U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation:	DP 20-003		
Prompted by:	Defect Petition		
Date Opened:	04/03/2020		
Investigator:	Samuel Wilson	**Reviewer:**	Scott Yon
Approver:	Stephen Ridella		
Subject:	Child Seat Crashworthiness		

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	Britax Child Safety, Inc.
Products:	Britax Frontier ClickTight XE
Population:	10,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description:	The child seat allegedly failed structurally during a frontal collision contributing to the injury and death of the child occupant.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	1
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	1
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Fatality Incidents:	1	TBD	1
Number of Fatalities:	1	TBD	1

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Defect Petition for a grant or deny decision

Summary:

The petition was submitted by letter dated March 25, 2020 from Dr. Alisa Baer and filed under Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) reference number 11319247. The Petitioner also submitted VOQ 11317879.

The Petitioner requests the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigate the Britax Frontier ClickTight car seat for "catastrophic structural failure that allows the harness to completely pull through the seat". According to the Petitioner, this structural failure resulted in the death of a 4 year old child in a vehicular crash that occurred in November 2019. The crash involved a 2016 Nissan Rogue that struck a telephone pole at the front of the vehicle. The child seat involved was a Britax Frontier ClickTight XE, model E1A076L manufactured in 2015. A police report indicated the child seat was suspected of having a manufacturing defect that was a factor in the death.

The Petitioner also discusses concerns raised by Consumer Reports, after testing it conducted in October 2018, regarding the structural integrity of certain Britax child seats. The Petitioner states the failures noted in the CR testing appear similar to what occurred in the above crash.

A copy of the petition letter and related documents provided by the Petitioner are included in the investigative file for this action. The VOQs cited above can be viewed at NHTSA.gov.

This defect petition has been opened to evaluate the issue and determine whether to grant or deny the petition.