CASA Research into Automotive Child Restraints and Their Installation in Transport Category Airplanes – Phase II

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sate skies

Overview

- Australian Situation
- Current Regulations and Policy
- CASA Infant Restraint Project Phase I (2006-2007)
- CASA Infant Restraint Project Phase II (2008-2009)
- Conclusions so far.
- CASA/RMIT Infant Restraint Project Phase III

Australian situation

- Australian Standard for Child Restraints in Motor Vehicles has required top tether use since 1975.
- CASA requires installation of CRS in accordance with manufacturer's instructions – installation in aircraft requires top tether use for Australian CRS.
- AS/NZS 1754 does not currently allow for ISOfix or LATCH type attachment.

Australian Aviation Situation

- CAR 251(1) "..... seat belts shall be worn by all crew members and passengers....."
- CAR 251(3) "CASA may direct that a type of safety harness be worn in place of a seat belt....."
- CAO 20.16.3 Para.13.2(1) "An infant may be carried in the arms or on the lap of an adult passenger, in a bassinet or in an infant seat....."
- CAAP 235-2(1) Para 2.1 "An infant carried in the arms of an adult passenger (lap held) must be restrained....."

2006 – 2007

















AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY CIVIL

 Assessed the contribution of the top tether strap to the restraint performance of a sample of Australian Automotive child restraints in an airline seat.



- Assessed the performance of a sample of European ISOfix child restraint systems in aircraft seats.
- Universal Child Lower Anchorage two 6 mm round steel bar loops – 40mm x 25 mm, 280mm lateral centres





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CASA 06/02

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- 2008-2009
- This project
 - ISOfix, LATCH, conventional attachment
 - Lower Anchorage loads gathering
 - CRS/Child/Aft adult occupant interaction
- 11 dynamic tests conducted
- Two part program



- Part 1:
 - CRS seated behind empty seat
 - Child Restraint performance, Child injury levels, Lower Anchorage loads
 - ECE-R44 and AS/NZS 1754 CRS
 - ISOfix, LATCH and lap belt attachment methods
 - Rigid, instrumented, Lower Anchorage design
 - No Top Tethers











- Part 2:
 - An adult occupant seated behind a CRS
 - Child Restraint performance, Child injury levels, Adult injury levels, Adult/Child interactions
 - ECE-R44 and AS/NZS 1754 CRS
 - ISOfix, LATCH and lap belt attachment methods
 - In-seat Lower Anchorage design
 - No Top Tethers













- What did we find?
 - All CRS performed adequately without anti-rotation devices
 - Lower Anchorage peak load of 5.1kN (peak lap belt load 6.5 kN)
 - Lap belt -> LATCH -> ISOfix reducing excursion
 - Child injury levels reduced with rear occupant
 - Adult injury levels increase with CRS installed ?
 - New adult injury measures for certification ?
 - Tibia bending
 - Neck Injury

How does this compare to a child in his/her own seat or, a lap held child?











CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY





Head Acceleration (Fore/aft)







Child in own seat or lap restrained

Conclusions

- 3 year old head injury higher than standard adult injury.
- Practicalities of 3 year old seated position questionable.
- Measured injury mechanisms for lap held child high.
- True injury mechanisms of lap held children and nursing adults not measurable and subjective.
- Crushing injuries applied by nursing occupant weighing 7 times more than infant.
- Momentary compression force of ½ tonne on 18 month old head.
- Measured adult injury mechanisms low !?!

- Where to from here ?
 - Infant Restraint Project Phase III
 - CAAP 235-2(1) revision
 - Airworthiness Bulletin
 - TSO-C127a/SAE8049a revision
 - AS/NZS 1754 revision
 - Flight Safety Australia Article
 - Public Education

Public Education



Questions ?

