



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** EA 13-001  
**Prompted by:** Consumer Complaints  
**Date Opened:** 02/21/2013  
**Investigator:** John Abbott **Reviewer:** Scott Yon  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Child Seat Harness Buckle

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Graco Children's Products Inc.  
**Products:** 2009-2012 (models listed in the summary)  
**Population:** Confidential  
**Problem Description:** Difficulty in unlatching the harness buckle, including complainants reportedly cutting the harness to remove their child

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	80	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open Engineering Analysis

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this investigation based on 25 reports from consumers that alleged difficulty in unlatching the harness buckle on their subject child seat. Since opening the investigation ODI has received 55 additional reports. Consumers state that excessive force and/or effort is required to push the button to unlatch the harness. Some reported not being able to unlatch the buckle at all and were forced to remove their child by pulling them through the still buckled harness, or in some cases, by cutting the harness straps.

The subject child seats utilize two different types (designs) of harness buckles, the "Signature" and the "QT" types, both of which are subject to the investigation. Each buckle type operates differently and has dissimilar latching and actuating mechanisms. The Signature buckle has a sliding release button that must be pushed downward to release the harness, while the QT buckle has a button that must be pushed inward to be released.

The child seat models that are subject to investigation include: Cozy Cline, Comfort Sport, Classic Ride 50, My Ride 65, My Ride w/ Safety Surround, My Ride 70, Size4Me 70, Smartseat, Snugride, Snugride 30, Snugride 32, Infant Safe Seat-Step 1, Snugride 35, Snug Ride Click Connect 40, Snug Ride 22, Nautilus, Nautilus Elite, and Argos 70.

Preliminary Evaluation (PE) 12-031 has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis to further study the alleged defect.

The ODI reports can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints> under the following identification (ODI) numbers: 10361369, 10366522, 10366645, 10366950, 10383056, 10397307, 10397449, 10406827, 10410574, 10413648, 10413817, 10414471, 10418155, 10421053, 10428246, 10430498, 10433600, 10444493, 10444593, 10454295, 10454393, 10454450, 10455029, 10456547, 10463507, 10466250, 10467797, 10473717, 10475529, 10475529, 10477267, 10478809, 10481182, 10481219, 10481233, 10481236, 10481243, 10482654, 10482941, 10483551, 10483732, 10483940, 10485417, 10486165, 10487751, 10487824, 10488855, 10489296, 10489536, 10489662, 10490292, 10491819, 10493243, 10493351, 10493614, 10493620, 10493649, 10493668, 10493716, 10494411, 10494567, 10494580, 10494635, 10494769, 10494876, 10495042, 10495130, 10495301, 10496034,

10496063, 10496146, 10496344, 10496470, 10497637, 10497771, 10498293, 10498308, 10498468, 10498529,  
10499325