

We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the *CPS Express!*  
Please add [cps.certification@safekids.org](mailto:cps.certification@safekids.org) to your address book or safe list today.

When was the last time you checked the information in your CPS online profile? [PLEASE DO IT NOW!](#)

**CPS Express !**



November 1, 2011

An e-newsletter for CPS Technicians

## In This Edition

### [Announcements and Notices](#)

- NHTSA Administrator David Strickland Joins the Ranks
- 2012 National Child Passenger Safety Board CPS Awards Nominations

### [Program Reminders](#)

- Recertification
- Customer Service Survey
- Auditor Alcove: *The Dog Ate My Certificate*

### [General](#)

- By the Numbers
- Follow Up to the Ford Inflatable Seat Belt Webinar
- Earning CEUs Online
- Featured FAQ: *Who do I contact if I lost my proof of CEU completion?*
- Featured FAQ: *An interested co-worker is curious and wants to audit a certification*

## Announcements and Notices

### **NHTSA Administrator David Strickland Joins the Ranks!**

On October 4-7, 2011, NHTSA Administrator David L. Strickland joined the ranks of nationally certified technicians around the country when he successfully completed the National CPS Certification Training Class in Washington, DC.

Following is what the Administrator said after completing the class – “I want to let you know what a transformational experience the class and the checkpoint was for me. Not only from a policy standpoint, but from an interpersonal perspective as well. I understand why field techs are so passionate, because I have been swept by the same passion.”



Special thanks to Bob Wall, Cecil Starkey and NHTSA's Jessica

*in or does everyone who attends the course have to be on the roster?*

- Fact or Fiction: *Child restraint manufacturers don't actively seek out product feedback from CPSTs.*
- Fact or Fiction: *Step-by-step instructions on how to recertify are online.*
- CPS Board: *New CPS Board Members*

### Just For Instructors

- Accessing the Student Manual During Class
- Tips: *What You Suggested*

### CEU Corner

- Online Courses
- Conferences/Meetings
- Webinars

### **Support Our Advertisers**

[Learn More About CPS Express Ad Space](#)

Go to [SafeKidsWebinars.org](http://SafeKidsWebinars.org) for online CEUs and for Tech Gear: Shirts, cups, signs, dolls.

### **Contact Us**

#### **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

Butterfield for instructing the class.

Submitted by Carole S. Guzzetta, NHTSA (Washington, DC)

### **2012 National Child Passenger Safety Board CPS Awards Nominations**

You are invited to submit nominations in recognition of a technician or instructor who has demonstrated outstanding CPS contributions during 2011. This is the second annual national award program by The National Child Passenger Safety Board to honor the men and women who dedicate their time and skills to ensure our nation's children are transported safely. You have likely experienced first-hand, some of the outstanding work that goes on in the field of child passenger safety and this is a wonderful opportunity for you to recognize a deserving technician or instructor who shows extraordinary dedication to Child Passenger Safety programs.

The American Automobile Association will be providing a \$500 cash award to this year's two winners so take some time and think about all the dedicated technicians and instructors you work with all year and send in a nomination, no later than January 2, 2012. For information, guidelines, eligibility and application, go to [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org).

Submitted by Sherri Cannon, NHTSA Regional Representative, CPS Board (Kansas City, MO)

---

## **Program Reminders | [Top](#)**

---

### **Recertification**

**Recertification Details >> [Learn More](#)**

**Re-certification FAQs >> [Learn More](#)**

You may re-certify up to four months before your certification expiration date without losing any time. **Avoid problems--don't delay!**

#### **Basic re-certification requirements and deadlines:**

1. [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 re-

[kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org). All submissions will be edited for content and length.

### Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Safe Kids USA  
CPS Certification  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004

Phone: 877-366-8154 (toll free)  
Fax: 202-393-2072

### Program Partners



### Program Sponsor



certification date.

2. **Community education** (choose one):
  1. 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
  2. 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.
3. A minimum of six hours of **CPS technical continuing education units** earned and reported during a current two-year certification cycle.
  1. You cannot carry over CEUs from one period to the next, even if you have accumulated more CEUs than are required
  2. 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
  3. 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.
4. **Register and pay the re-certification** fee before your certification expiration date. You can register up to 4 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:

1. Completed all five seat checks (entered and CPSTI approved)
2. Entered at least six CEUs
3. Entered your community event information

Once all three are done and you are within 4 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 re-certification will be processed in no more than two days.

**[PPTs/PDFs with step by step instructions and screen shots >>](#)**  
**[Resources -> How To](#)**

---

### CPS Customer Service Survey Available

Safe Kids USA 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](mailto: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 five 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.

---

### **Auditor Alcove: *The Dog Ate My Certificate***

In the hustle and bustle of life, things get lost. You may have had a file holding your CEU documents and changed jobs, moved buildings, or one of your kids may have even used your certificate of attendance as a coloring sheet. So what should you do if you are selected for a CEU audit and no longer have your documentation?

**What would you need?** Check out the options [HERE](#)

If you attended an in-person session, the answer may be as close as an email or a phone call. Session instructors usually keep a record of attendance. If the session you attended was pre-approved, all you need to submit for the audit is proof of attendance and the pre-approval ID number. If the session was not pre-approved, I also need a copy of the agenda to verify the content as CPS Technical.

Once you contact the instructor (this is something you must do, not me!), you can have them either send you a new certificate or a copy of the sign-in sheet, or they can send me an email directly confirming your attendance. Unfortunately, Safe Kids Certification does not have any records for sessions that are not Safe Kids USA sessions.

If, after attempting to contact the instructor, you are still unable to obtain your proof of attendance, send me an [email](#) with the details and I will give you some [options for replacing the CEUs](#).

I always recommend keeping an electronic copy of all of your CEU documents. If you keep your documents on your desktop, on a flash drive, or even in your email, your audit will be as easy as attaching a file and clicking send! This way there is no cost to you for faxing or mailing and there is less paper waste.

Jami Revesz, Quality Assurance Specialist, is available for questions about course policy, calculation of teaching hours, CEUs, and audits. She is also interested in sharing other ideas on how to teach the Certification Course, so if you have suggestions or ideas that you would like to share, please send an email to [cpsaudit@safekids.org](mailto:cpsaudit@safekids.org).

## General | [Top](#)

---

### By the Numbers

#### Children Alone in Vehicles - Deaths of children left in hot cars

- 2011: 28
- 2010: 49
- 2009: 32

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

#### CPS Recertification

- 2011: 55.4 percent (January-October)
  - 2010: 50.3 percent
- 

### Follow up to Safe Kids-State Farm Webinar: Ford's Inflatable Seat Belts

**Question 1.** Are Ford dealers going to explain to customers that they need to contact their car seat manufacture to determine if the seats may be used in the new Ford they are purchasing?

**Answer:** All Ford vehicle Owner Manuals (since at least 1996 model year) include a warning to "Follow the child restraint manufacturer's instructions and warnings provided for installation and use in conjunction with the instructions and warnings provided by the vehicle manufacturer." We believe this is an important message for all CRS installations, not just for our Inflatable Belt design. A few points to consider:

1. The Explorer is equipped with LATCH at 3 positions - 2nd row left & right and 3rd row right - allowing most child restraints to be secured without use of vehicle safety belts.
2. The optional Inflatable Belt is available in the 2nd row left & right positions. 2nd row center (if equipped) and 3rd row left & right positions are equipped with conventional 3 point safety belt.
3. Ford Owner Manuals, including the 2011 and 2012 Explorer, are available on line at: <http://www.ford.com/ownership/>
4. In the center of the section titled "Already Own A Vehicle?"

click on the "Owner Manuals" tab Enter the year, make and model vehicle for access to the Owner Manual.

5. Each manual includes a section on Safety Restraints for Children.

**Question 2.** About the seat belt...there are two retractors - one for lap & then for shoulder. But I didn't notice the buckle. Like some of the center lap-shoulder belts, does this mean that we can use the lap only to install a car seat?

**Answer:** The Inflatable Seat Belt does have two retractors - one for the shoulder portion, and one for the lap portion. Both the lap and shoulder portions are permanently attached to a single latch plate that you route across your body (or through a CRS) and insert into the buckle. The lap belt portion is equipped with a locking retractor for securing a child restraint, but you cannot disconnect the shoulder belt to use the lap belt only.

Submitted by Eric Eiswerth, Ford Motor Company (Dearborn, MI)

---

### **Earning CEUs Online: Use your profile and learn directly from manufacturers!**

One component of the recertification process for us as Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians is obtaining a minimum of six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two years. There are various methods as to how to obtain the CEUs necessary including successfully completing sessions online.

CEU requirements >> [Learn More](#)

Currently two child restraint manufacturers provide CEU sessions online specifically for techs Britax Child Safety, Inc. and Evenflo Company Inc.

Britax currently offers a total of four CEU opportunities including:

- **NEW** - BRITAX Infant Car Seats Features and Basic Installation
- Britax Convertibles Features and Basic Installation
- BRITAX Next Generation Convertible Seats Features and Basic Installation
- Britax Combination Seats Features and Basic Installation

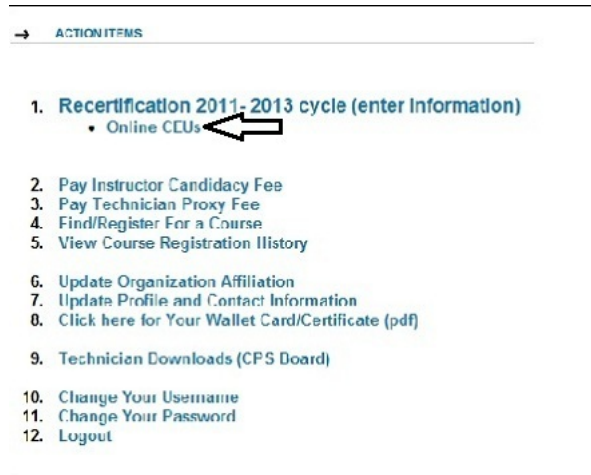
These sessions are not only helpful to acquire your necessary CEUs for recertification, but can also be used to educate on proper use and installation of child restraints that maybe you don't see on a regular

basis.

Evenflo currently offers the following CEU opportunities including:

- Child Restraint Manufacturing and Materials

You can access the Britax and Evenflo Tech sites by logging into your certification profile at <http://cert.safekids.org>. Once you are logged in, scroll down under your ACTION LIST and select ONLINE CEUs which is an indented option under your current certification cycle dates.



You will then have four options that not only include the Britax and Evenflo Tech sites, but also the Safe Kids/NHTSA Online Tech Update Courses and the National CPS Board.

Submitted by Sarah Tilton, Britax Child Safety, Inc. (Charlotte, NC) and Dave Sander, Evenflo Company Inc. (Miamisburg, OH)

---

### **[Featured FAQ: Who do I contact if I lost my proof of CEU completion?](#)**

If your CEU's are audited, you will have to provide proof of completion/attendance. If you lose your proof of attendance, contact the event/update/webinar provider. If they are not able to provide proof of completion, you may work with the [Quality Assurance Specialist](#) to make up the CEUs. She will provide suggestions and guidance in order to help you complete the audit process.

NOTE: Safe Kids does not maintain a database of attendees for non-Safe Kids USA updates.

Check out his month's **Auditor's Alcove** article for more details.

---

**[Featured FAQ: An interested co-worker is curious and wants to audit a certification course. Can she just sit in or does everyone who attends the course have to be on the roster? \(rev. June 26, 2009\)](#)**

Only registered students whose names appear on the official roster may attend a Certification course. Interested bystanders are not allowed to sit in or audit a course, even if they have no desire to become certified. Courses are open only to students who have registered, paid their fee and appear on the roster. This is in accordance with the National Child Passenger Safety Board policies and procedures: The Lead Instructor is responsible for making sure the roster accurately reflects all students and instructor team, including Instructor Candidates, by the end of the first day of the course.

Allowing a non-paying attendee to participate in the class increases the student to instructor ratio and takes instructor time away from paying students.

---

**Fact or Fiction: Child restraint manufacturers don't actively seek out product feedback from CPSTs.**

**Fiction:** Child restraint manufacturers are constantly working to improve their products, and comments from caregivers and you, certified CPS technicians, are a vital part of that process. Information collected by you at seat check events contains valuable insights on how products are being used in the field. Some manufacturers are asking technicians to provide that real-world usage "on the ground" information to their engineering teams directly.

One example is Orbit Baby, whose wallet-sized [Seat Log Card](#) can be used to record information about installations of Orbit Baby child their child restraints seen at seat check events. After the seat check events, techs are encouraged to submit the data to Orbit Baby through their on the web site. In appreciation, they are entered for a chance to win a free Orbit Baby training seat (either an Orbit Baby Infant Car Seat G2 or Toddler Car Seat G2). All technicians who have an Orbit Baby training seat are automatically enrolled in Orbit's product improvement focus group. Technician and enrollment in their feedback group. Your feedback has led directly to changes in products. Technicians and instructors with Orbit Baby training seats are enrolled in their Product Development and Improvement Group and are occasionally contacted

for feedback on their existing or new child restraint projects. For instance, the product labels for their new Orbit Baby Toddler Car Seat G2G2, to be released later this year, were extensively reviewed by CPS techs like yourself early in the design process.

To download an Orbit Baby Seat Log Card, request larger numbers of cards for a seat check event or to see more information about Orbit's other CPS initiatives, please visit: [www.orbitbaby.com/cps](http://www.orbitbaby.com/cps) or email [cps@orbitbaby.com](mailto:cps@orbitbaby.com).

Submitted by Courtney Yin Duke, Orbit Baby (Newark, CA)

### **Fact or Fiction: Step-by-step instructions on how to recertify are online.**

**FACT:** Both PowerPoint (PPT) and Acrobat (PDF) files are available to show you how to enter all your recertification requirements, from seat checks to payment. [Check them out!](#)

**Questions?** [Ask for help](#) or find answers [online](#).

---

### **Notes from the [CPS Board](#): *New CPS Board Members***

The National Child Passenger Safety Board has been established to provide program direction and technical guidance to states, communities and organizations as a means to maintain a credible, standardized child passenger safety training and certification program.

The National Child Passenger Safety Board extends their congratulations the following individuals for selection as new members to the Board. Their membership terms are for three years, January 2012 through December 2015.

- Child Passenger Safety Advocate: **Marian Adams**, Pennsylvania State Police Department, Pennsylvania
- Injury Prevention Advocate: **Suzanne Grace**, Tall Pine Safety Resource Center, Maine
- Public Safety/Law Enforcement Representative: **Sheriff John Merchant**, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Kansas
- Vehicle Manufacturer's Representative: **Audrey Eagle**, Chrysler Group LLC

The positions of Child Passenger Safety Advocate, Injury Prevention and Public Safety/Law Enforcement were open to the CPS community for application during April, May and June, 2011. These individuals were selected based on a combination of information submitted on their

applications, reference checks, and interviews.

The selection process was very competitive this year and the Board thanks everyone who inquired about membership and submitted applications. The membership committee is currently reviewing the application form for 2012. The CPS community can expect applications for Board membership to be available and open for submission in April 2012. For more information, please visit the NCPSB website at [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org) and sign up for Board email alerts. The application will also be promoted here in the CPS Express.

My sincere thanks also goes out to the 2011 Membership committee for their time and professionalism throughout the difficult selection process this year! Committee responsibilities include, but are not limited to, updating membership application, reviewing and scoring submitted applications, conducting reference checks, interviewing candidates and making final selections. To view members of this committee, please visit [www.cpsboard.org](http://www.cpsboard.org).

Please help us in congratulating the newest members to the Board, and we look forward to the next application cycle in 2012!

Submitted by Amy Heinzen, Vice Chair and Diversity Representative, CPS Board (St. Petersburg, FL)

---

**Just For Instructors | [Top](#)**

---

### **Accessing the Student Manual in Class**

As part of their national course fees, each technician candidate receives a bound copy of the student manual. With today's technology, they may choose to also use an electronic copy--by downloading the manual from the CPS Board web site. The PDF is easily searched for specific terms and some students may find it easier to access.

Download the student manual >> [HERE](#)

A word of caution...please do restrict internet access. To get the most

out of the course, we need the full attention of all students. This means allowing access to the PDF of the student manual but not internet searches and email.

What do you think is an appropriate use of technology during class? Let us know: <http://www.facebook.com/CPScert>

---

### **Instructor Tips: What you suggested!**

Recently Safe Kids conducted a survey of all Technicians and Instructors to help the National Child Passenger Safety Board develop national CPS programming. Included in the survey was a section for the Instructors to provide an instructional tip to other Instructors. Each month we will share at least one tip from that survey.

*Instructor from Ohio: "Don't focus on teaching them everything that you know during a chapter. You need to teach them what is in the curriculum. Once they are certified, then they will build on that foundation to gain the additional knowledge. Too much information is overwhelming."*

*Editor's note:* If you are unsure, ask for help or clarification: [kchausmer@safekids.org](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org) or [jcurrent@safekids.org](mailto:jcurrent@safekids.org).

---

### **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 USA unless otherwise noted.

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

---

## Online Courses

A variety of webinars are available online and free of charge.

>> [Learn more](#)

---

## National Conferences/Meetings

- **Lifesavers Conference**
  - Location: Orlando, Florida
  - Pre-conference dates: TBD
  - Date and Time: June 14-16, 2012
  - CPS CEUs available: TBD
  - Fees/Requirements: see Web site
  - For more information: <http://lifesaversconference.org/index.html>
- 

## Webinars

### **Child Restraint Manufacturer Update: Clek**

Learn about Foonf, their new convertible seat, and their new energy management system

November 28, 2011 from 1 pm - 2 pm ET (NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

Fees/Requirements: \$0; Pre-registration is REQ'D

For more information: <http://bit.ly/NOV-28-2011CLEK>

### **Child Restraint Manufacturer Update: Diono**

Learn about their child restraints

January 11, 2012 from 1 pm - 2 pm ET (NY time)

CPS CEUs available: 1 (CHES/MCHES credit is also available)

Fees/Requirements: \$0, Pre-registration is REQ'D

For more information: <http://bit.ly/WebinarDiono>

[Visit Our Web site](#) | [Join Us on Facebook](#) | [Log-in to Manage Your Account](#) | [Contact Us](#)

All Rights Reserved CPS Certification and Safe Kids Worldwide © 2011