

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.

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# CPS Express

E-News for CPS Technicians



August 2015

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## TECH GEAR ONLINE STORE

### Proud to be a tech? Strut your stuff!

Need Tech or Instructor tees or polos? Travel mugs? Event signs? Training dolls?

Look no further than the [Tech Online Store](#).

## ADVERTISE WITH US

Learn more about [CPS Express Ad Space](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

### New CPS Week Materials Now Available

NHTSA has new Child Passenger Safety (CPS) materials available on the [trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://trafficsafetymarketing.gov) [CPS page](#). This year, Child Passenger Safety Week is September 13-19 and National Seat Check Saturday is on September 19. The materials available for you to use include sample social media messaging and graphics, sample press releases and media advisories, a sample proclamation letter, infographics, posters, flyers to promote your seat check events and educational material for consumers. Spanish-language materials are also available. We hope you are able to use these materials to promote your events and good work in your communities.

For more information, contact Elizabeth at [Elizabeth.Nilsson@dot.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Nilsson@dot.gov).

Submitted by Elizabeth Nilsson, NHTSA (Washington, DC)

### Basic Car Seat Awareness Course Available

If you are working in a community where English is not the primary language and you are trying to create awareness of the benefits of buckling up and using car seats, we have a tool for you! Give it a try, feel free to tweak as needed for the time that you have with your audience. This resource may just be the ticket to engaging the community and finding that local champion to assist efforts in helping families protect their children. A special thank you and shout out to the techs who have already used these materials (in whole or in part). We would love to have you translate this course so we may include your translations with our Chinese and Spanish translations.

Safe Kids developed a Basic Car Seat Awareness Course designed to serve as an introduction to car seats and as a way to start a conversation about restraint use in cars. The course can be translated into any language as it is mostly made up of photos and videos. It can be used by presenters with varying levels of experience in road safety to guide a discussion about child passenger safety. This course is a great way to reach out to underserved communities. The course has been translated into simple Chinese (Mandarin) and Spanish.

This presentation is available for download at no charge. We only ask that you complete a short evaluation to let us know how you used the materials. If you translate any of the materials, please send them to [us](#) so we can share with others.

- Read about the [Basic Awareness Course](#) (one pager)
- Complete the [request from](#) and download the materials
- After you use the materials, complete the short [evaluation](#)

If you have any questions or to share your translated materials, contact [Kim Herrmann](#).

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Fort Myers, Florida)

## NHTSA Video Explains Vehicle Recalls

With the Takata airbag recall in the news, many people wonder about vehicle recalls. NHTSA's new video explains the recall process, how owners will be notified, and what tools are available to them.

Watch the [video](#).

Submitted by Carole Guzzetta, NHTSA (Washington, DC)

## 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 FAQs](#)

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. Use the lists at [Get a Car Seat Checked](#) to find an event (NHTSA or Safe Kids) or instructor (Find A Tech) near you.

[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 are available. 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](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 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 to improve our customer service!

## GENERAL | [Top](#)

### By the Numbers

#### Deaths of children in hot cars

- 2015: 9
- 2014: 31
- 2013: 43
- 2012: 34
- 2011: 33
- 2010: 49

Details are available at <http://noheatstroke.org>

#### CPS Recertification

- 2015: 57.1 percent (January-June)
- 2014: 56.0 percent
- 2013: 58.5 percent
- 2012: 54.9 percent

## Tech Prep Opportunity - Learning about New Car Seats

Have you noticed when you talk with other techs at an update or conference, there are techs who participate in a new CR product update and say, "I'll never see that seat in my area" or "I just want to learn more about the seats that I typically see in my area." Well, you may see that new seat sooner than you think! The idea of manufacturers taking the time to share information regarding their product lines and the technological features of their seats with us is because they want us to be informed in order to guide parents in using their child's seat correctly.

Some manufactures want our feedback regarding some of the features they have developed. It is also fun to see practical innovations that may make it easier for a parent to install, harness, or may encourage longer use either rear-facing or forward facing. As techs, we work with caregivers who may be arthritic, have back problems, or other physical challenges. Some of these car seat features may make their job easier in keeping their children safer because the seat is more likely to be used. Yes, many of the car seats on the market today have a range of price points and your area may not see the "higher end" seats this year, but down the road, you may. Many seasoned techs will testify to that. CPS Techs are valuable resources in every community. We need to keep up with what is or will be available in the market. Parents may not understand some of the benefits that may manage energy forces or different kinds of foam but they do want to learn if it is the right seat for their child and how this car seat will fit in their vehicle. That's where a well-prepared technician may assist them.

Here are some suggestions to keep current and learn more about the seats you see frequently or infrequently.

- Direct questions to manufacturers advocates: [Manufacturers Alliance for CPS](#)
- Participate in manufacturer online training found in your cert profile; <http://cert.safekids.org/>; log in and under action items; recertification, Online CEUs (This page allows certified technicians to access online CEUs and information. Some sites are only available through this page.)
- Participate in Safe Kids/State Farm CRS Manufacturer [Live Webinars](#). You will earn a CEU for attending.
- View the recorded Safe Kids/State Farm webinars [online](#). Pass the quiz to earn a CEU.
- Check out what seats are at retail stores or your local child specialty store

- When you are participating in a CRS Manufacturer session take note of the websites and watch their video clips to learn more about features and installations

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Fort Myers, Florida)

## Webinars for Techs and Instructors

Safe Kids is offering a series of short webinars designed to answer questions and provide guidance for some of the most common questions related to policy. These three webinars do not meet the content requirements of new technical knowledge and are **not eligible** for CPS CEUs, but they are a great way to share your ideas and tips as well as get answers to your questions. If you have any questions you would like addressed or if you have any tips to share, please send me an [email](#).

### Seat Checks for Recert: Requirements and Tips

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### Tips for Mentors and Instructor Candidates

Wed, Aug 26, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### CEU Audit: It's easier than you think!

Wed, Sept 9, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

We hope you will join us!

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide (Canton, Ohio)

## Key Concepts from Safely Transporting Children by Ambulance Webinar

Our thanks to Kevin Gallagher, Serenity Safety Products and Michelle Chappelow, Riley Hospital for Children, for providing a great webinar for CPS Technicians June 18th. If you weren't able to join us for the live webinar sponsored by State Farm and Safe Kids, you may view the recorded presentation on the CPS Board Website: [Online Sessions and Quizzes](#). You may earn 1 CEU by successfully completing the quiz and will be able to print out a certificate of completion.

We asked that Kevin and Michelle share key concepts from the webinar and encourage you to view the online recorded session.

- How children will be transported needs to be considered in the design phase of the ambulance purchasing process
- Agencies need to have policies & procedures in place for transporting children both as primary patients and passengers
- Agencies need to ensure that personnel are trained on the proper use of child restraints based on their policies & procedures
- Due diligence is required when selecting restraint devices and consideration should be given to safely transporting ALL ages
- Child Restraints in a non-standard installation cannot be expected to perform as designed and may not safely restrain the occupant
- Children should NEVER be held in an adult's arms during transport
- The CPS, EMS, regulatory and industry communities need to work together to improve awareness of the issues involved and develop safe solutions
- Children CAN be safely restrained in ambulances!

Here are a couple of questions that time would not permit them to answer that may be of interest to you. Kevin and Michelle have made their best effort to provide answers given the information available.

### Are ALL convertible seats ok to use or are only specific seats allowed and tested?

This answer assumes that you are referring to the CRASH PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN IN AMBULANCES study published by Dr. Bull et al., about installing a convertible seat on the ambulance cot. The study's conclusion outlines a number of recommendations for the safest installation based on their research. It does not specify a specific brand of seat but refers generally to convertible CRs for children up to 18kg. I would encourage you to refer to her recommendations directly. They can be found in the [article](#).

You should also be clear that any non-standard installation is likely to be counter to the CR manufacturer's design, testing and instructions. That said, the research referenced above is the only case I am aware of where the safety of a non-standard installation has been validated by independent testing in a peer-reviewed study. In addition, remove any sheets/blankets from under convertible seats you are using on a gurney.

### How 'secure' are the cots? Are there any guidelines stating how they are secured to the actual vehicle?

One of the challenges some have faced when trying to crash test their cot mounted restraint systems is getting the cot to stay in place during the dynamic testing. The good news is that the major cot manufacturers have developed better mounting systems that are starting to appear more frequently in the U.S. Some other countries have required cot crash testing for some time so they are already in common use there. Also, the new SAE guidelines that I mentioned during our presentation include a section specifically for cots, mounts and restraints. It is SAE J3027 and some information can be found [online](#).

Please feel free to email them directly to discuss these or any questions in more depth.

- Kevin Gallagher, Serenity Safety Products – [kevin@serenitysafetyproducts.com](mailto:kevin@serenitysafetyproducts.com)
- Michelle Chappelow, Riley Children's Hospital- [mchappel@IUHealth.org](mailto:mchappel@IUHealth.org)

Submitted by Kim Herrmann, Safe Kids Worldwide (Fort Myers, Florida)

### Auditor Alcove: Seat Check Saturday: It's a Beautiful Day Outside of Your Neighborhood!

With CPS week right around the corner, most of us have been busy making plans for a seat check Saturday event. For techs, this day is one where our personal lives take the back burner so that we can dedicate a Saturday to making sure that families are transporting their precious cargo as safely as possible. With so many agencies using the fitting station platform instead of events, some of us may start to miss the excitement of a Saturday first come-first served event, complete with long lines, sunburned cheeks, and cold pizza. You can also use a seat check Saturday event to complete the community education requirement of recertification, as long as it is at least two hours long, there is at least one other tech in attendance, and you use any standardized form.

Like you, I have volunteered at countless events over the years, but the most rewarding experiences have been the ones where the families needed the most help. This has been outside of my typical inspection station area where I usually volunteer, instead working in non-English speaking, low-income areas. We have true partnerships with many community leaders and by working with them, we can provide much-needed education. So, when my wife told me about her plans for a Seat Check Saturday event for refugees, I thought it was perfect. She runs the CPS program at a children's hospital and they have a community outreach program for many high refugee population areas. To these families, car seats are not as essential as survival. I will be attending two events in September, both in the refugee neighborhoods at churches. We will have a few interpreters available, but we also plan to use tablets with pictures of correct vs. incorrect use (watch for an upcoming article on how to use technology when working with families!). These types of outreach events can be a challenge, but by using available resources, many of the barriers can be broken down. By taking your time, we can make a real difference by pointing, demonstrating, smiling, and watching them repeat the seat adjustments. It may take more time but you are being a true educator and implementing a variation of the Learn, Practice, and Explain philosophy.

There are some great resources readily available. If you are working with a Spanish speaking population, NHTSA has printed materials, PSAs, and graphics available in [Spanish](#). Safe Ride News also offers many brochures in Spanish and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has [Spanish language videos online](#).

The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office has a picture [flipbook](#) with color photos and basic car seat information in Spanish.

Safe Kids has a basic car seat checklist available in several languages:

- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [Chinese](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [English](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [French](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [Korean](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [Spanish](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [Tagalog](#)
- Basic Car Seat Safety Checklist in [Vietnamese](#)

Seek out more high-quality information but be sure to have it reviewed before you use it. Your [state CPS Training Contact](#) may even have printed materials available in other languages, if it is a language that is widely spoken within your state. You may also want to consider recruiting bilingual advocates. Some states may offer grant opportunities for hosting a CPS course targeted at training bilingual technicians. If that is not an option, using bilingual scribes would also be helpful.

I encourage all of you to find events like this. If there aren't any and there is a need in your area, plan one. Your skill level will be tested, you will have to think critically, and I am certain you will walk away knowing that to the families you worked with, you really made a difference.

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide (Canton, Ohio)

### Fact or Fiction: NHTSA issued more vehicle recalls in 2014 than in the past 30 years.

**FACT:** NHTSA marked a record year in 2014, with the highest number of vehicle recalls in more than three decades. There were 803 vehicle recalls involving 63.9 million vehicles, including two of the ten largest vehicle recalls in history.

Find out about efforts to improve recall repair rate from the NHTSA Retooling Recalls workshop held on April 28. You can watch videos and read the reports on their [website](#).

### Featured FAQ: If I fail a seat check, does it mean I'm no longer a tech and can't recertify?

Not necessarily. If a technician or instructor fails a seat check he/she still has an opportunity to have that instructor or a different instructor observe their skills another time before their certification expiration date. You can enter as many seat checks as you like but only the five, one of each type, is required for recertification. If someone fails a seat check sign off, the Instructor or Technician Proxy should explain where he/she

needed to improve or why this is not a correct seat installation. All five installations must be passed in order to recertify, in addition to the community event and six CEUs. Failing a seat checks does not reflect poorly on the technician.

It is also important that when you are attending an event and need to have seats signed off that you contact the event coordinator ahead of time to be sure that an instructor or Technician Proxy will be there and available. This provides an opportunity for the instructor or Technician Proxy and technician to understand what is expected during the seat check, including evaluating the installation, and the communication and technical skills. Technicians should be sure to keep the name of the Instructor or Technician Proxy they worked with so they will enter the correct name of the instructor or Technician Proxy. Submitting an incorrect name will result in being marked as failed because it was entered for the wrong instructor to review.

Read the FAQ [online](#).

## Notes from the CPS Board: Getting to Know Your Board

Each month, we feature a child passenger safety board member here in the CPS Express.

**Carole Guzzetta (Washington, DC)**  
NHTSA Headquarters Representative

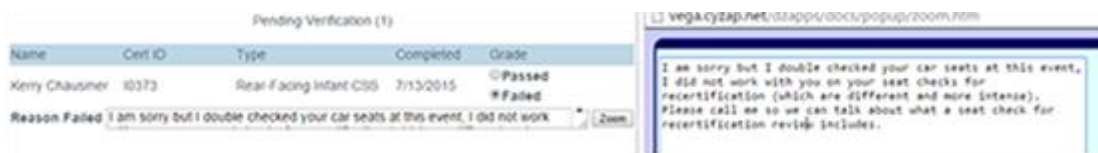
- **How long have you been a member of the board?** I have been on the Board since its inception! First as Board Secretariat while at the National Safety Council and since 2002 as the NHTSA Headquarters representative.
- **How long have you been a technician/instructor?** I have been a CPS tech since about 2000.
- **Why did you decide to become a CPS advocate?** I didn't actually decide. It was a major part of my position responsibility, but then, as is the case with most of us, it just 'happened'!
- **Who taught your first certification course?** Bob Wall and he made it both educational and fun!
- **Advice for the field:** Be fair, be compassionate, be relevant and recognize the reality of the situation you are working in.
- **What are your hobbies:** My 4 dogs! Plus, reading, jewelry making and going to Jazzercise.
- **Tell us about your family:** I have the worlds' greatest daughter. I was also blessed to have had a 39 year marriage! Loving relatives and dear friends that are family.

## JUST FOR INSTRUCTORS | [TOP](#)

### Failing a Non-Recognized Seat Check

Have you ever gotten notified of a pending seat check for your review but you don't recall working with them? Sometimes techs enter the wrong name or submit a seat check where you didn't actually watch them the entire time, confusing it with a senior/double checker. Does checking the failed button reflect poorly upon them? Not at all! When you need to fail a seat check, a comment box will open up with you select fail. You can enter a reason. Whatever you type is included in their automated notification email. It does not mean anything except they need to try again or enter the correct person as the instructor.

Here is an example:



Automated email:

Dear Kerry,  
This email is to notify you that a seat check activity has been denied for the following reason:  
I am sorry but I double checked your car seats at this event, I did not work with you on your seat checks for recertification (which are different and more intense). Please call me so we can talk about what a seat check for recertification review includes.  
Please [log in](#) to Safe Kids Online Services to view your seat checks.  
Sincerely,  
Safe Kids Worldwide CPS Certification Program Staff  
<http://net.safekids.org>

You are not penalizing them. This is an opportunity to educate them on seat check expectations and build a relationship so they can work with you again.

## 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)

### [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](#)

### Safe Kids and State Farm present: Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Hauck and Safe Traffic System

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

These three webinars do not meet the content requirements of new technical knowledge and are not eligible for CPS CEUs.

### Seat Checks for Recert: Requirements and Tips

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### Tips for Mentors and Instructor Candidates

Wed, Aug 26, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

### CEU Audit: It's easier than you think!

Wed, Sept 9, 2015 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

[Register now](#)

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](mailto:kchausmer@safekids.org)

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

### Program Partners



### Program Sponsor



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[The National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program](#)

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