

evenflo

Evenflo Company, Inc.
707 Comstock Court
Vandalia, Ohio 43177
(937) 415-3300

RUSSELL BUTSON
Director of Product Safety

April 26, 2001

BY FEDERAL EXPRESS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Route Code NSA-11
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

^c
01E-019 (01)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Evenflo Company, Inc. ("Evenflo") has been talking with members of your staff about their concerns with the handle performance of the Evenflo Joyride® infant child restraint.

Your staff has told us that they are concerned about the number of consumer complaints of unintended handle movement in these restraints, a small number of which also report minor injuries to infants. Your staff believes that these complaints are evidence of a safety-related defect in the restraints.

Evenflo does not agree that the Joyride® infant restraint contains a safety-related defect in design or performance, as that term is understood under federal safety laws. Nevertheless, Evenflo does not wish to prolong this dispute with the agency and has agreed to conduct a voluntary notification and remedy campaign in conformance with Parts 573 and 577 of your rules, as detailed in the enclosed defect information report. Evenflo is also voluntarily cooperating with the staff of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in planning and carrying out this campaign, notwithstanding the fact that the infant restraints are "items of motor vehicle equipment." Evenflo will work with the two agencies to publicize the campaign and monitor its progress.

We appreciate this opportunity to work cooperatively with the agency. The information required by Part 573 of your rules is attached.

Sincerely,



Russell Butson
Director of Product Safety

Attachment

**DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
SUBMITTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. §573.5**

Evenflo is undertaking a campaign to repair the carrying handle for Evenflo Joyride® infant restraints manufactured and sold in the United States from approximately January 1988 through December 1998. Although the infant restraints at issue fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 571.213, Evenflo is providing your office with the information specified in 49 CFR Part 573. When the infant restraint is used as a carrier (outside of a motor vehicle), the handle locks on each side of the restraint can unexpectedly release, causing the seat to flip forward.

1. Manufacturer's name/address:

*Evenflo Company, Inc.
707 Crossroads Court
Vandalia, Ohio 45377*

2. Equipment involved in this notification:

The equipment involved in this notification is the Joyride® infant restraint manufactured between January 1988 and December 1998. The Joyride® infant restraint was sometimes sold together with a detachable convenience base as a Travel Tandem®, and was sometimes sold as a travel system (together with a matching stroller). The model numbers for equipment involved in this notification are identified in response to item 3, below.

3. Total number of items of equipment:

The table below identifies the number of units of equipment involved in this notification by model number.

Production Year	203	205	210	435	493	Total
1988	0	0	0	77,898	0	77,898
1989	28,733	0	0	100,225	0	128,958
1990	140,262	26,745	0	0	0	167,007
1991	210,337	31,969	0	0	0	242,306
1992	373,299	80,205	0	0	0	453,504
1993	359,065	74,939	505	0	0	434,509
1994	328,047	143,769	1,447	0	0	473,263
1995	417,506	218,916	285	0	0	636,707
1996	372,408	135,797	0	0	26,091	534,296
1997	264,947	115,733	0	0	25,463	406,143
1998	226,584	15,735	0	0	0	242,319
Total	2,721,188	843,808	2,237	178,123	51,554	3,796,910

Note: These are total production numbers. Approximately 400,000 units were sold in countries outside of the United States.

4. Approximate percentage of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect:

All units identified in item 3 are involved in this notification.

5. Description of the defect:

Although the infant restraints at issue fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 571.213, when the infant restraint is used as a carrier (outside of a motor vehicle), the handle locks on each side of the restraint can unexpectedly release, causing the seat to flip forward.

6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:

In September 2000, NHTSA, together with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC"), contacted Evenflo regarding allegations from consumers of handle locks on each side of the restraints unexpectedly releasing. Together with NHTSA and CPSC, Evenflo investigated this phenomenon, and concluded that it did not believe a defect existed. However, after meeting with representatives from NHTSA and CPSC, Evenflo decided to conduct a notification and remedy campaign in order to resolve the agencies' concerns without prolonging the dispute.

7. Description of proposed remedy:

Evenflo will undertake a notification and remedy campaign to provide consumers with free repair kits. The kits will reduce the risk of inadvertent release of the handle locks.

8. Program for remedy campaign:

Notification will be automatically sent to those consumers who returned a completed product registration card to Evenflo. Evenflo will issue a press release advising the public of the campaign, and will establish a web site and toll free hotline to register consumers for distribution of free kits. Evenflo will also provide posters to retail establishments announcing the campaign, and will post the campaign information on its web site.