

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21C-005

Manufacturer Name : Clek, Inc.

Submission Date : DEC 15, 2021

NHTSA Recall No. : 21C-005

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Clek, Inc.

Address : 12 UPJOHN RD., SUITE 1
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA 00
M3B 2V9

Company phone : 1-866-656-2462

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 150,599

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Child Restraint Information :

Make 1 : Clek

Model : Foonf

Seat Type : NR

Model No. : FO12-19

Platform Name / No. : NR

Brand Name : NR

Descriptive Information : The Clek Foonf and Fflo are convertible child restraint systems that are used both rear-facing and forward-facing for children.

The Clek Foonf and Fflo Convertible Car Seats include a molded expanded polypropylene (EPP) foam cushion under the seat pad. A small number of consumers have notified Clek that their child has picked and liberated a small piece of foam from the EPP foam cushion. Based on reports of children picking the EPP foam, Clek made a change on May 21, 2021 to add a cover over the foam in the accessible area to prevent access to pick the foam. As a result, only products manufactured on or before May 22, 2021 are affected by this recall.

Clek intends to publish a recall notice to advise consumers of the picking and to provide a retrofit cover to prevent picking of the foam. The total number of units affected for the Foonf is 89,558 and the total number of units affected for the Fflo is 61,041.

Note that FO13 model number is not included in the recall because there was no production using that model number. Foonf's produced in 2013 used the model number FO12 which can be confirmed with EWR data.

Production Dates : DEC 03, 2012 - MAY 20, 2021

Make 2 : Clek

Model : Fflo

Seat Type : OTHER

Model No. : FL15-FL19

Platform Name / No. : NR

Brand Name : NR

Descriptive Information : The Clek Foonf and Fflo are convertible child restraint systems that are used both rear-facing and forward-facing for children.

The Clek Foonf and Fflo Convertible Car Seats include a molded expanded polypropylene (EPP) foam cushion under the seat pad. A small number of consumers have notified Clek that their child has picked and liberated a small piece of foam from the EPP foam cushion. Based on reports of children picking the EPP foam, Clek made a change on May 21, 2021 to add a cover over the foam in the accessible area to prevent access to pick the foam. As a result, only products manufactured on or before May 22, 2021 are affected by this recall.

Clek intends to publish a recall notice to advise consumers of the picking and to provide a retrofit cover to prevent picking of the foam. The total number of units affected for the Foonf is 89,558 and the total number of units affected for the Fflo is 61,041.

Production Dates : JUL 05, 2014 - MAY 20, 2021

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : A small number of consumers have notified Clek that it is possible for an older child to access and pick small pieces of foam from the Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) foam cushion that is under the seat pad on the Clek Foonf and Fillo convertible seats. It has been reported that a child can put the small piece of foam into their mouth, nose, or ear. Those reports have not included any claims of injury or choking.

Clek has determined that an older child can access the EPP foam cushion with their finger through the crotch belt opening in the fabric and pick at the foam. After repeated picking, it is reported that a child can ultimately pick off a small piece of foam which could pose a choking hazard to a child. Pictures of the car seat showing the crotch belt opening and the EPP foam are included in the "Clek Analysis incident 1 7-21-21" and "Clek Analysis incident 2 7-21-21".

Those documents were previously provided to NHTSA as part of the Clek, Inc. Initial Response to Death and Injury Inquiry DI21820C001. Copies of those documents are also posted in the Recall Portal documents and they are included as reference in this document.

The foam pieces that are picked off are small (about 5 mm), roughly spherical, cellular pieces with no sharp edges. This foam is non-toxic and does not pose a chemical concern if it were to be ingested.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : There is a risk that, once picked off, children may place the foam in their nose, ear, or mouth. The foam pieces that are picked off are small (about 5 mm), roughly spherical, cellular pieces with no sharp edges. This foam is non-toxic and does not pose a chemical concern if it were to be ingested. However, if child places a foam piece in the mouth it could pose a choking hazard.

This issue does NOT affect the ability of the child restraint system to protect the occupant in the event of a motor vehicle crash

Description of the Cause : Children picking at the EPP foam while seated in the car seat.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : A consumer may see the child picking the foam, see a small piece of foam in the seat of the car seat, or see the child with a small piece of foam in their hand, mouth, ear, or nose.

Involved Components :

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

Clek was first notified of a child reportedly picking and ingesting a piece of the EPP foam in May 2019. In 2019, Clek received a total of two separate reports of children picking the foam and placing into their mouth, nose, or ear. In one of these instances, Clek determined that the fabric seat cover was not installed correctly, allowing the child more access to the EPP foam cushion.

In January 2021, Clek received a report that a consumer had taken their child to the ER on two separate occasions claimed the child had ingested a piece of foam. There was no injury reported in either occasion. In response to this report, Clek opened an internal investigation and found one additional instance from 2020 where it was reported a child was taken to the doctor after placing pieces of foam in their ears and nose.

Out of an abundance of caution, Clek reported the two ER incidents as injuries in Q1 2021 EWR. In response to those reports, NHTSA requested more information which was provided to the NHTSA Portal on July 21, 2021.

To date, a total of 9 reports of children picking at the EPP foam have been received. Of those reports, in 5 instances the child was reported to have put a piece of foam in their mouth, nose, or ear. No injury was reported in any of the reports.

During their investigation, Clek found no instances of choking or other injury due to this issue. The pieces picked off are small (about 5mm) pieces of soft foam with no sharp edges and are also non-toxic. However, a child picking a piece of foam and putting it into their mouth, nose, or ear can pose a choking hazard or cause a safety concern for caregivers.

Based on the reports reviewed during the internal investigation, on May 21, 2021, Clek added a molded plastic insert to all Foonf and Fllo car seats to cover the EPP foam and prevent an occupant from accessing it.

Clek is now planning to make the plastic insert available to all owners of the Foonf and Fllo through a product recall effort.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Clek plans to provide a molded plastic insert to owners of Foonf and Fflo convertible car seats with instructions on how to assemble it to the car seat. This insert will cover the foam around the crotch belt slots and eliminate access to the foam by the occupant.
Clek plans to complete the following activities:

1. Clek will send an email notification to all registered owners of Foonf and Fflo convertible car seats to inform them about the issue and the availability of a retrofit kit to address the issue. Or owners where an email address is not available, Clek will send a post card to the address on file.
2. Clek will also make a press release on their website and social media accounts with information on the defect.
Owners will be instructed how to find the date of manufacture on their seats. Upon request, Clek will provide owners with seats manufactured before May 21, 2021 with a retrofit kit which will include the molded plastic insert as well as instructions for installation.
Clek will also advise consumers that all Foonf and Fflo seats manufactured on May 21, 2021 and after come with the plastic insert already installed and are not the subject of the recall.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The small plastic insert is not present in the affected products. The small plastic insert is a new part to the Foonf and Fflo so it is unique and is clearly distinguishable from all other components on the FoonF and Fflo.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : As noted above, based on the reports reviewed during the internal investigation and with an abundance of caution, on May 21, 2021, Clek began including a small plastic insert on all Foonf and Fflo convertible car seats to cover the EPP foam and prevent it from being accessible to the occupant.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : DEC 17, 2021 - DEC 31, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : DEC 17, 2021 - DEC 31, 2021

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR
Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported