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PR# 09-074

New Child Seat Laws Take Affect Today

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – New state regulations regarding child safety seats take affect Today, September 15, 2009. The Alaska State Troopers want to point this change out to the motoring public.

It is important to verify the safety of the child seat or booster seat your child uses. This is a good opportunity for families with young children to check the restraint systems they currently have in place in their vehicles. Some car seats and booster seats get recalled due to manufacturer defects.

Below is the new regulation:

1. **less than one year of age or a child one year of age or older who weighs less than 20 pounds shall be properly secured in a rear-facing child safety that meets or exceeds [IS LESS THAN FOUR YEARS OF AGE, THE CHILD SHALL BE PROPERLY SECURED IN A CHILD SAFETY DEVICE MEETING THE] standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;**
2. **one or more years of age but less than five years of age who weighs 20 pounds or more shall be properly secured in a child restraint device that meets or exceeds the standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;**
3. **over four years of age but less than eight years of age who is less than 57 inches in height and weighs 20 or more pounds but less than 65 pounds shall be properly secured in a booster seat that is secured by a seat belt system or by another child passenger restraint system that meets or exceeds the standards of the United States Department of Transportation and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;**
4. **over four years of age who exceeds the height or weight requirements in (3) of this subsection shall be properly secured in a seat belt;**
5. **eight years of age [FOR A CHILD SAFETY DEVICE FOR INFANTS. IF THE CHILD IS FOUR] but less than [NOT YET] 16 years of age who does not exceed the height and weight requirements in (3) of this subsection [, THE CHILD] shall be properly secured in a child safety device approved for a child of that [AGE AND] size by the United States Department of Transportation or in a safety belt, whichever is appropriate for the particular child as determined solely by the driver.**

For more information regarding child safety features for vehicles, visit the below sites:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/hwysafety/occupant.shtml#facts>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov>

<http://www.carseatsak.org/Links/index.cfm?fuseaction=AlaskaLaw>