

GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 993innc - 10 Apr 2013 04:03

In my quest to buy a track car, I'm realizing that the seats most use in their cars are the typical Sparco, Omp etc seats and they are just entirely to thicklyadorn with padding for my tall torso to fit the car with a helmet comfortably.

I have 2 factory GT3 seats that I used in my 993 when I tracked it. I love the seats, comfort with minimal padding and a one piece fiberglass bucket in the same winged design and proper openings for harness as the above mentioned seat mfg's.

It's not an FIA "race" seat, but does follow the rule of being solid and one piece.

Would it be allowed with a seat back brace?

why can't I add a pic to this?

Re: GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 993innc - 11 Apr 2013 14:37

Well I found and talked with the chief tech inspector. He wasn't too keen on the idea without knowing if the seats have any kind of rating to them. I don't know what type of shop he runs but he clearly didn't know what seat I was talking about so that's not reassuring. He wants me to call PCNA and find out if they can define whether or not its rated in any way and if so get something from them. If I can, he'd approve it with a back brace.

The seats are okay for Red group DE group, but if you call the session a "race" somehow it's no longer acceptable.....?

Re: GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 944Racer72 - 11 Apr 2013 15:38

If you don't ask and you have a back brace, I don't think you'll have an issue with NASA.

This is your personal safety so I think you should be the harshest critic on whether they are safe.

Re: GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 993inncc - 11 Apr 2013 16:25

Well, I apparently would have an issue if a NASA chief tech inspector says he would have an issue with a non FIA/SFI seat. I used it for 5 years in my 993 but never had an issue that would test it. Not being a seat engineer I don't know if it's "safe" or not. Porsche sells the seat in Europe for their cars.....does that mean its safe? I don't know.

Since the car I'm looking at has already been tech'd, does that mean I can use it until the next tech and take issue with it when it comes up?

Is a thin aluminum Kirkey seat any safer than a thick fiberglass one piece seat?

Guess I'll have to call PCNA next week and see what they say.

Re: GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 944Racer72 - 11 Apr 2013 19:54

I just meant that I doubt anyone would specifically check the seat as long as it has a back brace. I don't believe aluminum seats are certified to any standard.

I don't know what crash standard Porsche engineered that seat to meet but my guess is that it is pretty high. Maybe Porsche engineering would comment? You could probably sell those seats for more than a true FIA seat would cost you.

Re: GT3 seat acceptable?

Posted by 993inncc - 12 Apr 2013 02:49

Oh now that last comment I agree with. I think they sell for close to 3K new! And these are the rarer Perlon not leather covered ones too. I be so disappointed if I can use it. I love the feel of the seat, fits me perfectly! I just gave away a Kirkey seat I had sitting around for years! Never fails!

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