Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (inc)

SAFETY ALERT

 # 01 – 2020 (September 2020)

SAFETY ALERT

EPMAN-brand Harness Seatbelts

LVVTA has recently become aware of two sets of EPMAN-branded harness seatbelts which have incorrect labelling affixed to them, which in turn raises serious concerns over the safety of these harnesses. Without valid labelling there can be no certainty that the seatbelts comply with an approved standard, and therefore their performance in the event of an accident is unknown.

Any seatbelt which has an invalid or incorrect label, such as these harness seatbelts, cannot be LVV certified.

The harnesses in question, as pictured above, are clearly branded 'EPMAN'. They are a four-point harness-style seatbelt with two-inch straps, and are available in black, red or blue, and are aimed primarily at the motorsport or scratch-built vehicle road-going market. The harness seatbelt incorporates a style of buckle which is similar to that of a standard road-going vehicle seatbelt. The label containing the standards compliance marking features a European approval marking, which is one of the NZTA-approved safety standards, and which identifies the seatbelt as an 'Ar4m' type seatbelt. When decoded, this identifies that these seatbelts are a 'three or four-point mounting lap and diagonal seatbelt' with an 'emergency locking retractor' with 'multiple sensitivity' - in other words a lap and diagonal seatbelt with retractor reel. These seatbelts do not match that description, and the approval number on the label is for a lap and diagonal seatbelt rather than a harness seatbelt.

A list of approved NZ safety standards can be found in Schedule 2 of the Seatbelt Anchorage Rule – Land Transport Rule, page 39. Please also see LVVTA Safety Alerts #04-2018 – Counterfeit Full-harness Seatbelts and #10-2018 – Non-compliant Aftermarket Seatbelts for further cases of similar non-compliant and substandard seatbelts.

Any seatbelt with invalid or incorrect compliance information stated on the label cannot be LVV certified.