

CPS Express

E-News for Child Passenger Safety Technicians

TOP NEWS

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FOR INSTRUCTORS



MAY/JUNE 2017

Recertification

Top News

Don't Let Perfection be the Enemy of Good

As CPS Techs, we promote best practices for safety, such as going to the max height/weight limits before transitioning to the next restraint. The caregiver makes the final decisions about how to travel. As long as they are using their car seat correctly according to the manufacturer (such as a 45-pound kid who uses a booster, the belts fit correctly and they can stay in position), we are really happy they are protecting their kids on the road. The manufacturer always has the final say on how to use their product.

Their child is protected by an appropriate car seat, correctly used, in the back seat. Don't let perfection be the enemy of good.

>> [CPST Code of Conduct](#)

Submitted by the National Child Passenger Safety Board (Reprint from June 2015 CPS Express)

Pretensioning Plate or Lock-Off?

Lock-offs are fairly common these days and can be very helpful for caregivers to get a snug car seat installation with the vehicle belt. A pretensioning plate (could be called something else in the manuals) may look like a lock-off, but it requires that you lock the belt. You can't look at something and tell if it is a pretensioning plate or a lock-off.

Lock-offs do not require locking the belt and they come in a variety of designs. Examples include the UPPAbaby Mesa, Graco Snug Ride Snug Lock series, Evenflo Lite Max and Britax ClickTight line. Be wary! There are pretensioning plates (or doors) that may look like lock-offs but are not. Pretensioning doors take the slack out of the seat belt and then require using the retractor, locking latch plate or a locking clip to "lock" the car seat. Examples include the Nuna Rava and the Cybex Aton 2.

Never assume that because it looks like a lock-off, the belt does not have to be locked. It could be a pretensioning plate. Always consult the car seat manual to confirm if it is a lock-off or a pretensioning plate. As new car seat models come to market, learn about them through webinars and manufacturer instructions and websites – videos are often available and provide excellent guidance. When you have questions, call the manufacturer's customer service number to confirm proper use and installation of their seat.

Alert: The latest SafetyBeltSafe USA Newsletter (Volume 38, #2), summary on the Texas C.O.A.S.T. Conference, incorrectly states that the UPPAbaby MESA lock-off is not a replacement for locking the belt. The UPPAbaby MESA lock-off is a true lock-off. It is not necessary to lock the belt by switching the retractor. This is clearly stated in the Mesa instructions. If there are any further questions, please contact [Daniella Brown](#), the UPPAbaby Safety Advocate.

Submitted by Daniella Brown, UPPAbaby Safety Advocate, (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.)

Technical Update Tips: CEU versus Non-CEU

Are you putting together a technical update and want to provide a variety of CEU and non-CEU sessions? Providing [CEU-eligible sessions](#) is a great way to support techs, but what about the sessions that provide wonderful information but do not provide new CPS technical content? Offering sessions on how to reach at-risk communities or how to be a better educator are valuable. These sessions can be provided to meet the [Community Education](#) recertification requirement.

Sometimes techs will attend CEU session even if they would prefer to attend another session, so consider not having CPS sessions offered at the same time as non-CEU sessions. You could arrange the

agenda so the CPS CEU sessions are offered as plenaries. If you are offering smaller sessions, offer CEU sessions at the same time.

FAQ: [What are some examples of acceptable and unacceptable CPS CEU content?](#)

More "I'm a Tech" FAQs are [online](#).

For resources such as the CEU preapproval request form and sample agendas, look towards the bottom of this page [on the Certification web site](#).

To brainstorm, chat about organizing your update session, or for CEU preapproval questions, contact [Kim](#).

New NHTSA Videos

As technicians, we all want to do the right thing to keep children safe and sound. That's why it's important to help parents to stay up to date with car seat safety information, like the tips found in the fun new video series "The Wide World of Car Seats," from the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The videos cover car seat selection and installation in a fun and entertaining way.

Please [take a look](#) at them and share with consumers.

Submitted by Elizabeth Nilsson, NHTSA (Washington, D.C.)

Child Passenger Safety Legislative Update

As CPS Technicians, many of you are following with great interest legislative activity related to child passenger safety. Though there are many more, here are a few legislative highlights:

- In **North Dakota**, Governor Doug Burgum signed a bill requiring kids to stay in booster seats up to age 8.
- A bill to provide civil immunity to child passenger safety technicians has been introduced in **Kansas**.
- **Massachusetts** is considering bills to require children to be placed in a rear facing position up to age 2 (and other criteria) as well as a bill to require children to sit in the rear seat of a car up to age 13.
- An **Oregon** bill to require children to be placed in a rear facing seat up to age 2 passed the House.
- A legislator in **Nebraska** has introduced a bill to require a child to be rear-facing up to age 2 and to be in a booster seat up to age 8. Another

legislator in the state introduced a bill to turn a CPS violation into a primary offense.

- **Arkansas** passed the first bill to require safety belts in school buses in the aftermath of the Chattanooga, Tenn. tragedy which took six young lives. Advocates in **Tennessee** are making progress on a school bus safety belt bill.
- **North Carolina, Arkansas and New Jersey** have advanced bills allowing cameras on the sides of school buses to catch school bus passers.
- In **Arizona**, a bill to provide immunity to Good Samaritans who act to rescue children in hot cars has passed both chambers of the legislature.

To stay updated, you can visit the Safe Kids Worldwide [Legislation Tracker](#). It is updated every two weeks with the latest information. Follow the Safe Kids Policy department on Twitter: [@SKWAdvocate](#).

Submitted by Tony Green, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, DC)

Apply to be on the National CPS 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:

- **Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Advocate** - Candidate will serve on the Board as an individual - not representing his/her employer. CPS Technician or Instructor certification is required. (One open position)
- **Injury Prevention - Public Health** - Candidate must be involved in coordinating injury prevention programs within the public health community. Candidate should have a background in public health or work for a public health entity. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred. (One position)
- **Public Safety - Fire / EMS** - Candidate must be an active or retired fire or EMS professional. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred (One open position)

- **Public Safety - Law Enforcement** - Candidate must be an active or retired law enforcement professional. A CPS Technician or Instructor is preferred. (One position)

Selected applicants will serve a three-year term beginning January 2018.

The Board Membership Application is found online. Applications will be accepted until Friday, June 19, 2017 (5 p.m. PDT). For more information on how to apply or to download the 2017 online application, visit the [CPS Board](#) website.

Submitted by Dina Burstein, Membership Committee Chair, National CPS Board
(Providence, RI)

Get Carded

Technicians work hard to become and stay CPS-certified. Be ready to show your current CPST wallet card (physical or a photo/image). You can print one up any time through your online profile by clicking on “Click Here for Your Wallet Card/Certificate (pdf)”. Here’s [how](#) to get your wallet card.



#SlowDown for Global Road Safety Week

The [fourth UN Global Road Safety Week \(GRSW\)](#) will be held May 8-14, 2017 around the world with a special focus on managing speed. Stakeholders in the global road safety community will host events to draw attention to [speed as a leading risk factor](#) for road traffic crashes. Communities are encouraged to host [Slow Down Days](#) to increase awareness about the importance of slowing down and solutions for managing speed. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also developed a [toolkit on managing speed](#). The #SlowDown campaign for GRSW comes at a critical time, as there is a need to focus our efforts to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50 percent by 2020 according to the road safety target in the [Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Decade of Action for Road Safety](#). While low and middle income countries remain a focus since most road traffic injuries and fatalities occur in these countries, the United States must continue to keep road safety as a priority, as a [recent](#)

[report by the Governors Highway Safety Association](#) projects an 11 percent increase in pedestrian fatalities in 2016 compared to 2015.

Safe Kids Worldwide will participate in GRSW by supporting events around the world that will focus on the importance of managing speed in school zones to help keep our children safe. Events will be held in Atlanta, Ga.; Detroit, Mich.; Dallas, Tex.; Columbus, Ohio; and Shanghai, China. Safe Kids will also support the implementation of activities in the following countries: Argentina, Austria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United States, Uruguay and Vietnam. There are 33 Child Passenger Safety Certification Courses scheduled during GRSW.

Submitted by Shushanna Mignott, Safe Kids Worldwide (Washington, DC)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Reports

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), an office of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is responsible providing a wide range of analytical and statistical support to NHTSA and the highway safety community at large.

2015 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet Children

This fact sheet contains information on fatal motor vehicle crashes and fatalities, based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) for children 14 years old and younger. In 2015, there were 61 million children in the United States (19 percent of the total U.S. population). Of the 35,092 motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States, 1,132 (3 percent) were children. On average, 3 children were killed and an estimated 487 children were injured every day in traffic crashes in 2015.

Read the [Report](#).

Expired Tech Survey-Lessons Learned

Every other January, the Certification Program conducts a survey of technicians whose certification expired in the previous year. This survey is sent to expired techs with a valid email address in their profile to see what we may learn from the comments of those who did not choose to recertify. Of the 7,890 techs who expired in 2016, there were 943 who responded (a 12 percent response rate), which was significantly higher than the 397 survey responses received in 2014. The 2016 responses came from all 50 states, D.C., Guam, Israel, and Qatar.

As in previous surveys, respondents indicated that the primary reason for not recertifying was because of a job change (one-third, 32 percent), followed by not being able to attend a check up to meet the seat check requirement (one-quarter, 25 percent). The third reason was not being able to find an instructor or tech proxy to observe their skills for seat sign-offs (23 percent).

Although we know that recertifying is a technician's responsibility, perhaps as instructors we can take an opportunity during our courses to address these points. Capable and dedicated techs who change jobs or may be promoted within an agency could suggest that the agency have additional staff trained - to carry the torch, if you will. You could also periodically check with agency techs on how they are being

supported by their agency. It might be that a quarterly report of the techs activities with a few photos or news articles may let the agency know that the community values their time and service.

Within the seat check requirement, meeting with an instructor or tech proxy (23 percent) or participating in a seat check (25 percent) have also been frequent reasons why techs have not recertified. Assisting families while helping them make the best choices for safely traveling is why most of us became CPSTs. This is also a great way to build upon the technical and communication skills we learned in our course. When recruiting technician candidates for your courses, be sure they understand the expectation of working/volunteering at community events and that they should have their agency's support for this commitment. We need to make sure technicians are aware of the five seat check requirement and [how to find an instructor or tech proxy](#) in their area. If you provide a class folder, consider including information on recertification and/or providing links to these resources in the congratulatory letter following the course. Make sure that techs provide an accurate email so you can reach out to them when checkup events with and without instructors. Instructors are often very busy at these events and may not be able to observe all five seat requirements. Let techs know what your requirements for seat sign-offs are in follow up emails and tech updates. Here is a sample of what an instructor is looking for: [Seat Sign-Off Checklist](#).

Several respondents shared that they didn't feel welcome at events because of a "CPS Clique". A clique is a small group of people with shared interests who spend time together and do not readily allow others to join them. If you are aware of cliques in your area, or are even a part of one, know that good CPS leaders should stress that technicians come from many backgrounds and it is in the diverse thoughts of all technicians that everyone's input is important. This will send a subtle message that these cliques are not always helpful in advancing the field of child passenger safety. When you know that new technicians are coming to their first event, welcome them and perhaps pair them up with an experienced tech who will encourage them to build upon their skills. Thank them and their agency and invite them to future events.

The CEU requirement for recertification can be completed in a variety of ways. Provide the [How to Get CEUs](#) handout in their folder and the link in their follow up emails. You don't need to travel for in-person tech updates and you don't need to be an instructor to provide a tech update. Check out the [CPS Board CEU Toolkit](#), it has everything from tips, sample agendas, flyers, and evaluations.

Another requirement that needs to be met is [Community Education](#) of which there are three options: participate in a two-hour seat checkup event, provide at least four hours of community education to people who are not CPS technicians, or attend a one hour (minimum) educational session(s), live or online.

As part of ongoing quality assurance, you may be randomly selected for [a CEU audit](#). You can monitor your audit status in your online profile. Keep proof of CEU content and completion handy for three months after you recertify. You may want to consider scanning your CEU materials and saving them to a PDF file to make it easier to send them to the [auditor](#) as proof of your CEUs. For more information, including additional examples and audit requirements, please refer to our [Policies and Procedures Manual](#) and look under Recertification/Preregistration Requirements.

Check out: [Recertification Requirements](#) to learn or refresh yourself.

Review the [2016 Expired Tech Survey summary](#).

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

Allowance: Not Just for Daily Chores

CEUs have been part of the recertification requirement for about ten years now. When the changes were made, there were certain allowances put into place to make the transition easier for techs. One of those was using the observation of a certification course. Once the curriculum changes became commonplace, that CEU category was removed and was no longer an option. Another allowance was the ability to use the special needs training for CEUs even if the course was not completed during the cycle for which you were applying it. This was offered primarily for techs who took the Riley Safe Transportation for All Children (AKA CPS and Special Health Care Needs) course prior to the CEU requirements. With the large number of available CEUs in the varying categories, this allowance has been removed and the [Policies & Procedures Manual](#) has been updated.

Going forward, any CEUs that are applied to a cycle must have been completed during that cycle. It is important to know your cycle dates to make sure that you earn enough CEUs and get your recertification completed on time. For those who recertify early (you can complete recertification up to four months early without changing your cycle dates), there will be a “dead space” during which any CEUs earned can’t be applied to your recertification. This does not mean that you should avoid any learning opportunities during that time, though!

Take a minute to log in to your profile to check your cycle dates. While you are in there, make sure all your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. [Print or save your CPS Technician wallet card](#). If you are not sure of your username and/or password, use the [Forgot Your Password](#) link at the [log in page](#) or call customer service to have it emailed to you: 877-366-8154.

Read more about:

- [CEU categories](#)
- [CEU Tips and Resources](#)
- [Policies & Procedures](#)

FAQ: [What should I do if I forgot my log-in information?](#)

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

CEU Resources

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

[KIDZ IN MOTION](#)

Denver, Colo.

August 31 – September 2, 2017

[Maine CPS Conference](#)

South Portland, Maine

September 17 – September 19, 2017

Online Courses

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

Upcoming Webinars

- Troubleshoot to avoid problems: [Test your connection now](#)
- [Can I get credit for watching a webinar with a group?](#)
- [Can I use my smartphone?](#)

LATCH 2017 What the Curbside Tech Needs to Know

Tuesday, May 18, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

Manufacturer Update: Graco

Thursday, June 15, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

[Register now](#)

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

** Not eligible for CPS CEUs but is eligible for the Community Education requirement

For Instructors

What is the minimum number of instructors for a course?

The absolute minimum number of instructors to provide a Certification or Renewal Testing Course is two, even if there are fewer than five participants. Putting together a course takes a great deal of work and that is just the beginning, before the course even starts. Once the course is under way, it can turn into a three-ring circus! In addition to the one instructor lecturing and managing the classroom, others are checking available vehicles, preparing for hands on activities, setting up skills, etc. Even with more than two instructors, it can be extremely challenging to get everything done efficiently. To help provide

a smooth course with fewer instructors, consider using a tech assistant(s) to help with the “behind the scenes” work. Having the extra set(s) of hands available helps immensely!

Two instructors should be scheduled for the entire time the course is being conducted; having a second instructor for only part of the course does not meet the minimum requirement. This minimum is meant to provide a richer course experience for the participants. [In special cases, the lead instructor \(LI\) may submit a written appeal to waive this requirement.](#)

If you ever have any questions about course administration, please contact Safe Kids at 202-662-0639 or email [Kerry](#).

CPST Month is Finally Here

Happy CPS Technician Month! We are so honored to work with dedicated instructor teams who pull together and offer courses across the country.

If you were a Lead Instructor for a May Certification course, you will get a packet with thank you pins for your instructor team. If there were any tech assistants on the team, send us an [email](#) letting us know as soon as the course is finalized and they will get a pin, too.

How did we do? Follow us 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.

All submissions may be edited for content and length.

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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.

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