



How safe are child bicycle seats sold in the EU?



National market surveillance authorities worked together on a European Commission funded product safety initiative to check child bicycle seats for safety risks.



What was tested?

25 front or rear child bicycle seats, bought online and in physical stores in **8 countries**, were analysed by an accredited laboratory. They were tested for safety risks including sharp edges and protrusions, risk of entrapment, shearing and compression, inadvertent release and detachment – as well as for durability, performance and compliance with design and required dimensions.



What should you do?

- **check [Safety Gate](#)** to see if any problems have been reported for the product you want to buy – be sure to look for the same batch number;
- **before you buy**, ensure the seat fits your bike – the maximum height and weight of the child should be displayed at the point of sale;

- **make sure** it has shoulder straps, footrests, and foot straps. if any of these elements are missing, it may be unsafe.
- **before you ride**, check your child's seat for sharp edges, screws, or bolts that could catch on clothing;
- **inspect the seat regularly**, particularly the seat attachment, as weather and frequent use can loosen parts or damage components, which may affect safety;
- **report safety issues** or accidents with the product to your consumer protection authority on [Consumer Safety Gateway](#).

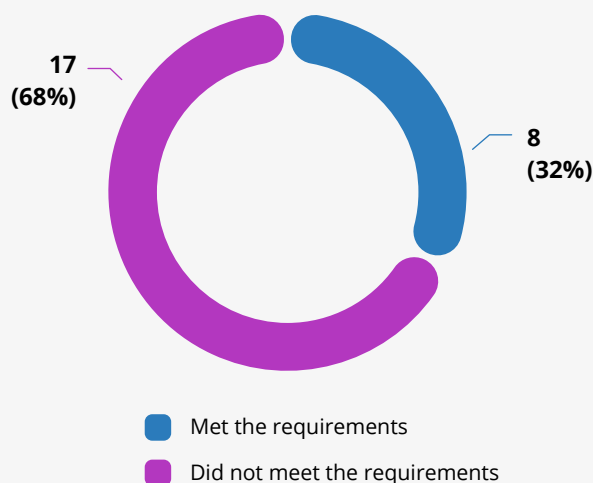


Test results

17 out of the total 25 samples (68 %) failed at least one of the testing requirements.

The highest failure rate was for safety requirements related to sharp edges and protrusions, with 11 (44 %) of 25 samples failing. A total of 8 (32 %) samples did not meet the foot and retention requirements with straps. For lateral seat protection requirements, 6 (24 %) of the samples failed. The same proportion also failed for restraint system effectiveness, strap security (ensuring they stay in place) and the strength of adjustment devices.

11 (85 %) of the 13 samples purchased online failed, as did 6 (50%) of the 12 samples bought in stores. In addition, the majority of seats also failed requirements for warnings, markings and instructions that must be supplied with the product.



What are the risks?

Child bicycle seats are used in environments where accidents and collisions are possible, making risk mitigation essential. Poor design or manufacturing can increase the risk of injury.

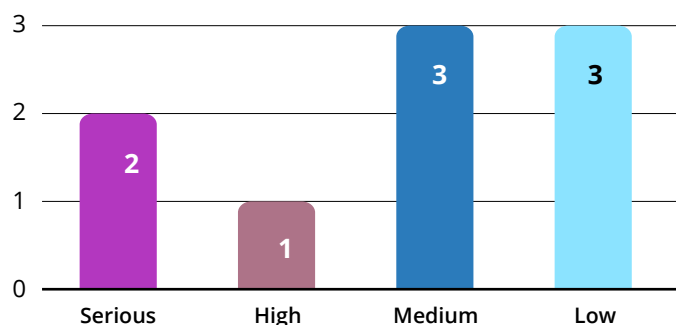
The most serious safety issues were found in the belt and restraint systems. Some adjustment devices failed strength tests, the straps could slip out of place, or were not child-proof, posing risks of falls and potential entanglement or strangulation.

Additional risks include improperly attached front seats, which can affect steering control and cause accidents, and incorrectly positioned or secured seats, which may result in a child falling. Weather, frequent use and using a seat unsuitable for a particular bicycle can further compromise safety.



What did national authorities do?

2 of the failures were assessed as posing a **serious risk**, 1 a high risk, 3 a medium risk, and 3 a low risk.



Notifications for **2 products** considered harmful were posted on [Safety Gate](#), the EU's rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products.

The national authorities participating in this collaborative effort took the following actions:

- recalled one product from the end users;
- instructed the withdrawal of 3 products from the market;
- asked economic operators to change or improve 5 products;
- imposed sanctions on economic operators for another 3 products;
- requested that 3 products be marked with appropriate warnings.



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