
CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Professionals



TOP NEWS

ALERT: Stop Spinning

If you are in your CPS online profile and the page won't load (spinning circle), it is probably because you are using Internet Explorer for the browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with some web pages because it is no longer supported/updated.

The solution is to use a different browser such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Edge.

Safe Kids Worldwide Team Cert is Here to Help!

The Safe Kids team is available to help you with recertification, course management, CEU audits and any other certification-related issues.

- Technical content and questions, understanding Certification policies and procedures, contact Cass Herring at certadvisor@safekids.org
 - Recertification, managing a course, or paying a fee (roster issues), contact Wardell Bonner at cpscercert@safekids.org, or 202-875-6330
 - Pre-approvals for CEUs, technician proxy applications, instructor candidacy applications, Nursing Continuing Education credits, contact Stephanie Heitsch at sheitsch@safekids.org
 - General certification questions or feedback, contact Shushanna Mignott at smignott@safekids.org
 - Audit questions, contact Debbie Landoskey at cpsaudit@safekids.org
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Update Your Records

Safe Kids Cert has a new mailing address. Make sure you update your records!

**Safe Kids Worldwide
CPS Certification
940 Thayer Ave, #8326
Silver Spring, MD 20907**

Dorel Car Seat Brands (Safety 1st, Cosco, Maxi Cosi) New Instruction

Dorel car seat brands (Safety 1st, Cosco, Maxi Cosi) are phasing in a new instruction for booster seats and booster modes of their multimodal car seats:

“Do not use the booster seat if your child’s head is less than 5 inches below the roof of the car.”

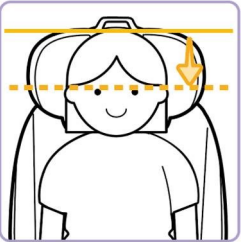


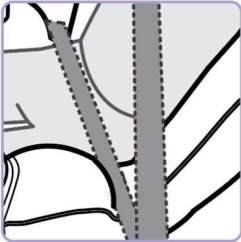
This proactive addition of required head clearance is to reduce the potential for child head injuries, especially in rollover crashes. While rollovers do not occur as frequently as other crash types (frontal, near-side, far-side, rear), they are statistically the most injurious of all crash types.

Considerations for this instruction’s development include:

- Variable vehicle seat to ceiling heights in different vehicle models and seating positions
- Variance in seated heights of children
- Differences in seating surface heights in both booster seats and booster modes
- Average roof crush in rollover crashes
- Potential for additional excursion away from seat bight while experiencing crash forces

Since CPSTs and other advocates are expected to use instructions during car seat inspections, Dorel recommends that they make caregivers aware of this new instruction when it is present. In cases when the seat belt alone does not fit the child correctly but the 5-inch minimum roof clearance is not met, options include trying a different seating position or selecting a booster with a lower profile seating surface.

Booster Seat Child Fit

			
Head Position	Car Position	Shoulder Belt Position	Lap Belt Position
<p>The tops of your child's ears should never be above the top of the booster seat's headrest.</p>	<p>DO NOT use the booster seat if your child's head is less than 5 in (12.7 cm) below the roof of the car. Consult your vehicle manual for proper seatbelt usage.</p>	<p>The shoulder belt should lay snugly across the center of your child's shoulder and across their chest.</p>	<p>The lap belt should lay snugly across your child's hips; not on their stomach.</p>

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Recertification Alternatives for COVID Phase Out Announced

The recertification alternatives for technicians and instructors will no longer be available after January 1st, 2023. You may still utilize those alternatives for recertification until that point. Currently CPST/Is may submit additional CEU's in place of reviewed seat checks and CPSTIs can submit additional Community Education hours in place of teaching hours. See the Policy Addendum here [Recertification Alternatives for COVID](#). All alternatives must be entered into your certification profile prior to January 1st, 2023, to receive credit. We will be holding a few short webinars in August and November to answer any questions you may have related to this change. Information related to the webinars and details about the change will be sent to all certified technicians and instructors via email.

Submitted by Cass Herring, Director of Child Occupant Protection, Safe Kids Worldwide.
(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Reminder of the Renewal Testing Course

You may be aware of expired technicians who would like to renew their certification in a one-day course, versus the full Certification Course. It is always a great idea for technicians who have expired several years ago to take the Certification Course over, but if you have those who have kept up with their knowledge in Child Passenger Safety, this is a great option.

This class is designed to renew the certification for expired technicians who wish to become CPS technicians again. After successfully completing this course, students will be recertified and able to provide both individual and group CPS education. The course is not an update/refresher class. There is no scheduled time for review--just testing. It is for expired CPS technicians who have maintained their child passenger safety knowledge and their hands-on skills but who, for one reason or another, allowed their certifications to expire. It is expected that students attempting to renew their certifications have stayed involved in CPS programs and activities and have monitored changes in the field by reading technical updates, attending other CPS classes, and working with non-expired technicians.

The Renewal Testing Course includes a written test and skills testing, including a checkup event. A minimum score of 84 percent is required to pass the written test. Any former technician who does not pass the Renewal Testing Course is encouraged to take the full Certification Course, rather than taking it again.

If you have expired technicians interested, please have them use their assigned username and password that they used when they became a CPS technician. This is important because if they log in as a "new user," the system will not show their certification history. To register for a Renewal Testing Course, their status must say "Expired." If the log in and their status shows "Contact," they have made a duplicate profile and should contact Safe Kids CPS Certification for assistance.

Submitted by Stephanie Heitsch, Certification Associate, Safe Kids Worldwide. (Port Orange, Florida)

Auditor's Corner

Ensure Your Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Requirements Count Towards your Recertification

Important Policy Reminder: Page R-7 [National Child Passenger Safety Certification Policies & Procedures Manual](#)

*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. Sessions, including online/webinars, **should be taken one time** since content doesn't change drastically enough. The idea is that technicians receive new information.*

CEU sessions may be reviewed as many times as you would like as a refresher but duplication of CEUs cannot be awarded towards your recertification.

Submitted by Debbie Landoskey, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide. (Ormond Beach, Florida)

CEU AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCES

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

NCPSB Webinar Series

Registration for each webinar can be found at https://go.pardot.com/e/957122/ecertification--board-webinars/5j8kn/138543433?h=d49aaTmAKFEghilhC3Oxehh155KU31zCYmzC_04cmz4

Tuesday, July 19 (2-3 p.m. ET): Oh, the Things You'll See! Applying Good, Better, Best for Children with Special Needs at Car Seat Checks.

Almost 20% of children in the U.S. have a special healthcare need, which can impact their safe vehicle travel. During this session, we'll review challenges these additional needs can present, discuss solutions for Good, Better, Best child passenger safety options and provide resources available when working with families.

Presenters: Dr. Marilyn Bull, MD, NCPSB AAP Representative and Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health; and Marsha French, MPH, MCHES, National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Tuesday, Aug. 16 (2-3 p.m. ET): 15-Passenger Vans: What You Need to Know Before You Go

15-passenger vans differ from passenger vehicles in that they are higher, wider and longer. Join the NCPSB to learn how to minimize risks through proper loading, passenger safety, operation and maintenance.

Presenters: Pending.

National CPS Week Special (1.5 CEUs)

Tuesday, Sept. 20 (2-3:30 p.m. ET): Tech Guide 2.0 – A Deeper Dive into the “Why”.

As a technician or instructor have you ever wondered about the “why” behind some of the CPS best practices you learned or teach in class? Are you looking for tips for answering caregivers’ questions related to side air bags or other technology? If so, join us for this session presented by the National Child Passenger Safety Board’s Vehicle and Car Seat Manufacturer Representatives who will take you inside the industry to give you a better understanding of the driving forces behind many recommendations and ideas for explaining these concepts to caregivers.

Presenters: Daniella Brown, Child Restraint Manufacturer Representative, National Child Passenger Safety Board; and Jennifer Pelky, Vehicle Manufacturer Representative, National Child Passenger Safety Board.

Community Education

Tuesday, June 21 (2-3 p.m. ET): Measuring and Communicating CPS Program Effectiveness

Struggling with measuring and communicating your program impact and effectiveness? Learn how to write measurable, objective goals to support program planning, grant applications, agency reporting and more.

Presenter: Amy Artuso, Senior Program Manager, National Safety Council and Past Member, National Child Passenger Safety Board.
NCPSB Webinar Series

Upcoming Safe Kids Webinars

Safe Kids is now using Zoom webinars. If you are not able to use Zoom or miss one, most webinars are recorded and posted on the CPS Board [website](#).

- Troubleshoot to avoid problems, run a [system check](#).
- [Can I use my smartphone?](#)
- [Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group?](#)

Diving in to Britax Products; Get Your Questions Answered

Thursday, Aug 11, 2022

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET (1 CEU)

[Register Now](#)

More webinars coming soon! Updates posted on [Facebook](#).

FOR INSTRUCTORS

Being an Instructor Candidate's Mentor is a Commitment, are you Prepared?

Mentoring an Instructor Candidate (IC) is so much more than showing up on that first day of class to evaluate their technical, communication and overall teaching abilities. Preparation starts months prior to the first day of class and is a big commitment and responsibility.

To begin, establish a relationship with your IC to ensure there is an open two-way communication policy, which builds trust. The initial meeting should be to discuss the IC evaluation process and your expectations of them as well as hearing what their expectations are for you as their mentor.

So, what should your goal be as an Instructor Mentor? To empower an IC to become the best instructor they can be, by remembering there are many ways to effectively deliver the curriculum without mimicking the way you may have been teaching it for years. Mentors should always be supportive and encouraging but still balance it with providing candid and constructive feedback.

Ensuring the IC is ready to take on the challenge of teaching the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Course by evaluating their technical and communication skills. Using hands-on seat installation exercises with discussion is an easy way to initially assess their technical and communication skills.

A course agenda should be provided to the IC with their detailed assignments. Create an agreed upon prep meeting schedule and provide any assignments they will be expected to complete. As a reminder, ICs are required to:

- Lecture for at least five hours, divided among at least three modules
- Set up at least one hands-on exercise (classroom and/or vehicle)
- Lead at least one hands-on exercise
- Participate fully in the course

During the first prep meeting, reviewing the entire curriculum and discussing the flow of lectures, activities and any set-up is recommended. Over the course of several meetings discuss various ways to prepare lecture notes and how to deliver the module information effectively. These meetings should lead up to the IC practice teaching at least two modules using the actual Power Point presentations. Get the ICs opinion on how they did during the presentation, identifying what they did well and what improvements they may still need to make. This will help develop their independent thinking skills and gives them the ability to adapt their teaching as needed.

During the course, the mentor should remember they are to monitor all activities of their IC. An example is, if instructors are assigned to various vehicles for either practice or skills activities, the mentor cannot be assigned a different vehicle than the IC. During skills evaluations, the IC may grade the activity under the direct supervision of their mentor, who must sign behind the IC on the skills evaluation form. Throughout module lectures the mentor should follow along in the instructor guide to ensure the IC is providing accurate information and does not miss any important information. Make notes of specific examples the IC did well and area needing improvement for the evaluation form. Develop an understanding with the IC that if they get stuck, they can simply ask if anyone on the instructor team has anything else they wish to add to the discussion. This allows the students to get the information without embarrassing the IC. This should be discussed with the teaching team during the mandatory pre-course instructors meeting. After each module meet with the IC briefly to provide constructive feedback. At the end of each day, a thorough discussion should occur to evaluate the day, answer questions, and plan for the following day. At every point during the course, the instructor candidate should have clear understanding of his or her progress and evaluation. It should never be a surprise at the end of the course that they failed.

Remember, by taking the time before the course to help the IC become comfortable with the

curriculum by way of practicing and answering questions, will ensure the IC is fully prepared to be an integral member of the teaching team.

Resources:

- Mentor and Instructor Candidate [Guide](#)
- National Child Passenger Safety Certification Policies and Procedures [Manual](#)

Submitted by Debbie Landoskey, Quality Assurance Specialist, Safe Kids Worldwide. (Ormond Beach, Florida)

Something to Remember...

How many of us use the internet – raise your hands – oh, ALL of us? GREAT!! The internet can be a great source of information, entertainment, handling work-related duties, etc. The internet also hosts many social media platforms we access – and this is where we may need to pause a moment when our fingers are flying over the keyboards – both the hardware and software versions.

Say we, as a CPST or CPSTI, see something on a social media platform that we may not agree with, like, or think is incorrect information. What's the first thing we do? Blast off our opinion online? Pile on to the comment threads? Quite often this is the case. However – what should we do? ([Refer to the CPST Code of Conduct](#)) How about FIRST contact the original poster, the manufacturer, the organization representative, etc., OFFLINE to ask for clarifying/background information?

Take this example: an influencer or distributor of a CPS product posts a video or photos online and you feel that information is either incorrect or mistakenly shows a perceived misuse. Also – the media account happens to be an international account for a company that makes products for all of their customers – international and in the U.S. Realize that the marketing division of the U.S. company isn't the same one as the marketing division for the individual international companies branded for the company. Remember...it is called the WORLDWIDE WEB for a reason and the U.S. marketing teams do not see/approve all content posted to one of their international companies' social media – and especially not posts from every retailer in every country.

So, what should you do in this situation? Take screen shots, copy links to stories, etc., and send these in an email or private message to either the U.S. CPS advocate or the customer service reps for the company and ask them if they would look into the situation for further action. The CPS advocates many times have said they would prefer receiving emails or private communications about an issue than to have to deal with things in a public forum over social media. Let's help them by complying with this request and allow them the time to respond to, and handle, an issue.

One last quick reminder: time zones. Respect the differences in times and remember that customer service departments (and even the CPS Advocates) are not "online" 24/7. They are human and have families/lives of their own, take vacations, etc., so give them space to have a life outside of work.

Submitted by: Beth Warren, CPSTI, Austin, TX

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

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Phone: 202-875-6330

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 CPScert@safekids.org.

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

[Policies and
Procedures Manual](#)

[CPS Technician Code
of Conduct](#)

[Contact Us for
Assistance](#)

NATIONAL
CHILD
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A Program of
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[National CPS Certification Training](#) is a program of [Safe Kids Worldwide](#), which is the certifying body and responsible for managing all aspects of the program.

Program Partners



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