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July 2, 2009

To: Family Child Care Center Licensees
Group Child Care Center Licensees
Day Camp Licensees

From: Jill D. Chase, Director
Bureau of Early Care Regulation

RE: Vehicle Safety Alarm Requirements

BECR MEMO 2009-05

Effective August 1, 2009, any vehicle that is owned, leased or contracted for by a child care center must have a vehicle safety alarm installed before children are transported. This requirement is the result of a new law that takes effect on August 1, 2009.

The law defines a child care vehicle as "a vehicle that has a seating capacity of 6 or more passengers in addition to the driver, that is owned or leased by the child care provider, and that is used to transport children to and from the child care provider." A child safety alarm is defined as "an alarm system that prompts the driver of a child care vehicle to inspect the child care vehicle for children before exiting the child care vehicle. The law applies to vehicles that are owned or leased by a child care provider or owned or leased by a contractor of a child care provider.

The law specifies that no person may knowingly transport a child or permit a child to be transported in a child care vehicle in which a child safety alarm has not been installed, is not properly maintained, or is not in good working order. The law further specifies that no person may remove, disconnect, tamper with or otherwise circumvent the operation of a child safety alarm that is installed in a child care vehicle except for the purpose of testing, repairing or maintaining the alarm or replacing or disposing of a malfunctioning alarm. No person may shut off a child safety alarm that is installed in a child care vehicle unless the person first inspects the vehicle to ensure that no child is left unattended in the vehicle. Any person who violates these provisions can be found guilty of a felony. In addition, the Department of Children and Families may impose sanctions up to and including revocation of the child care center license if the provisions of this law are violated.

The law does not require the Department of Children and Families to approve the child safety alarms, but rather directs the department to make information about child safety alarms available to child care providers. Attached is a list of some alarms that will meet the requirements in the law. This list will be posted on the Department's internet site: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/BRL/2009/2009_05_attachment.pdf with additional links posted as they become available.

Please contact your licensing specialist if you have any questions about any of the information in this memo. Thank you for your efforts to protect the health, safety and welfare of children in your care.

Memos available electronically

We encourage all child care licensees to sign up for the Bureau of Early Care Regulation list serve so that centers may receive communication via e-mail. Follow this link to sign up for the list serve:
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/signup.htm>

Attachment

Department of Children and Families
 Child Safety Alarm Information for
 Child Care Centers Providing Transportation
 (updated 11/11)

Below is a listing of Child Safety Alarms for use in a child care vehicle. The new law defines a child care vehicle as “a vehicle that has a seating capacity of 6 or more passengers in addition to the driver, that is owned or leased by the child care provider, and that is used to transport children to and from the child care provider.” A child safety alarm is defined as “an alarm system that prompts the driver of a child care vehicle to inspect the child care vehicle for children before exiting the child care vehicle.

The products associated with the companies listed below represent a variety of price ranges and design options. **Please note that the Department can not endorse a specific product. It is the child care provider’s responsibility to determine which device best meets their needs.**

These items **appear** to meet the requirements of the law for child safety alarms, provided they are installed properly. Some of the systems have a variety of installation options. In order to meet the requirements of the law, the system must be installed in such a way that it **prompts a driver or other adult to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle.**

Note: We are also aware that other systems are in development at this time, but may be available in the future. Systems that are still in development are not included on this list. Any company that would like to be included on this list may contact the Department. Please send your information to:

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 Bureau of Early Care Regulation
 P.O. Box 8916
 Madison, WI 53708-8916

Child Safety Alarms

ATWEC Technologies, Inc. 2799 Broad Avenue Memphis, TN 38112 Phone: 1-888-890-1543 Fax: 901-454-7079 E-Mail: sales@atwec.com Web: http://www.atwec.com/ KIDDEVOICE™	Bus Parts Warehouse P.O. Box 441 1 Thermold Drive Manlius, NY 13104 Phone: 1-800.635.5567 Fax: 1-877-682-4443 E-mail: sales@buspartwarehouse.com Web: www.buspartwarehouse.com	Child Check-Mate System, Inc. 3406 Frank Kenny Rd Navan, ON K4B 1J3 Canada Phone: 1-877-494-8222 Fax: 613-835-4112 E-mail: sales@childcheckmate.com http://www.childcheckmate.com/index.html	Monitor Onboard Motion, LLC 3161 Stage Post Drive, Suite 1M Bartlett, TN 38133 Phone: 1-800-395-3957 Fax: 901-372-1454 E-mail: sales@MOMonBOARD.com Web: http://www.momonboard.com/ Remember Me™
Robotics Technologies, Inc. 20655 Burl Court Joliet, IL 60433 Phone: 800-995-6056 Fax 815-722-7665 E-mail: sales@roboticstech.com: http://www.roboticstech.com/BusScan.html Bus-Scan Seat Check Reminder Never Leave a Kid on A Bus Again!™	CRS Electronics 129 Hagar St. Unit # 5 Welland, ON L3B 5V9 Canada Phone: 1-888-330-6786 EXT. 225 Fax: 905-788-2739 E-mail: wendy@crselectronics.com Web: www.crselectronics.com Child Reminder System™	Doran Manufacturing LLC 2851 Massachusetts Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45225 Phone: 866-816-7233 Fax: 513-681-5604 E-Mail: Website: www.doranmfg.com Sleeping Child Check Monitor™	Child Safety Technologies, LLC P.O. Box 1012 Marion, IA 53302 Phone: 1-800-459-3094 Fax: E-Mail: mserpe@childsafetytechnologies.com Child Guardian Reminder System™