

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



April 2016

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

2015: A Look Back and Celebrating Success

The CPS certification program had a productive year in 2015. Over 1,500 certified instructors offered 792 Certification and Renewal courses in all 50 states, China, Germany, Guam, Israel, Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Through these courses, Safe Kids certified more than 9,100 new technicians.

The recertification rate in 2015 was 58.8 percent – our highest rate since we took over as the certifying body in 2004 – with more than 11,000 technicians successfully recertifying.

Read the [report](#).

CPST Month 2016

You bet it's back! This May is the third annual CPST Month, when we promote CPS Certification across the country. With a goal of 100 Certification Courses, we will certify hundreds of new technicians to serve their communities.

What does it mean for you? Encourage interested colleagues and friends to become certified technicians. If you're an instructor, please consider teaching a Certification Course in May. All instructors who are on the teaching team for a May Certification Course will be sent a snazzy limited edition CPST Month 2016 pin (in care of the course Lead Instructor).

With your help, we can build your technician base and support in your community.

PROUD TO BE A
CPST
2016

Apply to be a Member of the National Child Passenger Safety Board

Have you or someone you know expressed interest in joining the National CPS Board? The Board is seeking applications from hard-working team players like you, who want to serve and share their passion for CPS.

This year, the Board is seeking applicants for the following four positions:

- **At Large** - Candidate will serve as an individual involved in child passenger safety. The Candidate will serve on the Board as an individual - not representing his/her employer. CPS Technician or Instructor certification is required.
- **Diversity** - Candidate must be a representative of an organization that serves diverse populations. Candidate must have experience in working with hard-to-reach/at-risk populations including culturally/ethnically diverse groups in the

field of child passenger safety. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred.

- **Injury Prevention – Healthcare** - Candidate must be involved in coordinating a broad spectrum of injury prevention programs, including but not limited to CPS or traffic safety. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred.
- **Public Safety - Fire/EMS** - Candidate must be an active or retired fire or EMS professional. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred.

Selected applicants will serve a three-year term beginning January 2017.

The 2016 Board Membership Application is found [online](#). Applications will be accepted until Friday, June 10, 2016 (5 PM PDT). For more information on how to apply or to download the 2016 online application, visit the [CPS Board](#) website.

Submitted by Sarah Tilton, Membership Committee Chair, National CPS Board (Fort Mill, S.C.)

New Course Alert Option

By popular demand, there is now a link to register to be alerted when Certification or Renewal testing courses are added in a state. Signing up is easy. Just go to the [FIND A COURSE search](#) on the Certification homepage and click on the link at the top of the page. All you need to enter is your email and state. You can sign up for several alerts if you want to be notified for more than one state.



You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the link in the email alert.

[Let us know](#) about other suggestions and ideas. We are always interested in hearing what would improve the site for you. Like this one, we might be able to make it happen!

Basic Awareness Course 2015 Recap

In early 2014, Safe Kids developed a toolkit for educators to use to expand road safety efforts in their communities and to build new partners to keep kids safe. The Basic Car Seat Awareness Course was designed to serve as an introduction to car seats and as a way to start conversations about restraint use in cars where road safety has become more important. Although it was developed for use outside the United States, it is useful for advocates working in U.S. communities where English is a second language and where there is low seat belt and child restraint use.

The materials were designed to be used by presenters with varying levels of experience in road safety as way to guide a discussion about child passenger safety. The materials have been translated into simple Chinese (Mandarin) and Spanish. This toolkit includes pre/post-tests, presentation notes, an evaluation and a certificate of participation for attendees by completing the [Basic Awareness Course Request Form](#) to access these materials. The PowerPoint includes slides and leader notes (which we invite educators to translate), videos, suggested activities and discussion starters.

Using the online request form, there were 328 requests for the files in 2015. Requests came from as far as India, Guam and Malaysia. Users were encouraged to provide feedback and additional ideas for improving the toolkit. Although over 300 people requested the materials, only fourteen completed the evaluation. This makes it difficult to truly identify what users thought of the materials and identify what could to be improved. A review of the fourteen responses (14, 4 percent response rate) revealed a positive impact upon increasing awareness of basic road safety in communities. Though there were few responses, we did get some good information. We did find out that the toolkit was designed to be used by non-technicians, most respondents were CPS Technicians (93 percent). Almost all the classes were less than four hours long (93 percent). Although the materials were designed for use by non-English speakers, 87 percent of the courses were taught in English. Details of the survey responses are available [upon request](#).

This Basic Awareness Course is a great tool for reaching out into your community with basic information that you can supplement with letting people know about your organization and efforts to make a difference through checkup events and inspection stations.

Read more about the [Awareness Course](#).

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

Inflatable Seat Belt Policy Update

As technicians, we know that policies are reviewed and updated regularly. Lists become outdated and we need to check with the manufacturer for any updates. Such is the case with the Inflatable Seat Belt Use Policy. Safe Kids puts a list together annually and it was in the last Express. No sooner did it go out than we were notified of an update.

You can [download the latest version](#), but please be sure to always check back with the [manufacturer](#). You can often find the latest policies under their FAQs online or by calling their customer service specialists.

Policy and Procedures Manual Updates

[Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (ver. 2/2016) – Updated CEU allowances for Webinar/Online Updates and Community Education expansion.

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

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 to improve our customer service!

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By the Numbers

Deaths of children in hot cars

- **2016:** 2
- **2015:** 24
- **2014:** 31
- **2013:** 43

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

CPS Recertification

- **2016:** 53.6 percent (January-March)
- **2015:** 58.7 percent
- **2014:** 56.0 percent
- **2013:** 58.5 percent

Throwing a Webinar Party: Learn and Earn a CEU

Participating in a live webinar is a great way to learn and earn CEUs. They are so popular that they sometimes reach the maximum allowable limit and are closed for more registrations. A number of local leaders often engage their technicians while helping them earn a CEU by hosting a get-together. It's a Webinar Watch Party! This concept is growing in popularity due to its easy implementation and because it can be combined with other CEUs, a checkup event or non-CEU topics like reviewing the checkup form or distribution program details.

As the Traffic Safety Liaison for Chicago, I am always trying to find ways to keep technicians in the area updated and assist them in receiving their CEUs. This also helps us maintain our recertification rates in Illinois. When I heard about the Webinar Watch Party, I decided to combine an upcoming webinar, "Manufacturers Fall Update", with a technical update course.

The Advisory Council for Chicago, which includes members from the Illinois Secretary of State Office, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department and others, had already developed a tech update class which was approved for three CEUs. By combining the two, we offered four CEUs instead of just one for just the webinar. When preparing the update, a CEU preapproval request form was submitted. This way, I could provide the technicians with proof of content and participation and let them know if they would be randomly selected for a CEU audit.

I started by finding a location that would accommodate the number of technicians we wanted to reach. The location had to be big enough to set up a computer, projector, speakers and screen for the live webinar. The location also needed to have access to the internet. I also needed to make sure it would be easily accessible from the expressway and have free parking available. Once I found the location, I was able to begin announcing the Webinar Party.

A flier was sent to all the technicians in the Chicago, Cook and Collar counties in Illinois. The flier included all the information about the Webinar. An email address was included for technicians to register. We wanted to make sure we had enough materials for all attending. After registering for the refresher course/webinar party, all attendees were sent an email confirming their attendance.

Refreshments were served to technicians and they were given a lunch break before the online webinar started. This provided a positive, comfortable location for technicians to discuss their concerns and have any questions answered. It was beneficial to many technicians because they were able to receive their CEUs and also receive information on how to get more. Attendees also had an opportunity to see what others were experiencing in their community areas.

This was a great experience for all the technicians as well as the instructors who attended as was evidenced in the evaluation. Participants were asked, "How did you feel about watching a webinar with a large group?" They responded that they enjoyed it and found the information useful, but that they could not ask questions as they could with a live webinar when watching individually.

Webinar Watch Parties are a great way to bring your tech team together to earn CEUs.

Submitted by Wanda Vazquez, Rincon Family Services (Chicago, Ill.)

A Resource for CPSTs: MACPS Statements for CPS Technicians and Instructors

As Child Passenger Safety Technicians, we often are asked questions about car seat and booster seat use that might not be directly addressed in the child restraint instruction manual and/or the vehicle owner's manual. A valuable resource that may provide guidance is the "MACPS Statements for CPS Technicians and Instructors."

The Manufacturers Alliance for Child Passenger Safety (MACPS) was formed in 2007 to provide education, training and dissemination of current child passenger safety information. Currently, the MACPS includes representatives from 12 car safety seat manufacturers (Britax Child Safety, Inc., BubbleBum, Chicco, Clek, Diono, Dorel Juvenile, Evenflo, Graco Children's Products, IMMI, Orbit Baby, Safe Traffic System and UPPAbaby) and two vehicle manufacturers (American Honda Motor Company and Volkswagen Group of America).

Together, the MACPS members have issued harmonized statements addressing ten topics on proper car seat and booster seat use. Often, the harmonized statements provide clarification on topics where conflicting information has been shared within the Child Passenger Safety community.

Examples of the harmonized statements include:

- Is it okay to gate-check or check my car safety seat as luggage when flying?

NOTE: MACPS encourages the use of car seats on planes. If the parent/caregiver makes the decision to gate or luggage check, then the statement regarding this applies.

- *Answer: Car seats are designed to withstand most motor vehicle crash forces. In general, the MACPS does not consider a gate-checked car seat or a car seat that is checked as luggage to be one that has experience forces equivalent to a motor vehicle crash. Once the destination is reached, it is recommended to inspect the car seat to make certain no visual damage has occurred and all aspects of the car seat function properly. (August 2012)*

- Can you switch a retractor into the ALR mode when using a belt-positioning booster?

- *Answer: If the vehicle manufacturer permits, the MACPS does not prohibit using the vehicle retractor in the locked mode with a belt-positioning booster. (October 2012)*

Are you interested in reviewing more of the "MACPS Statements for CPS Technicians and Instructors"? You can find it at www.saferideneews.com under the Quick Link: Mfrs. Alliance for CPS.

Submitted by Tammy Franks, National CPS Board, CPS Advocate, Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel, (Portland, Ore.)

Auditor Alcove: Here I Go Again

It is almost time for me to recertify again, and I have been receiving reminder emails so I don't forget! Reminder emails are sent to the email address listed on your profile, so it is important to make sure that your contact information stays current.

The certification cycle of a CPST is two years. No matter when you pay the fee, your Certification dates stay the same.

You can begin earning CEUs and completing the other requirements as soon as your cycle starts - you do not need to wait. It takes time to complete the requirements, so you should start sooner rather than later to avoid running out of time. Once all of the requirements have been completed, you can process your recertification up to four months before your cycle end date.

My certification cycle is 5/8/14 - 5/7/16, which means I could have processed my recertification any time after 1/7/16. Had I done that, my dates would not have changed. Any activities completed between then and 5/7/16 would not be applied to my next cycle, but any knowledge I learn or experience I gain during that period is still mine to keep!

If you have an idea or suggestion on how to promote recertification, please share it with us. If you have any questions about CEUs, what documentation is required, or [audits](#), please e-mail cpsaudit@safekids.org.

Submitted by Jami Eklund, Safe Kids Worldwide (Massillon, Ohio)

Featured FAQ: When Is the Earliest I Can Recertify?

You can finish and pay the fee up to four months in advance of your certification expiration date. You will NOT lose any time - your dates stay the same. 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.

Be sure the official contact information in your online profile is up to date so you'll get the reminders and notices.

Since you don't lose any certification time and you have two years to acquire your six CEUs, it is strongly encouraged that you recertify early so you don't risk forgetting and letting your certification expire.

Read the FAQ [online](#).

Just for Instructors: New Twist on an Old Idea

Every once in a while, an idea that is too good to ignore surfaces in a certification class. Instructor Candidate Rebecca Lowe-Johnson in Broward County, Fla. engaged the class in a creative way in March by using the Progress Check questions as a pre-test to each of her modules. The students engaged more quickly than when having the objectives read to them. The Progress Check questions basically parallel the objectives. Hesitant and tentative in the beginning, students quietly attempted to answer questions. By the end of the chapter, they called out the responses. They knew what to look for while she instructed.

We have learned through time that adults do not seem to take seriously the challenge of an "open book" quiz and may miss multiple questions on the exam. Many seem hesitant and confused about how to look up answers during the open book quizzes. We suggest taking any one of the questions generated in the module (not a test question) and throwing it out to the class to look up the answer in the manual so they are more comfortable using it as a reference. Tell them this is how the quizzes work. You can create your own questions, making sure they parallel the module. Be careful not to compromise the testing process.

Submitted by Lorrie Walker, Safe Kids Worldwide (Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

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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](#).

Conferences

Conferences (includes pre-conference dates)

- [KIDZ IN MOTION \(KIM\) Conference](#)
Location: Orlando, Fla.
Dates: August 10 - 13, 2016

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](#)

- **Car Seat Manufacturer Update: GB North America: Evenflo, GB, Urbini**
Thursday, April 28, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
[Register now](#)
- **Car Seat Manufacturer Update: Orbit and Kiddy**
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
[Register now](#)
- **Beyond Inspections: CPS Technicians Teaching Classes** (**Not eligible for CPS CEUs. May be used for Community Education requirement.)
Thursday, June 23, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
[Register now](#)

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

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

Training Seat

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 and 5" wheels for easy transport. For more information, email customerservice@anyconcept.com or 301-960-4426 and check out the [flier](#).

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Ideas and Article Submissions

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

Send your ideas and submissions to kchausmer@safekids.org

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

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

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