



Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association

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### **FAA approves non-car safety seat for use on planes**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) September 6 approved a child passenger safety device for use on commercial flights. AmSafe Aviation's CARES (Child Aviation Restraint) attaches to the regular passenger lap belt and makes use of an additional belt and shoulder harness to restrain the upper body. It is approved for children weighing 22 to 44 pounds. The FAA promoted the device as a smaller and lighter alternative to forward-facing, hard-backed car seats. The device will be available to consumers – the FAA previously had allowed only airlines to provide such devices, although none currently do. The product is not approved for use in motor vehicles. The agency urged other manufacturers to develop similar devices. It also emphasized that it deems children to be safer in restraints, rather than parents' laps, but explained that it does not require such seating because it fears pushing many families to drive on long trips rather than buy extra seats. It pointed to its data, as well as data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, showing long trips are safer by air than by road. In July, the FAA issued Technical Standards Order C-100b, which spells out how the agency approves such devices. Previously, FAA-approved devices were limited to those meeting Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards No. 23, standards of the United Nations or units approved by other nations.