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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



February 2015

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

New Study: Rear Facing VS. Forward Facing

University of Michigan researchers, supported by C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health, asked parents about when they moved their child from a rear-facing car seat to a forward-facing seat in two national surveys – one in 2011, one month after the new AAP guidelines were published, and again in 2013.

"So we've seen some improvement, with a higher proportion of parents reporting that they are waiting longer to make the switch to a forward-facing car seat. However, almost one-quarter of parents are turning their children before their first birthday," says lead author Michelle L. Macy, M.D., M.S., of the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. "And few parents report waiting until that second birthday to make the turn."

"There are lots of reasons why parents are eager to change from the rear-facing to forward-facing seat: the perception their children are too large, the desire to see their children when driving, and a greater ease of removing their children from a forward facing seat," says Macy, who also is a member of the U-M Injury Center. "But delaying the switch can make a big difference. In Sweden it is culturally accepted that children up to age 4 are in rear-facing seats and child traffic fatalities are among the lowest in the world."

In the surveys, parents indicated car seat packaging and clinicians were the most common sources of information about when to start using a forward-facing car seat.

"We hope this research further encourages clinicians to spend time with their patients talking about the benefits of extending the use of a rear-facing car seat. It will be the kids that benefit, if their parents get the right information about how to use restraints and when to make transitions," says Macy.

Source: [PR Newswire](#)

- Read the [abstract](#).
- Review the AAP [Guidelines](#)

Editor's note: As long as the car seat is used according to manufacturer instructions, it is considered correct use. Best practice is to rear face children to the highest limit of the car seat. This means that if a 23 pound 18 month old is correctly restrained in a forward facing seat, it is correct. We can use the seat check as an opportunity to educate on the safety benefits of keeping kids rear facing. They are doing the right thing: correctly protecting their child in a properly used car seat. As technicians, we promote best practice but accept correct use. Thank them for taking the time to buckle up and go the extra mile and meet with a tech.

Red Hot: New LATCH Manual



The 2015 LATCH Manual is now available and full of new information and technical updates that make it important to refer to this latest edition to supplement manufacturers' instructions on LATCH use.

Research for the 2015 LATCH Manual focused on identifying the key LATCH information technicians need curbside. In 2014, amendments to FMVSS 213 went into effect that apply to LATCH use, so a major focus in this edition is explaining how to use CRs made before and after these changes, including general instructions and very detailed information from manufacturers. In Appendix A, CR manufacturers indicate when LA attachment weight limit labels began to appear on their CRs, what weight limits are given, and whether those limits were (or will be) changed to reflect allowed rounding. In Appendix B, 11 of the 51 vehicle brands indicate LATCH weight limits that have been revised since the 2013 edition.

Also, be sure to check out the inside front and back covers. These now feature helpful information on [recertification](#), subscribing for LATCH Manual updates, and general CPS resources.

Here are just a few of the other features and changes found in the 2015 LATCH Manual:

Appendix A: CR Manufacturer Entries

For the 2015 edition, six new CR manufacturers join more than 40 CR brand entries to provide information on the LATCH aspects of CRs. Revisions include:

- New details on inflatable seat belt policies and Canadian usage differences.
- QR codes, as available, for quick access to manufacturer instructions and/or video using a smartphone app.
- Weight limits for use of CR lower anchor attachments, broken down to provide guidance depending on whether a model is made before or after amendments to FMVSS 213 went into effect in 2014.
- Tables of manufacturer-supplied CR model weights and other QRLs reviewed and updated with new CR models added.

Appendix B: Vehicle Manufacturer Bullets and Tables

Fifty-one vehicle brand entries provide current brand- and model-specific information for every vehicle sold in the United States. The bullets at the beginning of each brand listing are updated to provide essential, brand-wide details, many of which are not specified in vehicle owner's manuals. For many brands, readers will find expanded information on head restraints, cargo covers, tether routing, and tether anchor retrofit kit availability. Vehicle manufacturers provided relevant differences for use of vehicle LATCH features in Canada (which mainly confirms that such differences are very rare).

NEW—Appendix C: Center LATCH Installation

C is for Center! Appendix C has been repurposed to be dedicated to information on using LATCH in the center rear-seating position. It has an introductory page that discusses the basics of this subject and two quick-reference lists. Table C1 cross-references CR and vehicle information to identify scenarios that allow use of nonstandard-width LATCH in the center. Table C2 lists all vehicle models that offer standard LATCH in the center, broken down by LATCH configuration.

Earn a CEU

Techs can earn 1 [Category 5](#) CEU for completing the 2015 LATCH Manual quiz. To find the quiz, go to saferideneews.com, click on "CPSTs/Professionals," and then "Recertification CEUs from SRN." (For a limited time, the 2013 manual's quiz will remain available for technicians who used that edition in 2013/2014.)

More information is available [online](#). Safe Ride News Publications greatly appreciates the input from all the manufacturers for this completely updated edition.

Submitted by Denise Donaldson, Safe Ride News (Edmonds, Washington)

Going to Lifesavers? Meet Your Team Cert

If you are attending [Lifesavers](#) next month, March 15-17, in Chicago, stop by the certification booth (part of Safe Kids Worldwide) in the exhibit hall. Show us your valid CPST wallet card (a print out or an image on your phone or tablet) and pick up a thank you gift from Team Cert. Kerry, Kim and Jami will be available to answer any questions you have, help you log into your online profile or just chat. We appreciate how hard you work in your communities!

Need a wallet card? Here's [how to print one up](#).



Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 4/2014) - No edits or updates.

Child Passenger Safety Technician [Code of Conduct](#)

PROGRAM REMINDER

Recertification

- [Recertification Details](#)
- [Recertification FAQ](#)

You may recertify up to four months before your certification expiration date without losing any time.

Avoid problems - don't delay!

Basic Recertification Requirements and Deadlines

[Five seat checks](#) approved by a certified instructor (you may use the technician proxy option). You can do the checks at any time during your certification cycle as long as they are entered online and a certified instructor approves them before your recertification date.

[Community education](#) (choose one):

- Participation in at least one two-hour checkup event with at least one other CPS technician using any standardized checklist to provide documentation, if needed.
- Provide at least four hours of community education. Examples include making presentations to parents, educators, kids, organizations (such as PTAs or law enforcement), or other stakeholders who are not technicians.

A minimum of six hours of [CPS technical continuing education units](#) (CEUs) earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.

- You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
- Because your certification cycle stays the same, any CEUs obtained after you recertify but before the first day of your new certification cycle may not be applied to the new cycle
- You can record CEUs at any time during your certification cycle, but they must fit into one of the five approved categories and meet content requirements.

[Register and pay](#) the recertification fee before your certification expiration date. You can register up to four months in advance of your certification expiration date. You will NOT lose any time - your dates stay the same.

- To get to the payment screen, you must have:
 - Completed all five seat checks (entered and CPSTI approved)
 - Entered at least six CEUs
 - Entered your community event information
- Once all three are done and you are within four months of your certification expiration date, you will see a "Click Here to Continue" button that will take you to the payment screens. Once your registration is complete, your recertification will be processed in no more than two days.
- PPTs/PDFs with step-by-step instructions and screen shots. Check out the [Resources tab](#) and look at the [How To](#) page.

CPS Customer Service Survey Available

Safe Kids is interested in your experiences with our CPS customer service. If you have contacted the customer service representatives by calling the toll-free number (877-366-8154) or by e-mailing them at cps.certification@safekids.org, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey under [Contact Us](#) on the Certification Web site.

This [survey](#) should take no more than two minutes to complete. There is no limit to the number of times you can share your opinions with us.

Thank you for helping us improve our customer service!

GENERAL | [Top](#)

By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children in hot cars

- 2014: 30
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

Details are available at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

CPS Recertification

- 2014: 50.1 percent (January)
- 2013: 58.4 percent
- 2012: 54.7 percent

Child Restraint Basics Pocket Cards

We are always looking for effective resources to promote child passenger safety with law enforcement. In partnership with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Governors Highway Safety Association, Idaho's Office of Highway Safety updated the Child Restraint Basics pocket card for law enforcement personnel, and created a pocket card for parents and caregivers. The initial distribution to law enforcement agencies occurred during the 2014 National CPS Week.

The law enforcement card is also handed out to new personnel after they go through law enforcement training. The law enforcement cards cite the complete Idaho CPS statute on the backside and are laminated for durability. The example shown is the parent card, which is printed on semi-gloss cover stock, provides stats and mentions Idaho's law. Since creating the parent pocket card last October, Idaho has distributed more than 15,000 cards statewide. Idaho is planning to create posters to hang in hospital maternity rooms, and to translate the parent card to Spanish.

We believe the card is a valuable tool and encourage you to [contact us](#) with any ideas, suggestions or questions.

Submitted by Sherry Jenkins, Idaho Transportation Department (Boise, Idaho)

The image shows a two-page pocket card titled "Child Restraint Basics". The left page lists four types of child restraint seats with their respective age and weight requirements: Rear Facing (up to 2 years), Forward Facing (up to 4 years), Booster (from 4 to 8 years), and Adult Seat Belt (age 8+). A note at the bottom states "All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat." The right page features the "Four Key Child Safety Steps" (1. Restrain children on every trip, 2. Keep children in the back seat until age 13, 3. Use the correct safety seat for child's size, 4. Use child safety seats and seat belts correctly). It also includes statistics: "In 2012, 42,000 children under age five were involved in car crashes nationwide." and provides links for more information: <http://id.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafetyIndex.html> and <http://www.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafetyIndex.html>. Logos for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and CHSA are at the bottom.

Auditor Alcove: Do You Know Everything?

Being able to effectively use your resources is a skill that CPSTs must possess. With the countless possible combinations of car seats and vehicles, you will surely encounter a situation that will leave you scratching your head, even after reading the manuals. So where should you turn?

Instructor Team/Other CPSTs

- [Find a Tech](#)
- Reach out to the members of your instructor team from your certification course or other CPSTs. It is possible someone else has had to problem-solve the same scenario you are dealing with. There are message boards and internet groups dedicated to CPSTs helping each other out.

Technician Guide

- Available [online](#)
- The updated technician guide contains useful, need-to-know information. It is user-friendly and offers job aids to help you get through difficult installations. If you took the certification course prior to March 2014, you can [download](#) the current technician guide.

Current LATCH Manual

- The LATCH Manual contains information that is helpful when working curbside with families. It includes information about LATCH (weight limits, use, features, etc.), vehicles, inflatable seat belts, and more. See next month's CPS Express for information about the updated, red 2015 manual.

CPS Board YouTube Channel

- [CPS Board Channel](#)
- Find recorded webinars, manufacturer videos, all of the videos from the current certification course, crash test clips, and more.

Car Seat/Vehicle Manufacturers: The manufacturer always has the final say in what defines proper use.

- **Websites**
 - Several manufacturers have helpful installation and use tips on their websites. They may have installation videos that will walk you through. Some manufacturers even include QR codes in their instruction manuals to make it easier for parents/caregivers to access the information
- **Customer Service Center**
 - [Manufacturer contact information](#)
 - Contact customer service with your questions. Many of the representatives are techs, too.

It is imperative that any resource you are using is current and up-to-date so that you are giving families accurate information and education. Remember that it is acceptable to tell a family that you do not know the answer to something. If you can find out by using your resources, great. If not, make sure you follow up if you tell them that you will. If you have an idea that would make things easier for other CPSTs or CPSTIs, please share it with us! If you have any questions about CEUs, what documentation is required, or audits, please e-mail cpsaudit@safekids.org.

Submitted by Jami Revesz, CPSTI and Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, Ohio)

Fact or Fiction: The US Region with the Highest Percent of Seat Belt Use is the West.

FACT: According to the 2013 National Occupant Protection Use Survey, conducted annually by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, front seat occupants in the West buckled up 93 percent of the time. The second-highest region was the South with 87 percent, followed by the Midwest and the Northeast.

Read more in the [January 2014 Traffic Safety Fact Research Note](#).

Featured FAQ: What Should I Do if I Forget My Login Information?

Option #1

- Go to certification [home page](#).
- Click on Log In (button on the right)
- Select CPS Tech/Tech To Be link (first choice)
- Click on Forgot Your Password link.
- Enter your name and e-mail.
- The system will email it to you almost immediately.

NOTE: Once you log in, you are welcome to choose a new username or password (simply click on Edit Username or Edit Password).

Option #2

- Call certification customer service toll free Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. 7 p.m. EST at (877) 366-8154.
- [E-mail certification customer service](#).

EMAIL NOTE: It may take 1-2 business days for a reply.

[FAQ online](#)

Notes from the CPS Board: Getting to Know Your Board

Each month, learn a little about a child passenger safety board member here in the CPS Express.

Kerry Chausmer (Washington, DC) **Certifying Body Representative**

- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I have been a member of the NCPSB since I joined Safe Kids Worldwide in 2004, back when it was still the National Safe Kids Campaign.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I first became a CPST in early 1998 and then an instructor in 1999.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** When I got my first job out of grad school as the coordinator for Louisiana Safe Kids, I got hooked on injury prevention. Back then we had the 20-40-60 rule: rear facing to 20 pounds, forward facing to 40 and

booster to 60. Times have certainly changed for the better!

- **Who taught your first certification course?** I was fortunate to attend one of the first certification courses offered so I traveled from New Orleans and took a course in Texas, becoming Technician #T0007. The lead instructor for my certification course was Johnny Humphreys. He is still training new techs in Texas and the Louisiana CPS network is still active and strong!
- **Advice for the field: Enter your seat checks and CEUs as soon as they are earned.** Make it the last thing you do before the event ends. Please don't delay and wait until you get stuck. You can recertify up to four months before your expiration date. Now THAT'S peace of mind!
- **What are your hobbies:** I very much like to travel. Most recently I have been to Morocco, the Galapagos, Dominican Republic and Qatar. Who knows where I'll go next!
- **Tell us about your family:** I have a 3-year-old who absolutely refuses to ride in a car seat. In spite of my best efforts, I can only get her into a cage. Yes, my cat Dolce is a tough passenger.

JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [TOP](#)

CPST Month 2015 – Coming this May!

Celebrate National CPST Month by teaching a certification course in May. All instructors who teach full certification courses that start in May will get limited-edition lapel pins for helping to train new technicians. Consider offering a course with Spanish materials. See the [November Express](#) for more on this pilot program to promote bilingual technicians.

We'll have more details in the next CPS Express, so stay tuned!

Interested in Becoming a Lead Instructor?

Lead instructors are usually experienced teaching professionals who have excellent teaching and leadership skills. They draw upon their teaching experience to serve as expert resources and as mentors for new and developing instructors. Lead instructors are dedicated to the improvement of quality fellow instructors and participants in class. They are able to provide constructive criticism and helpful solutions to other instructors without alienating or discouraging them. They should possess good observational and analytical skills and be able to offer fresh, creative solutions in difficult situations. If you feel that you possess these qualities, you have one more step to take, taking the lead instructor quiz to be approved.

Lead Instructor Quiz Approval

To be approved as a lead instructor, you must get at least 15 of the 17 quiz questions correct. You will see which questions you missed at the end of the quiz and can retake it as often as needed. Please have the latest copy of the policies and procedures manual available. Access it by logging in to <http://cert.safekids.org>. Click the blue action item "Apply to be a Lead Instructor." Once you pass this quiz, you will not have to take it again. When successfully completed, "Lead Instructor Approved: Yes" will be listed in your profile under extra training.

Looking for a lead instructor?

Go to [Find a Technician](#) and check the box for "Lead Instr. Approved" under Extra Training. You will be taken to a page that provides names and contact information for CPS instructors in the designated area who have received the LI designation. It's that easy!

Helpful Links:

- [Policies and Procedures 4-2-2014](#)
- [P & P Teaching Hours R-10](#)
- [Course Administration CA-1-12](#)
- [Course Administration FAQ](#)

Submitted by Jami Revesz, Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Canton, Ohio) and Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, Florida)

CEU CORNER | [Top](#)

This section provides information on nationally available continuing education opportunities. We are not able to include information on state or local conferences, training or other technical updates if they cannot be made available nationally. This information is provided as a resource only. Events and activities listed here are not endorsed by Safe Kids unless otherwise noted.

CPS Express CEU Corner Submissions: Please e-mail the necessary information (in the format below) to [Kerry Chausmer](#).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

[Lifesavers Conference](#)

Location: Chicago
Dates: March 15-17, 2015

[2015 North Carolina BuckleUp NC Conference](#)

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina
Dates: March 25-27, 2015

[Buckle Up Missouri CPS Conference](#)

Location: Springfield, Missouri
Dates: May 27-28, 2015

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Location: Orlando, Florida
Dates: August 12-15, 2015

[2015 Maine Child Passenger Safety Conference](#)

Location: South Portland, Maine
Dates: September 13-15, 2015

Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge. [Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Live Webinars

Test your connection now! Go to <http://bit.ly/testGTM> and click on JOIN LIVE MEETING. If you have problems, you can talk with their customer support for assistance.

Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group? [Read more](#)

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted on [Facebook](#).

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Ideas and Article Submissions

Advocates and manufacturers are welcome to submit articles, or suggestions for articles, to the CPS Express!

Send your ideas and submissions to kchausmer@safekids.org

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

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