

We don't want you to miss out on the latest edition of the **CPS Express!**
Please add 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!](#) This newsletter is available as a [PDF](#)

CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



January 1, 2014

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CPS Training Seat - Custom-built training seats for CPS classes

Seats include a variety of seat belt systems, forward and rear facing anchor points and LATCH. Seats are mounted on an aluminum box with a locking storage compartment, 5" wheels for easy transport. For more information, contact Steve at steve@anyconcept.com or 301-960-4426 and check out the [FLYER](#).

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Announcements and Notices

CPS Board Offers More Online CEUs

Two new online CPST CEUs are now available at cpsboard.org! Visit the "Certification + Recertification" page and view Sessions #6 & #7 in the "Online CEU Sessions & Quizzes" section! Session #6 is CPS and Children with Autism, and Session #7 is CPS Nuna Manufacturer Update.

Thank you to Safe Kids for hosting these webinars and to the Presenters: Dr. Marilyn Bull & Janell Yonkman (Session #6), and Bob Wall & Michael Gillett (Session #7). We hope you enjoy these online CEU opportunities!

Submitted by Amy Heinzen, Secretariat, National CPS Board (Tampa, FL)

Seat Belts Required on Motorcoaches

Beginning in November 2016, newly manufactured buses will be required to be equipped with lap and shoulder belts for each driver and passenger seat.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today issued a

final rule requiring lap and shoulder seat belts for each passenger and driver seat on new motorcoaches and other large buses. This new rule enhances the safety of these vehicles by significantly reducing the risk of fatalities and serious injuries in frontal crashes and the risk of occupant ejection in rollovers.

"Safety is our highest priority and we are committed to reducing the number of deaths and injuries on our roadways," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Today's rule is a significant step forward in our efforts to improve motorcoach safety."

On average, 21 motorcoach and large bus occupants are killed and 7,934 are injured annually in motor vehicle crashes, according to NHTSA data. Requiring seat belts could reduce fatalities by up to 44 percent and reduce the number of moderate to severe injuries by up to 45 percent.

"While travel on motorcoaches is overall a safe form of transportation, when accidents do occur, there is the potential for a greater number of deaths and serious injuries due to the number of occupants and high speeds at which the vehicles are traveling," said NHTSA Administrator David Strickland. "Adding seat belts to motorcoaches increases safety for all passengers and drivers, especially in the event of a rollover crash."

"Buckling up is the most effective way to prevent deaths and injuries in all vehicular crashes, including motorcoaches," said Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator Anne S. Ferro. "Requiring seat belts in new models is another strong step we are taking to reach an even higher level of safety for bus passengers."

This article is a direct [excerpt](#) from <http://www.nhtsa.gov>.

>> [Read the Motorcoach Action Plan](#) <<

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 1/1/2014) - Certification and Renewal Testing course fees updated from \$75 to \$85.

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

[Recertification](#)

Recertification Reminder

- [Recertification Details](#)>> [Learn More](#)
- [Recertification FAQs](#) >> [Learn More](#)

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:

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 recertification date.
2. [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.
3. A minimum of six hours of [CPS technical continuing education units](#) 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.
 4. [Register and pay the recertification](#) 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:

- 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 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 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!

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By the Numbers

Children Alone in Vehicles

Deaths of children left in hot cars

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

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

CPS Recertification

- 2013: 58.4 percent (January-December)
- 2012: 54.7 percent
- 2011: 55.4 percent
- 2010: 50.3 percent

Webinar Follow-up: Summer Infant Prodigy

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Prodigy Infant Car Seat Webinar on December 12th, we were happy with the turnout and participation of those who attended. There were many good questions raised during the webinar and we would like to take this opportunity to address a few points:

How does the Prodigy work for preemies? Lowest harness height position: To clarify, the dimension from the top of the infant insert to the lowest harness height is 5.5 inches. This makes Prodigy ideal for use with preemies. See images showing the Huggable Images preemie doll positioned in the seat in the link provided to the pdf.

Is the Prodigy tightening device going to damage the vehicle belt system? Similarities between our belt tightening system and other non-regulated devices: The belt paths in the Prodigy base were specifically designed to work in conjunction with the integrated belt tightener in a consistent, controllable and predictable manner. I.E. We are able to predict the loads on the belt between the tightener and the anchor points in intended use and foreseeable misuse. Regarding misuse: We again teamed up with IMMI's CAPE to test a misuse scenario using a custom built automated testing fixture. In this scenario, we tested the effects of loading the belt with 50 lbs of tension (well above the 12-15 pound standard) and cycled the fixture 2,500 cycles. Post-test inspections revealed that the webbing complied with the FMVSS 209 and 213 standards for webbing break strength, elongation and abrasion.

Is the base larger than most bases? Overall base size: The base size is on par with other major manufactures measuring 15.25" wide x 20.00" long x 7.25" tall.

Has the upper weight limit changed? Upper weight limit use: The official specs are 4-35.0 lbs or up to 32.00". We initially launched the Prodigy with a 32.0 lb max weight limit, but raised subsequent production run markings to 35.0 lbs. All Prodigy infant car seats have been tested to well above 35.0 lbs and are safe to use up to 35.0 lbs (regardless of markings).

You can see the preemie doll fit and the belt loading fixture, along with information on the tech purchasing discount programs in this [PDF](#).

Submitted by Mike Fusco and Courtney Barry, Summer Infant (Woonsocket, RI)

Safe Kids CEU Webinars: Oh, so that's why...

Earning [CEUs](#) are an opportunity for technicians to meet the recertification requirements of 6 CEUs every 2 years. One of the popular ways to learn more about CRS products and new technology is through live webinars. Online conferences are becoming more common with the increasing capabilities of the Internet. Participating in an online conference can save money in traveling to conferences, but that doesn't mean that it is without problems.

State Farm continues to support technicians in the field with webinars that provide fresh and updated information about products and features for child restraints and vehicles by expert panelists. Know that there are some limitations with gotomeeting.com that you may or may not be aware of. We would like to provide you with some answers to some of the questions that we have gotten following a webinar.

How come you don't show videos in the presentation?

Everyone loves videos however they are choppy and difficult to view so we provide links in the follow-up email that

arrives later that evening.

How can I get a copy of the presentation?

We also provide (with the presenter's consent), a pdf of the presentation in the follow-up email.

Will the webinar be available again?

Although people may register to attend a webinar, something may come up where they can't participate. When presenters allow us to record a webinar, they are made available on the [CPS Board website](#) and announced through the [CPS Express](#) and [CPS Cert Facebook page](#).

Why don't the slides always match up with the presentation?

There is generally a delay of several seconds when slides are advanced. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the slides catch up.

Does the presenter see my questions?

No, the organizer or facilitator is the only one to see the questions. Some questions may be asked during or at the end of the slide series by the facilitator to the presenter. The presenters are provided a list of all the questions (but not who asked them) and given an opportunity to follow up in answering some of these questions in the [CPS Express](#). Presenters are also able to answer your questions by email so don't be shy about contacting them directly.

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

CPS Category 4 (Online/Web session) CEU credit is only provided to techs who logged into a live webinar. A moderated Web session requires that participants have an opportunity for asking questions.

If you have a group that will be watching together, and everyone would like to earn CPS CEUs, it may be organized for a Category #1 In-person session. The person organizing would follow all the usual protocols like a sign in sheet and provide proof of attendance. Participants could watch the webinar together and then discuss it. They would also, of course, be able to submit the update for preapproval if they liked.

The simple preapproval application may be found [online](#). Click on "CPS CEU Preapproval Request Form".

Do you have a webinar tip?

Plug headphones into your computer (or smartphone using the free [GoToMeeting App](#)) and listen for free online rather than calling into the long-distance number.

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, FL)

Top 10 Technologies for Senior Drivers

Technicians often assist grandparents with car seat installation tips for traveling with their grandkids. Another tip we may want to share with them is a guide to technology features to consider in their next vehicle that may assist them in traveling safer. There is a new interactive tool that outlines the top 10 new vehicle technologies that are most beneficial for mature drivers and actually ones that may help all of us to drive more safely. The tool is based on research conducted by The Hartford and the MIT AgeLab, it has 10 animated videos that demonstrate how the technologies work. It can be found on the AARP Driving Resource Center at www.aarp.org/drc .

Here is a brief description of these technologies:

- Blind spot detection to let the driver know when objects are around when changing lanes and parking
- Smart Headlights Improve night vision to adjust the range, direction or intensity of headlights based on road and environmental conditions
- Medical emergency or collision which could get assistance more quickly
- Reverse monitoring system that assists in judging distances when backing up especially for someone with reduced flexibility
- Lane departure warnings that would signal the driver to keep from drifting
- Electronic stability control which can be helpful in inclement weather or underestimating a curve in the road
- Assistive parking may make parking easier and increase the places to park

- Voice active systems allows the driver to keep hands on wheel and eyes on the road in challenging road conditions
- Crash mitigation systems to minimize injury to driver and passengers
- Drowsy driver alert keeps the driver focused on driving and staying alert

You may learn more about these technologies by going to [Top Ten Technologies for Seniors](#).

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, FL)

Auditor Alcove: LPE? That's for me (and you)!

My daughter is a dancer. She definitely did not get her gracefulness from me, her hockey and roller derby playing mother. The hardest part of being a dance mom for me has been hair and stage makeup. These are skills I never developed as a teen. I tried to watch instructional videos, but I was more confused. So many brushes!

Learn, practice, explain is a technique we use while teaching certification courses and while educating parents. Why can't it also apply to dance mom training? I found someone at the studio experienced with stage makeup and he sat me down with my case of colors and explained everything to me using analogies. Did you know that lip liner is like the outline of cookie icing? After I learned it, he watched as I practiced it and explained what I was doing as I went along. I even mastered the fake eyelashes!

When we are working with parents, it's important to remember that just because they lack the skills that we have, that doesn't mean that they don't want to do the best possible. Use analogies if you need to. Look for ways to make the installation process make sense! The BLT method has worked for me in the past (thanks to Kerry Chausmer for sharing!). B=buckle, L=lock, T=tighten. When a parent has to reinstall on their own later, they will remember your BLT and won't forget a step!

Do you have any tips or tricks that you use during education that you'd like to share? Send them to [me](#)!

If you have any questions about recertification, CEUs, what documentation is required, or audits, please email me at cpsaudit@safekids.org.

Submitted by Jami Revesz, CPSTI and Safe Kids Quality Assurance Specialist (Trenton, MI)

Featured FAQ: [Who do I contact for help?](#)

To For most certification-related questions, including the examples below, please contact Safe Kids CPS certification customer service toll free at 877-366-8154 or cps.certification@safekids.org.

- Accessing the certification system
- Username & password issues
- Assistance with course setup/finalization
- Materials shipping
- Registering for a course
- Questions regarding payment

Please contact the Safe Kids Worldwide headquarters directly (Kerry - 202-662-0639, kchausmer@safekids.org) for questions on:

- [Instructor Candidacy](#)
 - [Technician Proxy](#)
 - Challenges, complaints and appeals
-

Fact or Fiction: Vehicle integrated car seats have expiration dates like aftermarket car seats.

FICTION: Integrated car seats usually do not have an expiration date because they (integrated child restraints) are designed to be used for the life of the vehicle. If an integrated child seat is occupied during a crash, it may need to be replaced. If a harness is frayed or damaged in some way, it should be replaced. Contact the vehicle manufacturer for more information. Like any safety product, integrated child restraints can be recalled. Check the recall list under the vehicle manufacturer's listing.

You may read more about integrated car seats at [Seat Check Smarts: Tips for Integrated Child Seats](#) from the [Tech Update, Spring 2013](#)

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Ft. Myers, FL)

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.

Audrey Eagle (Auburn Hills, MI)
Vehicle Manufacturer Representative

- **How long have you been a member of the Board?** Two years
 - **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I became a Tech in 2000 and an Instructor in 2012.
 - **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** Back in 1997, I had a hard time installing my newborn son's car seat in my minivan. A plea for help put me in contact with the group that worked on CPS. I ended up getting a position in that group and I became a tech a couple of years later. For many years I officially worked outside of CPS, but I stayed active in my free time. Three years ago, I started a new position at Chrysler and realized that we no longer has a spokesperson for CPS. I stepped forward to create the position "CPS Advocate" at Chrysler and now it's officially my job description.
 - **Who taught your first certification course?** Sandra Waak, Bob Wall and a Firefighter from Kentucky. They came to Michigan to certify technicians for Chrysler's "Fit for a Kid" program.
 - **Advice for the field:** Staying up-to-date in CPS means keeping current with new vehicle safety technology in addition to being familiar with new child restraints. You can learn about new airbags and seat belts by reading the [Tech Update](#) and by completing online CEUs. Make those CEUs count!
 - **What are your hobbies:** I really enjoy photo and video editing, especially for my family. Right now our family is also very involved with F.I.R.S.T. Robotics. Our son's team, the Killer Bees #33, was in the finals at last year's world championship.
 - **Tell us about your family:** I have been married to my best friend, Paul, for over 22 years. We have a daughter, Elizabeth (19) and son, Brennan (16), who are both long graduated from car seats. I am proud to say that they are both strong advocates for using seat belts and not texting while driving.
-

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Curriculum Update:

The revised curriculum is at the printers and will be shipped the middle of January. Please keep an eye out for the materials with a return label with the following:
National Child Passenger Safety Board
C/O NSC

The Board conducted a detailed review of the Appendix and all the materials were reviewed to determine accuracy and alignment with current information. The Board also heard from CPS Instructors on what they wanted from the Appendix. An overwhelming response was to keep the printed pages to a minimum and focus on expanding the Appendix as an online resource. We listened to this guidance and the new version of the Instructor and Technician Guide will have a limited printed Appendix. The Board continues to work on getting the online Appendix resources

finalized and posted by the time the curriculum is released.

The Technician Guide will be shipped for classes that begin March 1, 2014. Current Techs will have access to the new Guide through the cpsboard.org website after March 1, 2014.

As part of the curriculum rollout, each [NHTSA Region](#) has a designated Board member contact. The Board member will provide direct assistance to the [State CPS Training Contact](#).

Please join us for a webinar to introduce the new curriculum to the instructors.

This webinar is only for Instructors and Instructor Candidates. Join this webinar to hear about the new curriculum. We will discuss the new layout and design, troubleshooting video, preparation tips and answer your questions!

The key speakers will be Jennifer Huebner Davidson, the Child Passenger Safety Board (CPSB) Curriculum Chair and Sherri Cannon, the CPSB NHTSA Region representative. Guest appearances by the pilot course lead instructor and Safe Kids.

2014 Curriculum Orientation - CPST Instructors and ICs

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

[Register today!](#)

Submitted by the Curriculum Committee, National Child Passenger Safety Board

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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](#).

Online Courses

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

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

BuckleUp NC Conference

Location: Raleigh, NC

Dates: March 24-26, 2014

For more information: www.buckleupnc.org

Lifesavers Conference

Location: Nashville, TN

Dates: April 26-29, 2014

For more information: <http://lifesaversconference.org/index.html>

KIDZ IN MOTION (KIM)

Location: Santa Ana Pueblo (Albuquerque), NM

Dates: August 25-28, 2014

For more information: www.kidzinmotion.org

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](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Safe Kids and State Farm present: Child Restraint Manufacturer: What's New

January 23, 2014 from 2 pm - 3 pm ET (East Coast/NY time)

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

Register now: <http://bit.ly/Jan23CPST>

More webinars coming soon! Mid-month updates posted at www.Facebook.com/CPScert

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 will be edited for content and length.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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