian Standard. The Australian standard uses larger test dummies, conducts testing at more severe impact levels, and tests in directions simulating frontal, side, rear and roll-over crashes, where as USA seats are only tested for frontal crashes. USA seats do not meet the Australian Standard and cannot be sold in Australia. Their use in the vehicle could result in the driver getting a traffic ticket for not safely restraining a child. In the event of a crash, the insurance company may not cover injury to the occupant or replacement of the child restraint.

The Regent exerts higher load on the Tether Strap anchorage in the vehicle and the anchorage could pull out putting the child at risk of severe injury.

The Regent also does not have a split crotch strap and it is only forward facing.

What can we offer in Australia

Convertibles and Convertible Booster seats provide a harness for children up to 18 kg. These seats are tested to 22 kg so staying in them a little longer, say to 20 kg will not overload the seat **. After that we can offer MaxiRider, Explorer and Hi-Liner that can use the Protecta Harness to go up to 26 kg.

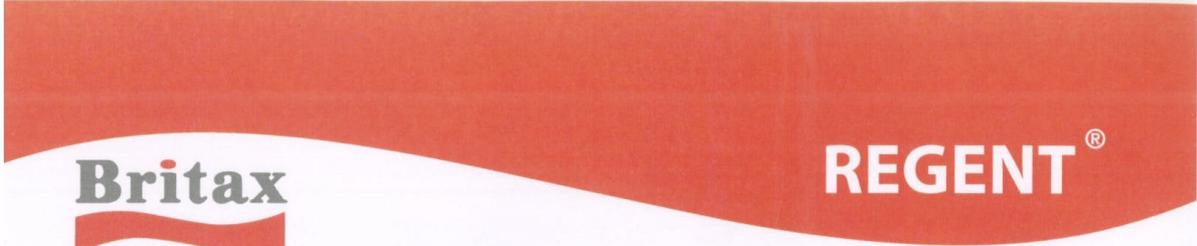
In addition, for taller children, the Hi-Liner can offer suitable height adjustment for average 8 year old to fit and also provides very good side crash protection. Although rated to 26 kg, testing is conducted as required by the Australian to 32 kg **. The Hi-Liner is 50 mm taller than the Regent. The Hi-Liner can also use the Protecta child harness to provide upper torso support.

*(** we cannot recommend these higher weights for occupants but we can tell the consumer that they are tested to this weight.)*

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Britax

Youth

Forward Facing:
One year and up from 22 to 80 pounds



Carton Weight: 29 pounds
Carton Cube: 6.77 cubic feet
Carton Dimensions: 14"W x 38"H x 22"D
Pallet Quantity: 12 units
Product Weight: 31 pounds
MSRP: \$269.99

