



SAFETY ALERT

October 2018

SEATBELTS IMPORTED BY BVL (BUSINESS VENTURES LIMITED) AND MANUFACTURED BY CHANGZHOU BWD, CHINA

The NZ Transport Agency has issued this safety alert advising vehicle owners who have retrofitted seatbelts to check the seatbelt labels following safety concerns. Investigation and independent testing identified critical defects in BVL (Business Ventures Limited), manufactured by Changzhou BWD seatbelts. Three-point seatbelts imported and distributed by BVL/Changzhou BWD, have been sold by retailers throughout the country.

The Transport Agency is advising people that if BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are fitted in their vehicle's driver seat that 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. It has 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.

The markings on the seatbelts indicate certification to a European standard but testing by the Transport Agency has found them to be non-compliant. BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelts are not installed as original equipment seatbelts into passenger cars. However, they are used for retrofitting into modified vehicles, such as motorhomes, buses, and vans – including some purchased new at New Zealand agents. They are also commonly used to replace original equipment belts if belts have been damaged or fail a vehicle inspection (WoF/CoF).



In crash testing, failure occurred in the shoulder anchor point (D-ring) and the retractor mechanism failed to lock and prevent runout of the belt.

How to identify a BVL/Changzhou BWD seatbelt



The label is located where the outboard strap is attached to the vehicle, typically found between the door and the seat.

While the focus of this alert is primarily on seatbelts already installed, **wholesalers, retailers and auto repairers should ensure no more of these are sold or installed into vehicles.** The Transport Agency has sent 'stop now' letters to the importer and known retailers. A recall is forthcoming.



In the 50km/h test, the mannequin becomes unrestrained after the seatbelt fails.

This alert only applies to three-point seatbelts supplied by BVL and manufactured by Changzhou BWD. Other seatbelts, including lap belts supplied by BVL and manufactured by Changzhou BWD and all other belts supplied by BVL are not included in this alert.

Action required

- Review your vehicle and determine if your three-point seatbelts have labels that say BVL and Changzhou BWD (as shown above). If in doubt, a vehicle inspector (such as a WoF or CoF inspector) will be able to identify them.
- If these belts are fitted in the driver's seat, our advice is to not use the vehicle until replacements are fitted. If fitted in other seating positions, our advice is to not allow passengers to use those seats.
- Vehicle inspectors have been instructed to fail a vehicle for its WoF or CoF inspection if these seatbelts are identified in your vehicle.
- Feedback regarding BVL seatbelts manufactured by Changzhou BWD or all other enquiries or questions related to this should be directed to the Transport Agency on 0800 699 000.