



SAFETY ALERT

SEATBELTS IMPORTED BY BVL (BUSINESS VENTURES LIMITED)

Updated November 2018

The NZ Transport Agency has issued this safety alert advising vehicle owners who have retrofitted seatbelts to check the seatbelt labels following safety concerns. Investigation and independent testing identified critical defects in BVL (Business Ventures Limited) seatbelts manufactured by Changzhou BWD. Further investigation identified non-compliance with BVL seatbelts manufactured by Jiang Su Jiu Jiu. Three-point seatbelts imported and distributed by BVL have been sold by retailers throughout the country.

The Transport Agency is advising people that if BVL seatbelts (manufactured by Changzhou BWD or Jiang Su Jiu Jiu) are fitted in their vehicle's driver seat that they do not use their vehicle until replacements are fitted. If fitted in other seating positions, the advice is not to allow passengers to use those seats. It has also instructed vehicle inspectors to fail a vehicle for its warrant of fitness (WoF) or certificate of fitness (CoF) inspection if these seatbelts are identified in a vehicle.

The markings on the seatbelts indicate certification to a European standard but testing and auditing by the Transport Agency has found them to be non-compliant. BVL seatbelts are not installed as original equipment seatbelts into passenger cars. However, they are used for retrofitting into modified vehicles, such as motorhomes, buses, and vans – including some purchased new at New Zealand agents. They are also commonly used to replace original equipment belts if belts have been damaged or fail a vehicle inspection (WoF/CoF).



In crash testing, failure occurred in the shoulder anchor point (D-ring) and the retractor mechanism failed to lock and prevent runout of the belt.

How to identify a BVL seatbelt (manufactured by Changzhou BWD or Jiang Su Jiu Jiu)



The label is located where the outboard strap is attached to the vehicle, typically found between the door and the seat.

While the focus of this alert is primarily on seatbelts already installed, **wholesalers, retailers and auto repairers should ensure no more of these are sold or installed into vehicles.** The Transport Agency has sent 'stop now' letters to the importer and known retailers. A recall is forthcoming.



In the 50km/h test, the mannequin flies forward after the seatbelt fails.

This alert only applies to three-point seatbelts supplied by BVL.

Action required

- Review your vehicle and determine if your three-point seatbelts have labels that say BVL. If in doubt, a vehicle inspector (such as a WoF or CoF inspector) will be able to identify them.
- If these belts are fitted in the driver's seat, our advice is to not use the vehicle until replacements are fitted. If fitted in other seating positions, our advice is to not allow passengers to use those seats.
- If your vehicle has an affected seatbelt please contact the reseller from whom you purchased the belt for advice

on getting the seatbelts replaced with a safe alternative. Alternatively, please contact Business Ventures Limited on info@bvl.co.nz or 09 574 6724.

- Vehicle inspectors have been instructed to fail a vehicle for its WoF or CoF inspection if these seatbelts are identified in your vehicle.
- Feedback regarding BVL seatbelts or all other enquiries or questions related to this should be directed to the Transport Agency on 0800 699 000.