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CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



February 2014

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Announcements and Notices

CPS Express-ly for you!

Look in your e-mail box on the first Monday of every month (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) to get tips on recertifying and the latest information on the certification program.

The Express is emailed to the official email address in your CPS online profile and we update the list monthly. If you don't get the Express and you have checked your spam filters, contact your organization's IT department to be sure that we are an approved sender on all levels. There are a number of filters before it has the opportunity to get to you. Ask them to make cps.certification@safekids.org an approved sender.

Are you an instructor or technician proxy who isn't getting seat check review notification emails? Please also ask your IT department to make cps.certification@safekids.org an approved sender. The emails are going out but just not getting to you!

NHTSA Proposes First-Ever Side Impact Test for Child Restraint Systems

CPS Technicians have long been asking about side impact testing standards. Exciting news! The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has proposed upgrades to the current FMVSS 213 to include side impact testing. The test simulates a vehicle traveling at 30 MPH crashing into the side of a small passenger vehicle traveling at 15

MPH.

The proposed test would include the currently available 12-month-old child crash test dummy and the newly designed 3-year-old crash test dummy with biometrics for side impact analysis. This would be a test for car seats sold in the U.S. that are designed for children weighing up to 40 pounds.

The agency's [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) is being published in the Federal Register and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal for 90 days.

More details are in the [NHTSA press release](#).

The CPS Board Welcomes Five New Members for 2014

The mission of the Board is to maintain the quality and integrity of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program. This program is used to train and certify child passenger safety (CPS) technicians and instructors.

In addition to training, there is an ongoing need for input from those out in the field. As a result, the National Child Passenger Safety Board also serves as a formalized group of CPS stakeholders including representatives from national and local organizations, vehicle and car seat manufacturers and injury prevention professionals. The Board currently oversees the certification curriculum and makes recommendations to both NHTSA and Safe Kids on improvements to the Certification program.

We are delighted to welcome 5 new members: (Alphabetical order)

- Angela Brown (Meharry Medical College), Diversity Representative
- Thelma Kuska, At-Large Representative
- Dina Morrissey (Injury Prevention Center at Rhode Island Hospital), Injury Prevention/Healthcare Representative
- Dave Sander (Evenflo), Child Restraint Manufacturer Representative
- Robert White (Piedmont Medical Center Emergency Medical Services), Public Safety/Fire/EMS Representative

Read more about the Board on their [website](#).

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

How should my head restraint be positioned?

To reduce the likelihood of a whiplash injury, head restraints should be positioned high enough to support the head so as to minimize neck distortion. Adjust the head restraint so that it's even with the top of your head. If it won't reach the top of your head, make it as high as it will go. For some people, no adjustment from the lowest position is required. If it's higher than the top of your head in the unadjusted position, that's OK, too.

The distance from the back of the head to the restraint should be as small as possible, preferably less than 4 inches. On seats without horizontally adjusting head restraints, this can be achieved by adjusting the seat's recline angle.

Direct excerpt from the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#).

Read more:

- [EFFECTS OF HEAD RESTRAINT POSITION ON NECK INJURY IN REAR IMPACT](#)
- [HEAD RESTRAINTS](#) - Identification of Issues Relevant to Regulation, Design, and Effectiveness

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 1/21/2014) - Updated to include "strongly" recommend 5:1 student to instructor ratio and that this includes the course checkup event. Language also updated on the [website](#).

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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

- o 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

- 2014: 52.5 percent (January)
 - 2013: 58.4 percent
 - 2012: 54.7 percent
-

Seat Checks for Recertification: Real or Mock?

Sometimes, in spite of our best efforts, we are not able to work with a real family for one or more of our 5 required seat checks required for recertification. If the Instructor or Tech Proxy is comfortable doing so, they can use a mock, or fake, scenario. Be sure to talk so there are clear expectations before the seat check.

The following guidelines were approved by the Certification/Recertification committee of the National CPS Board:

- During a seat check, it is always best to have the child present.
- Instructors and technicians are strongly encouraged to make every effort to do an actual safety seat checkup.
- If an actual caregiver is not available, the instructor/technician proxy may choose a mock scenario, where a colleague acts out the part of the parent.
- It is strongly encouraged that you enter your seat checks throughout your certification cycle, rather than waiting until near your certification expiration date.

Real or mock, an actual vehicle must always be used for seat checks.

Be sure to work on your recertification requirements during your certification cycle and don't wait until the end. Seat checks for recertification must be approved online by the instructor or tech proxy. They will receive an automatic notification email but please do email or call them if you are in a time crunch.

Read more about [seat checks](#). Tips are also in the special [November 2012 Express](#) and [Seat Checks: You and Me](#).

Latest Child Restraint Update Webinar Follow Up

As you all know, the car seat world is constantly changing as new information becomes available. Since the webinar last week we have some additional information to share and one item to clarify.

For clarification, with the new Diono convertible line/booster seats (Ranier, Pacifica and Olympia), the Safe Stop is to be used for ALL forward facing installations with children who weigh 20-40 pounds. This is a change from their current seats, and is not applicable to the Radian, only the new seats coming out first quarter 2014.

Regal Lager contacted us after the webinar and has provided us with additional information and pictures of the Aton Q and their booster seats that we wanted to share with you. >>[CLICK HERE](#)<< for the Aton Q picture, the Cybex Solution series booster pictures.

The webinar was recorded and is available at www.cpsboard.org. Just click on Certification + Recertification and follow the instructions to watch the video. A quiz is available when you are done to earn a CEU.

Submitted by Emilie Crown, Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service (Rockville, MD) and Bob Wall, Prince William County Fire and Rescue (Prince William, VA).

** Join us on May 15 for a webinar from Diono. Details below under Live Webinars.

Auditor Alcove: It's Here! It's Here!

It was like Christmas morning all over again when the email came that the updated curriculum was available! I know most CPSTIs felt the same way I did and spent the rest of the day curled up on the couch with their computer on their lap reading.

While there may be some time before your next scheduled course, I have a few suggestions for all instructors, new and old. Read it cover to cover. Once. Twice. And a third time. The first read will be filled with excitement as you see what new things have been added and what outdated things have been removed. During the second read, take notes. Make highlights. Pay attention to those things that you know have changed so you can get yourself ready to present the new ideas. By the third read, you should have a good grasp of where everything is, how the course will flow, and you may even see something you missed during the first two reads.

Once you have finished your reads (do not forget about the quizzes, skills assessments, and planning & logistics guide), set up a meeting with your local instructors. During this meeting, compare notes, discuss ideas for presenting, and practice teaching. Schedule some follow-up either through phone calls or emails to explain what changes you will be making to your future courses.

Ahhhh, do you see that? You learn it, you practice it, and you explain it! LPE is not just for our courses!

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: [What is a CEU?](#)

Generally, one hour of technical contact time counts for one continuing education unit (CEU), with a few specific exceptions. All categories of CEUs must meet the content requirements of improving CPS technical knowledge such as LATCH, a child restraint manufacturer workshop or CPS technical update. Non-technical CPS sessions, such as how to get funding or run an inspection station do not qualify.

Read more about [CEUs](#).

Fact or Fiction: Vehicles are required when working with an instructor or tech proxy for your seat checks required for recertification.

FACT: The mock (AKA "buck") vehicle seat is a useful teaching tool when specific belt systems are not available during a course but they can't be used for this!

As described in the above article and on our [website](#), real vehicles are required when working with an instructor or tech proxy for your seat checks required for recertification. At the discretion of the instructor or tech proxy, you can have a mock installation/communication scenario, but actual vehicles are always required.

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.

Helen Arbogast (Los Angeles, CA) **Diversity Representative**

- **How long have you been a member of the Board?** I started serving in 2013.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I became a Tech in 2009 and an Instructor in 2010, yet I feel like in CPS you never stop learning.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** Constantly seeing children injured from car crashes, it's devastating to the family and entire community.
- **Who taught your first certification course?** Mike Hennessey from the California Highway Patrol in Santa Maria, CA.
- **Advice for the field:** Get your hands on seats often. Stay current (utilize technical updates and conferences) and ask questions without hesitation. Remember why we do this great work--to keep kids safe. And make it a point to have some fun!
- **What are your hobbies:** Travel and trying exotic foods. Some of my travels have provided me some exquisite dining such as the paella from Spain, soft shell crab from Singapore and borsht soup from Russia. While other visits have given my taste buds a reason to quit working altogether like bitter melon (any way you make it) from Thailand and natto from Japan (fermented soy bean dish).
- **Tell us about your family:** My father's family is from New Orleans and my mom's family is from Vietnam. I grew up in Inglewood along with my sister and gang of brothers. As the youngest child, it is a miracle I survived my childhood. I think my near drowning, broken bones and being hit by car have all led up to my passion for prevention.

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Curriculum Update

We are excited to inform you on behalf of the National Child Passenger Safety Board, NHTSA and Safe Kids, that the new CPST Certification Curriculum is currently printing and will ship to instructors from the National Safety Council in the coming weeks! The materials are also currently available on the CPS Board website for viewing and downloading by instructors through their certification profile. (Please note that the PPT and video files are very large. You may want to download them in parts rather than the entire folder at one time.)

The new curriculum will launch for classes starting March 1, 2014. Any classes scheduled on or after that date will be shipped the new technician guides. Instructors and instructor candidates will receive a hard copy instructor guide and DVD in the mail soon. Technicians will be able to download a new technician manual starting March 1st from the CPS Board website through their

certification profile. Please replace all of your old materials with the new materials and start fresh as the content has been reformatted and reorganized.

A curriculum orientation webinar for instructors and instructor candidates was held on Tuesday, January 21. The webinar was well attended with 488 participants from 48 states, DC, Ontario and Guam! To view the recorded webinar visit: <http://cpsboard.org/tech-instructor-curriculum/> .

On behalf of the National Child Passenger Safety Board, NHTSA and Safe Kids, we would like to thank the field for the valuable suggestions that shaped the new curriculum and for your patience as the program underwent revisions. As always, we welcome your feedback! Technicians and instructors are encouraged to provide feedback in the form of suggestions, edits or ideas using our official [feedback form](#).

Thank you for all you do in your communities!

Submitted by the Curriculum Committee, National Child Passenger Safety Board

Don't have a DVD player? USB Available

Instructors and Instructor Candidates will be sent DVDs with their instructor manuals. The course content is also available for you to download from the 'Instructor Downloads (CPS Board)' link in your CPS online profile.

By request, instructors can choose to purchase an 8 GB USB drive with the new Certification and Renewal Testing Instructor DVD content preloaded.

>> [Order Form](#) <<

Instructor Candidate Evaluation Update

Please take a few minutes to suggest specific edits to improve the [Instructor Candidate Evaluation](#). It is time for a review and your experiences (as a mentor or as an IC) will make it a more useful tool.

Please send [Kerry](#) your edits by February 17. Thank you

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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>

**Show us a copy of your wallet card (print out or on your phone or tablet) and pick up a thank you from Certification in the exhibit hall.

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: Diono

May 15, 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/May15web>

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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