

No Slacking

Arval trials seatbelt technology to improve driver comfort and safety

As part of its road safety programme, volunteer Arval employees are trialling an innovative seatbelt enhancement device to assess its safety and posture benefits.

The CG-Lock (CG stands for centre of gravity) is a small palm sized device that clips onto existing seatbelts to eliminate the slack in the lap belt, keeping the user in the safest possible position.

Graham Cox from CG-Lock, explains: "As RoSPA highlights, the safest way to travel is to have no slack in the lapbelt portion of the seatbelt and have it running firmly across the hips. Without the CG-Lock this can only be achieved by repeatedly sitting upright and pulling the diagonal section of the seatbelt to remove the slack. Most people don't do this and so the lapbelt 'rides up' off the hips onto the stomach. This is not the position at which EuroNCAP tests are performed and significantly increases risk of injury should an accident occur. The CG-Lock keeps the lapbelt exactly where it should be, firmly across the pelvis."

Tracey Scarr, fleet and road safety manager at Arval, explains: "Seatbelts are a really important area to look at because while there has been a lot of focus on child seats, adult restraints haven't seen much development. There has been a significant amount of research into the problems associated with driver back pain and this is one area we want to try and help our drivers and customers address. The CG-Lock has been recommended by some top healthcare professionals to reduce back pain and has also been found to improve driver safety so we wanted to test it."

"Recent winners of several fleet safety awards, Arval is conducting this trial because we are passionate about improving safety and comfort for fleet drivers but wouldn't recommend anything to our customers without testing it first."

All of the Arval employees taking part in the trial are testing the CG-Lock for adult use, however some of them are also trialling the technology on child booster seats with findings expected in June.

Ends

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Editor's Notes

Arval

Arval (www.arval.co.uk) is the leading fleet and fuel management company in Europe, owned by BNP Paribas, one of the largest European banking groups, with substantial buying power and a commitment to quality through over 35 years fleet management experience. Arval is a people-led company, with specialist teams dedicated to businesses from start-ups to FTSE 100 companies. Arval is investing significantly in technology to improve fleet efficiency and has a comprehensive range of products covering contract hire, fleet management, fuel management, leasing, personal motoring schemes, accident management, breakdown recovery and short term hire.

About BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas (www.bnpparibas.com) is the Eurozone's leading bank in terms of deposits, and one of the 10 most important banks in the world in terms of net banking income, equity capital and market value. Furthermore, it is one of the 6 strongest banks in the world according to Standard & Poor's. With a presence in 85 countries and more than 205,000 employees, 165,200 of which in Europe, BNP Paribas is a global-scale European leader in financial services. It holds key positions in its three activities: Retail banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking. The Group benefits from its four domestic markets: Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg. BNP Paribas also has a significant presence in the United States and strong positions in Asia and the emerging markets.

CG-Lock is a registered TM of Lap Belt Cinch Ltd. See more at www.cg-lock.co.uk. contact: Enquiries@cg-lock.co.uk