

Survey on the actual situation for infant-carrying vehicles Results

* Background

We distributed questionnaires to countries in Europe and North America at the 45th session of GRSP in May 2009 and asked them to report the situation in their countries.
Thank you for helping us in this survey.

Infant-carrying Vehicle in Japan

In Japan, There are the Vehicles exclusively for carriage of infants (preschool children aged under 6). For the vehicles, following requirements exist:

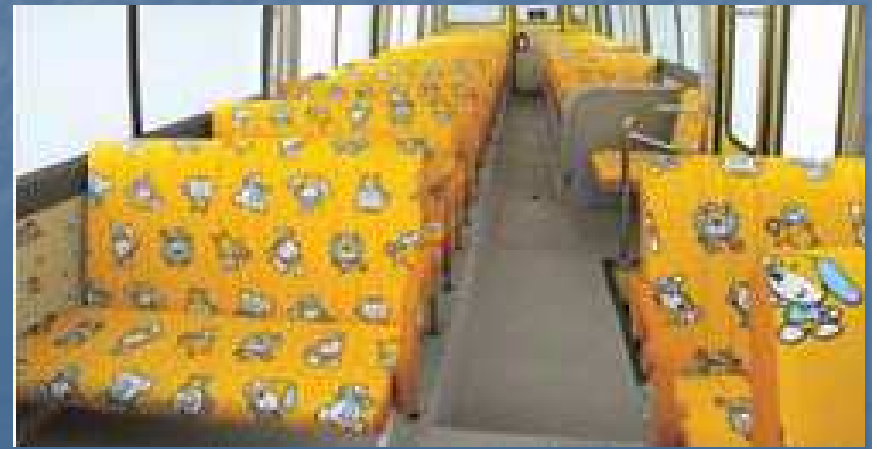
- (1) Mandatory vehicle marking to remind other drivers that it is a vehicle exclusively for infants for the purpose of ensuring its safety;
- (2) Mandatory installation of an emergency exit to enable a swift evacuation in emergency situations;
- (3) Requirements on the dimensions of steps and seats to enable children to ride the vehicle safely.

However, it is not mandatory to install seat belts

Figure1. Infant-carrying vehicle in Japan



Figure2. Seats on an infant-carrying vehicle



Results of the Survey

1. Current situation in your country

1-1. Is it mandatory for infants in a school bus to fasten safety-belts?

Germany	United States	Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The use of safety belts in buses is mandatory only where the installation of safety belts is required.•For minibuses (< 3.5 to) safety belts and the usage is mandatory. For children under twelve years of age and less than 150 cm body height, the use of CRS is mandatory on seats, for which seat belts are required by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There is no federal regulation requiring the use of seat belts. This is generally handled by states and school districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Children aged 6 or older must fasten seat belts, except where no seat belts are provided in the vehicle, etc.•Children aged 5 or younger must use child restraints, except for commercial buses, taxis, and vehicles whose structure does not allow child restraints to be installed, etc.

1. Current situation in your country

1-2. Do vehicles used exclusively for carriage of infants exist, which are apparently distinguished from other passenger cars? If yes, is it mandatory for such a vehicle to be equipped with safety-belts?

Germany	United States	Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly-visible shields of defined size and appearance have to be attached to the front and the rear of school buses.• For minibuses (< 3.5 to) safety belts and the usage is mandatory. For children under twelve years of age and less than 150 cm body height, the use of CRS is mandatory on seats, for which seat belts are required by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are not aware of such vehicles in the United States. <p>(Lap/shoulder belts are required for all small school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) less than 10,000 lbs by FMVSS 222.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicles exclusively for carriage of infants (preschool children aged under 6) are not mandatory to install seat belts.

1. Current situation in your country

1-3. Please explain how to fasten/unfasten safety-belts for infants. (ex. fasten for their selves, fastened by a driver or an adult accompanying the infants, etc.)

Germany	United States	Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before the start the driver has to inform the passengers about the necessity to use safety belts if so.• An adult accompanying the infants is recommended in the case of transporting small infants (e.g. nursery / Kindergarten children (age < 6 years) or first grader (age 6 to 7 years)).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We believe most school age children know how to use seat belts in passenger cars and so will be able to use the safety belts in school buses on their own. The school bus seats have provision for installation of child restraints which will need to be fastened by an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of seat belts is not mandatory for vehicles exclusively for infants.

2. Future plan

2-1. What is the examination situation in your country for mandatory equipment of safety-belts on vehicles carrying infants, if any.

Germany	United States	Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•There are no further activities planned with regard to mandatory equipment of safety-belts on vehicles carrying infants .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This is handled by the states and the school districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Discussions on enhancement of safety of infants carrying vehicles, including installation of seat belts, started in 2009.

3. Existence and research situation of safety-belts used exclusively for infants

3-1. Do safety-belts used exclusively for infants exist in your country? What is the research situation for those, if any?

Germany	United States	Japan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The existence of safety-belts used exclusively for infants is unknown to us. No research activities on this topic are planned at the moment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We do not have seat belts used exclusively for infants. However, the final rule published in 2008 requires the seat belts to fit occupant sizes ranging from a 6-year old to a 95th percentile male.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•We don't know seat belts for infants exist.

Thank you for your Attentions.