



# CPST Recertification

Child Passenger Safety Technician certification expires after two years. Technicians and instructors are required to successfully complete the recertification process before current certification expires. Check your online profile at [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org) if you are not sure when your certification expires.

**To recertify, meet the following requirements and record the activities in your online profile.**

- ❑ Conduct all [five different types of instructor- or technician proxy-approved seat checks](#).
- ❑ Participate in at least one [community education](#) (checkups, community workshop, educational session).
- ❑ Earn at least six [continuing education units \(CEUs\)](#).

As part of ongoing quality assurance, you may be randomly selected for a [CEU audit](#). Keep proof of content and completion of CEUs handy for three months after you recertify. You can monitor your audit status in your online profile.

- ❑ If you are an instructor, [complete 20 Certification/Certification Renewal Testing Course teaching hours](#). At least 10 of the 20 hours must be earned through lecturing or hands-on teaching of the full Certification Course. The other 10 may be earned from mentoring or teaching the Certification Renewal Testing Course.
- ❑ Pay the recertification fee. The recertification fee is \$55 for technicians and instructor candidates and \$60 for instructors. A detailed fee table is available on the under [Resources-FAQs/Fees](#).

Step-by-step instructions are available on our website under [Resources-FAQs](#). Open the How To page.

**You must complete all recertification requirements, including paying the recertification fee, on or before the expiration date of your current certification.**

For more information, visit [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org)

NATIONAL  
CHILD  
PASSENGER  
SAFETY  
CERTIFICATION

A Program of  
Safe Kids Worldwide



## Class is over! Now what?

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- ✓ **Go to the CPS Certification Web site** (<http://cert.safekids.org>) and log into your CPS online profile to print up a wallet card, update your contact information, and enter information needed for recertification.
- ✓ If you do not have your **username or password**, contact CPS Customer Service at 877-366-8154 or [cpscert@safekids.org](mailto:cpscert@safekids.org).

### Get out there!

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#### Reminders

- Do NOT go beyond what you have learned
- It is better to work with a partner with more experience when possible.
- Improve your know-how by working with skilled technicians
- Recruit new technicians
- Keep updated on new CPS changes.

#### Be Active and Educate Your Community

- Answer questions and make referrals
- Develop and provide community presentations
- Participate in health and safety fairs
- Provide current, culturally sensitive materials/information
- Set up an inspection station
- Hold a checkup event

### What do I need to do for recertification? Two general steps to successful recertification.

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1. Meet/Enter all pre-registration **requirements**, including:
  - Verified seat check activity (5 types)
  - Community event (one check up or community workshop)
  - Continuing education (6 CEUs)
  - If CPSTI, teaching hours (20 teaching hours)
2. **Pay** for recertification

**Don't put this off!** You can complete your recertification, including payment, up to four months prior to your certification cycle end date. Your dates stay the same so there is NO LOST TIME.

- **DETAILS ONLINE** at <http://cert.safekids.org>.
- **Step by step instructions (videos, PPTs and PDFs)** at <http://cert.safekids.org/ResourcesFAQs/Howto.aspx>

### Where do I go if I have certification-related questions?

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The answers to many of your questions regarding the certification program can be found at <http://cert.safekids.org>. Look in **Resources-FAQs** and the Policies & Procedures manual (just click on the button on the right side of the page). If you still can't find what you're looking for or have a specific question, please contact:

#### Safe Kids CPS Certification Customer Service

- Toll free: 877-366-8154 or by email ([cpscert@safekids.org](mailto:cpscert@safekids.org)).
- They can't answer CPS technical questions. Instead, reach out to a fellow tech or a member of the instructor team.

# CPST Recertification Worksheet

This worksheet is a tool to guide CPSTs through the recertification process that must be completed every two years. **Do not submit this form to Safe Kids.** File it along with your other certification records.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tech #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your CPST Profile:** To recertify, the information collected on this form must be entered into your CPST profile. Access your profile by going to <http://cert.safekids.org>, clicking on LOG IN, and logging in with your *previously assigned* username and password. (If you don't recall this information, call 202-875-6330 or use the [Forgot Your Password](#) link.)  
**Step-by-step instructions for logging activity (with screen shots):** <https://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/how-to>

## Seat Checks

During each 2-year cycle, CPSTs must conduct the following 5 types of seat check education while being observed by a currently certified instructor or technician proxy. After completion of each type, enter it in your CPST profile as soon as possible. This table will help you keep track and be prepared with the details needed to log this activity.

Child Safety Seat Installation Type	Instructor Name (first and last)	Instructor Contact Info (optional, in case follow-up is needed)	Date Check Conducted
RF-only			
RF convertible			
FF w/ harness			
Booster seat			
LATCH*			

\* LATCH installation must involve a harnessed car seat that's used following manufacturer's instructions. The tether should be used, unless the manufacturer's instructions for LATCH can be properly followed without tethering (such as for installations in RF mode).

### How to complete seat check requirements:

Arrange for an instructor or tech proxy to observe each seat check. (If you are unsure whom to contact, ask your state coordinator: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/car-seats-and-booster-seats/training-contacts-state-child-passenger-safety>.) To pass, the instructor/tech proxy must be able to verify that you:

- Engage the caregiver in the education process, utilizing Learn, Practice, Explain principles.
- Allow the caregiver to ask as many questions as necessary and respond appropriately and correctly.
- Use a positive tone of voice.
- Encourage best practice, but accept "good" or "better."
- Provide positive feedback for what the caregiver has done correctly.
- Demonstrate knowledge of state laws and how the law relates to good, better, best.
- Present relevant information to caregiver.
- Look up car seat on up to date recall list.
- Refer to car seat labels, manuals, and/or TG, as needed.
- Correct misuse errors.

### How to log seat checks on your online profile: (To log into your profile, see above)

1. In your profile, scroll to the **Recertification** section and select **Add/Submit Seat Checks**.
2. Enter the seat check(s) using the information collected in the table above. The system will automatically notify the instructor/technician proxy via email. Receipt of this email is not required for the instructor to go online to review the seat check. If you are in a hurry, contact the instructor/tech proxy directly to let him/her know you have a seat check pending review.
3. To view the status of submitted seat checks, click **View Summary** in the **Recertification** section of your profile.

# Continuing Education Units

To recertify, CPST must complete 6 continuing education units (CEUs) during each two-year cycle.

**AUDIT WARNING:** The 6 CEUs required for recertification are subject to audit. Enter CEUs only if you can provide proof of completion. Keep a record of proof at least 4 months after recertifying. (CEU auditing is explained in detail at <https://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/auditing-ceus>.)

The following tables will help you keep track of activity and be prepared to log it into your CPST profile:

**CEU Category 1: In-Person Session/Workshop** *(All 6 CEUs may come from this category.)*

Start/End Date	Event ID # (if preapproved)	Location of Session/Workshop	Instructor Name	CEUs (min. 1 ea.)	Proof Saved?

**CEU Category 3\*: Teleconference** *(Only 5 of the required 6 CEUs may come from this category.)*

Start/End Date	Moderator Name	Name/Title of Call	CEUs (min. 1 ea.)	Proof Saved?

**CEU Category 4: Online/Web Session** *(All 6 CEUs may come from this category.)*

Start/End Date	Moderator/Host	Title of Session	URL of Session	CEUs (min. 1 ea.)	Proof Saved?

**CEU Category 5: Newsletters/Manuals/Journals** *(Only 3 of the required 6 CEUs may come from this category.)*

Start/End Date	Type (i.e., news-letter, quiz, article)	Activity Details	CEUs (min. 1 ea.)	Proof Saved?

\* **Note: Category 2**, auditing a CPS certification course, is no longer a valid CEU activity.

**How to complete CEU requirements:**

- Learn about CEU opportunities for each category: <https://cert.safekids.org/resources-fags/forms/recertification>
- Find online/web sessions that qualify for CEUs and Community Education: <https://admins/cms.cyzap.net/dzapps/dbzap.bin/apps/assess/custom?webid=skcms&pFile=onlineceus>

**How to add CEUs to your online profile:** (To log onto your profile, see top of page 1.)

1. On your profile, scroll to the **Recertification** section and select **Add/Review CEUs**.
2. Enter the CEU(s) using the information collected in the table above.
3. To view submitted CEUs, click **View Summary** in the **Recertification** section of your profile.

## Community Education

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CPSTs must complete at least one community education requirement every two years. This aspect of recertification shows that the CPST has engaged in education and/or learning in the CPS field.

The following table will help you keep track and be prepared to log this activity online:

Start/End Date	Type (checkup, training, ed. sess.)	Community Education Details	Proof Saved?

### How to complete the Community Education requirement:

Any one of the following qualifies as credit for community education.

- Participate in a check up event (two or more hours) with at least one other CPS technician at which you serve families. Use any standardized checklist to provide documentation of this activity.
- Provide at least four hours of community education to a non-CPST audience (e.g., parents, educators, kids, PTAs, law enforcement).
- Attended an educational session (one-hour minimum, live or online) about how to better reach community members, improve communication skills or build instructor development. (This education improves a CPST's practice but is of a less technical nature than a Category 1 or 4 CEU session.)
- Learn about Community Education options:  
<https://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/community-event>

### How to add Community Education to your online profile: (To log onto your profile, see page 1.)

1. On your profile, scroll to the **Recertification** section and select **Comm Education**.
2. Enter Community Education activity by entering the information collected in the table above.
3. To view submitted CEUs, click **View Summary** in the **Recertification** section of your profile.

## Teaching Hours (Instructors Only)

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Every two years, CPST-Instructors must complete 20 hours teaching the National CPS Technician Certification Training. Up to 10 hours may be from teaching the Certification Renewal Testing Course. A course's lead instructor is responsible for entering all instructor hours after a course is completed. All hours are officially tracked in your online profile under **Recertification/View Profile**. Log in to see your progress.

## Payment

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When all recertification activities have been completed (showing 100% under **Recertification/View Profile**), the final step for recertification is to pay. This option is not available until all activity is complete and it is within 4 months of your certification expiration date. Learn about payment options and other information regarding payment at <https://cert.safekids.org/i-am-a-tech/recertification/paying-fee>.

## **CPSTs, take this self-test to assess your technical knowledge.**

If you can't answer these correctly, consider attending an update/CEU course, participating in community events, or, if your certification is expired, retaking the full CPST certification course.

Instructors and technician proxies: This is a great discussion starter before working with any technician on their seat checks for recertification or the Renewal Testing Course.

### **Top 20 Technical Questions**

- 1.** How should the harness fit when using a rear-facing car seat (harness height, harness snugness, retainer clip location)?
- 2.** How should the harness fit when using a forward-facing car seat (harness height, harness snugness, retainer clip location)?
- 3.** What is a tether and when do you use it?
- 4.** What is the difference between a convertible and a combination car seat?
- 5.** Why are weight limits on car seats important when choosing whether to use lower anchors or a seat belt to install the car seat?
- 6.** Why aren't convertible car seats generally tethered in the rear-facing mode?
- 7.** Where do you find the weight limits to discontinue use of lower anchor connectors?
- 8.** When can you use a forward-facing only car seat or forward-facing convertible car seat reclined?
- 9.** On an all-in-one car seat, do you use the lower anchor connectors in the booster mode?
- 10.** When should a child be transitioned into a booster seat and then into a seat belt?
- 11.** Can a rear-facing car seat touch the front vehicle seat?
- 12.** Are pool noodles acceptable to be used in addition to the recline adjustment?
- 13.** What is a lock-off and how it is used?
- 14.** When using lower anchor connectors, can you install a car seat in the center, borrowing anchors from the outboard positions?
- 15.** How much of the car seat must be in contact with the vehicle seat?
- 16.** When do you need to use a locking clip and on what side of the car seat relative to the seat belt would you place a regular locking clip?
- 17.** What is the purpose of an anti-rebound bar or a load leg?
- 18.** How is a dynamic latch plate different than a sliding or locking latch plate?

19. What are the current NHTSA recommendations on car seat and booster seat use for children?
20. Explain what we mean by “good, better, best” when caregivers make choices about how their children ride.
  - \*Example: FF at 14 months and 25 pounds, provided there is no minimum FF weight or age on CR is good (acceptable).

## Child Passenger Safety – Websites 2-3-2026



National CPS Certification – Update profile and recertification activities

<http://cert.safekids.org/>



Safe Kids Nebraska

<http://www.safekidsnebraska.org/>

Calendar Seat check activities and more resources for techs.



Nebraska DOT Highway Safety Office-CPS

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/driving/cps/>



NHTSA Car Seats and Booster Seats

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>



Safe Kids Worldwide

<http://www.safekids.org/>



Child Passenger Safety Learning Portal

<https://carseateducation.org/> This website has CPS Courses for:

CPST CEU courses - General Education Courses

CPST Community Education Courses



Face Book NE CPST Resources

Nebraska CPTS-closed group

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/228660041075853>



Safe Ride News – Lots of Great CPST Resources school buses/recall lists and more click Resources drop down

[www.saferidenews.com](http://www.saferidenews.com)

<https://www.saferidenews.com/resources/tools-for-cpsts/> - recall list

## Child Passenger Safety – Websites

2-3-2026



Children's Hospital of Philadelphia – car seat Installation videos – Spanish and Arabic

<https://www.youtube.com/@ChildPassengerSafety>



CPS Board Resources for CPST

<https://www.cpsboard.org/technician-resources/>



CPS Board's YouTube channel: Crash Test Videos and more

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nrH3PU22mT7fgQn\\_uhtgg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nrH3PU22mT7fgQn_uhtgg)



American Academy of Pediatrics: Car Seat Information with link to manufactures and prices. (updated yearly)

<https://healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Information-for-Families.aspx>



National Digital Car Seat Check Form

<https://carseatcheckform.org/>



National Digital Car Seat Check Form Resources

<https://www.cpsboard.org/ndcf/>