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Baby Products Association statement regarding BabyStyle's Oyster Carapace infant carrier

The Baby Products Association believes it is important for parents and carers to have a clear understanding of the issues surrounding product safety, the responsibilities of our members in producing safe products as well as those of parents in their correct operation. Our aim is to build that awareness to ensure the safety of children.

BabyStyle UK Ltd has been a member of the Baby Products Association since 2002. It has active representation on both the Technical and Executive Committees as well as representation on BSI, CEN and ISO standardisation committees and we know that it takes the safety of its products very seriously. We consider the recent claim of an unsafe product levied against BabyStyle's Oyster Carapace infant carrier as inaccurate and misleading. Products manufactured and/or supplied by our members are tested to and conform to the latest British, European and UN Safety Standards and Regulations and indeed the Oyster Carapace meets the regulatory requirements of ECE R129. Every care is taken to address potential risks when these products are used for a child and it is important that consumers read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use at all times. Failure to follow these instructions cannot be used to infer that the product is unsafe.

Whilst there is little accident data available in the UK, manufacturers are informed of serious incidents caused by their products and there is no evidence to suggest that these infant carriers have been involved in any incidents whilst in actual use.

Which? does not make its own test methods or procedures publicly available for scrutiny. British, European and UN safety standards and Regulations are produced and updated by safety experts with a deep knowledge of the products and associated hazards. Whilst not infallible, these documents are publicly available and there is a clear procedure to follow to have any safety concerns addressed. Representatives of Which? have never volunteered to join these Committees nor does it share its test protocol for these Committees to consider. If the safety of the child occupant is its main concern, we believe this would be its first consideration.

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