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# Questions and answers: Safety alert: Seatbelts imported by BVL (Business Ventures Limited) manufactured by Changzhou BWD

NZ Transport Agency  
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## What is the BVL/Changzhou BWD safety alert?

The NZ Transport Agency is urging vehicle owners who have retrofitted BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts not to drive their vehicle until these have been replaced.

These seatbelts are the subject of a safety alert following Transport Agency tests indicating they do not meet an approved safety standard.

## How were you alerted to the unsafe seatbelts?

After being advised by an industry source that BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are a safety risk, the Transport Agency purchased a selection of the seatbelts. It then commissioned and attended independent testing to confirm if they met an approved safety standard. The test results indicated that although the seatbelts are labelled as compliant, they do not meet an approved safety standard.

The tests indicate that occupants wearing BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are not protected in the event of a collision.

As a result, the Transport Agency has issued a [safety alert](#) and has instructed Warrant of Fitness (WoF) and Certification of Fitness (CoF) inspectors to fail a vehicle if BVL /Changzhou BWD seatbelts are present.

The New Zealand supplier of these seatbelts BVL, has agreed to initiate a safety recall. The Transport Agency is further working with MBIE to implement a solution.

## What types of vehicles are affected?

BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are mostly used for retrofitting into modified vehicles such as motorhomes, buses and vans. They are also commonly used to replace original vehicle seatbelts if they've been damaged and fail a vehicle inspection. BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are not installed by major automotive companies when vehicles are newly manufactured.

The failures identified in testing were related to over-the-shoulder belts that have a 'd-ring' and retractor. Most lap belts do not have these features and are not being including in this safety alert.

## How many vehicles are affected, and where are they located?

The Transport Agency is working with BVL to determine exact quantities, but the seatbelts have been distributed throughout New Zealand both directly to customers and through other retailers, including repair shops.

## How do I know if these seatbelts are in my vehicle?

BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts were sold through numerous retail outlets and repair shops as replacement belts - generally after failing an inspection (WoF/CoF) due to seatbelts being worn or damaged.

These were also installed in new vehicles by van, bus and coach builders. As general-use belts, these may have also been fitted into older cars, hot-rods, etc.

Our safety alert has photos of the seatbelt label. Check for BVL and Changzhou BWD (as shown in safety alert photos) on the label. The label can be found at the end of the seatbelt strap, located outboard of the seat, by the door's frame.

## Is it safe to drive my vehicle if I have these seatbelts installed?

No. We are urging people that if retrofitted BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are fitted in their vehicle in the driver's seat, 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. We have 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

## My vehicle has lap belts that say BVL and Changzhou BWD. Are they safe to use?

The failures identified in testing were in 'over-the-shoulder' seatbelts that have a 'd-ring' and retractor. Most lap belts don't have these features and are not included in the safety alert.

## What kind of assistance are you providing to vehicle owners affected by this action?

Contact details for assistance from the Transport Agency are available at the bottom of this page.

## Why was BVL allowed to sell faulty seatbelts?

The Transport Agency requires that replacement seatbelts meet an approved safety standard. The BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are marked with an approved safety standard but after investigating, there doesn't appear to be evidence to support the label's standard mark. This is why the Transport Agency conducted the independent testing.

## Are there any other faulty seatbelts in the market?

The Transport Agency isn't aware of other faulty seatbelts in the market.

## Who pays for a replacement seatbelt?

If you purchased a BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelt, the Transport Agency recommends you talk to the retailer you purchased it from.

If you purchased the vehicle with the seatbelts already fitted, we recommend you talk to BVL.

## Is my vehicle safe?

The testing that the Transport Agency commissioned showed that the BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are unsafe.

We are urging people that if retrofitted BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are fitted in their vehicle in the driver's seat, 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. We have 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.

## What are the next steps I should take after identifying a BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelt?

We are urging people that if retrofitted BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are fitted in their vehicle in the driver's seat, 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. If these seatbelts are in your vehicle, they should be removed and replaced with other appropriate standards-approved seatbelts as soon as possible. Seatbelts should not be mixed and matched. Both the retractor side and the buckle side need to be replaced. Even if a mismatched pair appears to work together, there's no guarantee it will remain engaged in the event of a crash.

## Who can I contact to discuss this further?

The Transport Agency recommends you contact the retailer or repair shop from where you purchased your seatbelts directly. If this isn't possible, please contact BVL at 09 574 6724.

## Who can I contact at the Transport Agency to discuss this further?

If you would like to discuss this further, we recommend you follow up with an email to [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz) with BVL and your vehicle's registration plate number in the subject line.