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Statement regarding Stiftung Warentest (issue June 2014 child car seat test) in relation to the Britax Römer DUALFIX

The Stiftung Warentest tested 28 child car seats from 16 different brands together with the German automotive club ADAC for the June issue of the German consumer **test** magazine. The results from these tests are shared with several consumer safety organisations across Europe who publish them in their respective publications.

The Britax Römer DUALFIX (Group 0+/1) was rated with the test result "sufficient"(4.5).

How was this result derived?

Since 2011, the overall testing result has been based on the following criteria:

Safety (50% of the result) and handling and ergonomics (50% of the result). Harmful substances and the cleaning process of the product are also examined. If there are noticeable problems within these two additional criteria, the overall result can be affected.

The Britax Römer DUALFIX received:

- Safety: "sufficient"(4.5)
- Handling / Ergonomics: "good"(1.9)
- Harmful substances: "very good"(1.1)
- Total result: "sufficient" (4.5)

How to interpret these results?

Within the safety result, the majority of the score is based on the crash performance in a side impact and frontal impact assessed by numerical data of test dummy measurement sensors. The remainder of the score calculated is based on 'observation' of the seat construction. Seat construction observation is split into (1) the way the harness or seat belt is routed and by (2) seat stability /operability (ie. how "stable" the seat is once installed).

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ADAC and Stiftung Warentest do not conduct a real dynamic crash tests with a newborn dummy for 0+/1 seats. They do conduct a real dynamic crash test of the seat in Group 0+ mode with a larger dummy and those results are known and good. The sufficient rating is driven only by a harness observation for their replication of a newborn (due to length of harness as cited in the test reports). Once the “observational” criteria of the seat construction, is deemed “sufficient” the safety score can only be a maximum of one level better (“satisfactory”). In this case, the safety score was not favourably rounded up (despite good dynamic crash test results shown and published) and therefore our total overall score remained a “sufficient”.

Current Britax Römer Position

We are very surprised by this rating and stand behind this product. We are convinced that DUALFIX is a safe restraint system and we are most unhappy about the insecurity this report might create amongst parents.

We hereby confirm the following facts that support this statement:

- The DUALFIX is approved to the European regulation ECE R 44/04 (verified by external parties). We have already today thoroughly reviewed these tests and videos and stand behind our approvals and results.
- Specific tests to represent the new-born are part of this legal ECE R44/04 approval process. We are satisfied with our numerous crash tests with P0 dummies which are the known and ECE R44/04 recognized dummies representing new-borns.
- We have completed our own extensive internal testing (which for decades now goes well above the norm), which is a combination of dynamic crash test and ergonomic fit, with group 0 (new-born) and group 1 dummies with good results. We conduct, as well, multiple steps in our development process where we assess all subjective criteria with real children which are recorded and well developed.
- We have sold tens of thousands of seats since DUALFIX’s introduction in June 2013 and have not had any consumer concern or complaints about the length of harness in any market across Europe, Middle East & Africa. For reference we have sold this restraint in over 38 countries during that time. We receive thousands of direct contacts and praise from parents using our products across Europe each month over our email and help lines.
- We have also tested this product extensively with our testing partner ADAC Landsberg in December 2013 with good data and results. We also have reviewed the seat with a member of the commissioned team for operability in September 2013. At no point through our consultation did our usage or results raise any

concern from the parties involved. Again, all dynamic crash test results shown and published in all modes were good.

What Next?

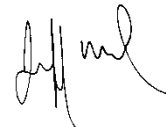
We will follow up this issue in detail and make sure we keep parents and our retailers informed about the outcome of our investigations in further statements in the next days. Our ultimate goal is ensuring that parents continue to have trust that our products will protect their child/children and we will do our very best to clarify the situation as soon as possible.

We are looking for an open discussion to achieve our mutual goal of improving the safety for children.

BRITAX RÖMER Kindersicherheit GmbH



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