



Tech Talk

Keeping Your Certification: New Requirements

Melba King, CPS Educator



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Safe Kids is changing the process by which technicians re-certify, effective January 1, 2007. To retain your certification, you must meet all requirements and successfully complete the process prior to your expiration date. The minimum requirements must be completed and logged in the system before your registration and payment for re-certification can be accepted. Requirements include the following:

- Five specific seat checks verified by a certified instructor;
- Participation in one community event (one check up or community workshop); and
- Six hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Generally, one hour of technical contact time counts as one CEU, with some exceptions. (Check www.cpsboard.org for

details.) To qualify for CEUs, the educational sessions must be within your current certification cycle and meet approved content areas. For example, if your certification cycle is 7/1/2005 through 6/30/2007, and the session you attended was in November of 2006, it would qualify. In this case, a session taken in June 2005 would not qualify.

Random audits will be conducted regularly, so documenting all CEUs and re-certification activities is very important. A personal re-certification log sheet is available at www.cpsboard.org to assist with recordkeeping.

For re-certifications registered and paid in 2007, there is no longer an online exam. However, during the transition period toward full implementation of these

new requirements, technicians whose expiration dates are January 1 through April 30, 2007, can register up to four months in advance of their expiration date and take the online exam. In order to take advantage of this option, all pre-registration requirements must have already been met and the online registration completed (including payment) by December 31, 2006.

Technicians whose expiration dates are on or after May 1, 2007, will be required to complete all new re-certification requirements – no exceptions. There is **NO GRACE PERIOD**. If you fail to meet these requirements on time, you are no longer eligible for re-certification and will have to retake the 32-hour technician training.

CEU Opportunities in Georgia

Melba King, CPS Educator

In order to assist Georgia's CPS Technicians in re-certifying, a new CPS Technician Workshop has been developed that will allow techs to earn at least four Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The workshop meets all requirements established by the National CPS Board and Safe Kids Worldwide because the content is designed to improve CPS knowledge through technical updates.

This workshop will be presented at each Technician Association Meeting beginning in January 2007. Each technician completing the workshop will receive a certificate of attendance as documentation for re-certification.

Technicians may register for any of these workshops by calling the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute at 800-342-9819.

2007 CPS Technician Workshops (for CEU Credits)

- Conyers January 18
- Valdosta January 23
- Albany January 24
- Columbus January 26
- Savannah February 20
- Acworth February 27
- Augusta March 15
- Cornelia April 3
- Warner Robins July 12
- Dalton July 17

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Saved by the Belt in the GTIPI Family

Katrina Pittman, Parent-Youth Outreach Specialist

On August 2, between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., my dad, Bobby Pittman, was on his way to the store. He is a diabetic. His blood sugar dropped to 32 (which is very low for a diabetic), and he passed out while driving. The Chevy TrailBlazer he was driving flipped three times, came to a stop by hitting a tree on the left rear passenger door, and remained upside down. A motorist behind him called for help.

As time progressed, we did not hear from my dad. We knew he had been gone long enough to be home but assumed he ran into some buddies at the store. At 9:15 p.m., the phone rang. A state trooper told my mother that my dad had been in a car crash and was on his way to the hospital by ambulance.

At this time, my family went into panic mode because we did not know

what had happened. When we were allowed to see my dad, he was wearing a neck brace, and his clothes were soiled with blood and glass. Fortunately, my dad had been wearing his seat belt and only suffered severe damage to his left hand. He was moaning and groaning in pain, but we were relieved that he was alive and responding to pain.

My dad is slowly regaining use of his left hand, and he is currently under-



Bobby Pittman's TrailBlazer

going therapy twice a week. In my opinion, without the grace of God and his seat belt, my dad might not be here today.

2006 Injury Prevention Survey Results

Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Educator

The Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute's annual survey reaped 230 responses from child passenger safety technicians and instructors across the state. We are delighted that the information received indicated 53 technicians have been certified for a period of 5 years or more. The primary professional affiliations were public health, law enforcement, EMT/fire, and the medical profession.

When asked about grant funding, responses showed that 47 percent were utilizing this opportunity. A breakdown of grant sources showed 36 percent receiving funds from the Department of Human Resources, 33 percent from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, and 31 percent from other sources such as Safe Kids, local businesses, insurance companies, hospitals, and private grants.

The survey responses indicated that the vast majority of technicians - 81 percent - received their training from the University of Georgia's Traffic Injury Prevention Institute. GTIPI is funded

through a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

When surveyed concerning GTIPI's P.R.I.D.E. program, 70 percent of technicians showed they are familiar with the program, and 16 percent are currently certified P.R.I.D.E. instructors.

Technicians were also questioned about the GTIPI Resource Center. Fifty-three percent were familiar with the resource center, and 25 percent responded that they take advantage of the service on a regular basis.

Data on how often technicians have used their skills to educate people were also gathered. Over the past year, the numbers for both inspection stations (individual assistance with child safety seat installations) and child passenger safety classes taught have increased.

We appreciate all the child passenger safety technicians and instructors who responded to the Injury Prevention Survey. This information is vital in helping GTIPI determine how the citizens of Georgia can be better served in 2007.

Booster Seat Winners

Ten names were randomly selected from 230 responses. The winners are:

Karen Anderson

Candler County Health Department

Cindy Chapman

Women's Pavilion - Gwinnett

Melanie Elliott

Houston County Sheriff's Office

Darryl Griffing

Atlanta Fire Department

Connie Hull

volunteer

Steven Jones

Thomas County Sheriff's Office

Jenny Meyers

Southern Regional Medical Center

Kimberly Sherrer

Seminole County Health Department

Charles Sims

Alpharetta Fire Department

Sharon Smith

Glynn County Health Department

**Call GTIPI at 800-342-9819
to claim your seat!**

CPS Mini-Grants for Health Departments

Sharon Conrad, CPS Educator

The Injury Prevention Section of the Georgia Division of Public Health works statewide to promote child passenger safety, in part through child safety seat distribution. By collaborating with local agencies and technicians, health departments can reach larger numbers of parents and save more lives!

As a technician, you may be aware of a county health department in your area providing child safety seats to limited-resource parents. We encourage you, as a technician, to get involved by offering to assist your health department with their CPS classes or the in-vehicle instruction provided with each seat. If your local health department is not involved in the CPS Mini-Grant Program, we encourage you to get that health department involved.

Applications for the CPS Mini-Grant Program are available from the Injury Prevention Section of the Division of Public Health. The CPS Mini-Grant allows health departments who have at least one CPS technician to distribute reduced-cost seats to their limited-resource clients. Before receiving a seat, clients must provide proof of financial eligibility and participate in an education class on the importance and installation of child safety seats.

Further information on the program is available on the Web at <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/injuryprevention/occsafety.asp>. Awards will be announced and seats distributed in time for National CPS Awareness Week, February 11-17, 2007. This program is made possible through the support of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.



New technicians Senida Gonzalez and Chris Strickland, assisting Lowndes County Health Department with providing education for Mini-Grant seats

If you have questions, please e-mail injury@dhr.state.ga.us or call 404-657-6322.

Infant Seat with 30-Pound Weight Limit

Beth Bartlett, Parent-Youth Outreach Manager



Anna Schaff (granddaughter of Mary Ann Robinson, CPS Educator) in a Graco Infant SafeSeat™

NOTE: This column is for information only and is not intended as an endorsement for any product. Descriptions in this article are those of the manufacturer.

Graco offers an infant seat with a higher weight limit than the usual 20 to 22 pounds. The Infant SafeSeat™ is a carrier and child safety seat for rear-facing infants from 5 to 30 pounds and up to 32 inches tall.

With this higher weight limit, the

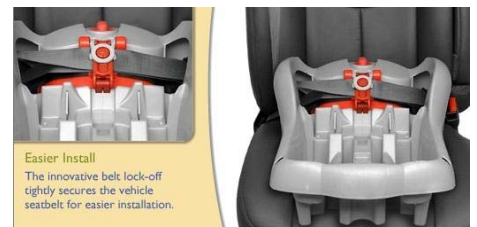
Infant SafeSeat™ is being marketed as “one of the only infant car seats on the market” that “fits 97% of one-year-olds.” According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, all infants should ride rear-facing until they have reached at least 1 year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds.

The Infant SafeSeat™ has several features that technicians need to be aware of when providing education. It can be installed with or without its base, and LATCH attachments are included on the base. The base has an adjustment knob for changing the recline angle. According to the manufacturer's instructions, a rolled towel may be placed under the fully extended foot if the seat is still too upright. Some seats come with a removable head support cushion and/or a “cold weather boot,” both of which are acceptable to use because they are not considered non-regulated, aftermarket products.

What most parents and technicians may be interested in is the built-in lock-

off on the seat's base. Using the lock-off, the base can be installed in situations that would otherwise need a locking clip. In fact, the instructions say to run the seat belt through the lock-off no matter what type of belt system is used. Of course, this feature is not available when the carrier is installed without its base – so you might still need to keep a locking clip handy! (Fortunately, one comes with the seat.)

The Graco Infant SafeSeat™ retails for \$129 to \$169, and additional bases are available for approximately \$50 each. For more information from the manufacturer, visit www.gracobaby.com or call 800-345-4109.



Easier Install
The innovative belt lock-off tightly secures the vehicle seatbelt for easier installation.

Detail of Built-in Lock-off
Photo from www.gracobaby.com

GTIPI Training Dates

CPST 4-Day Trainings

January 9-12	Jesup
February 7-8 & 14-15	Conyers
February 20-23 (NEW!)	Peachtree City
March 6-9 (FULL)	Gainesville
March 21-22 & 28-29	Conyers

Riding Safely in Child Care

February 17	Athens
March 24	Moultrie
April 11	Fulton County

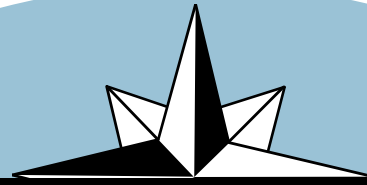
P.R.I.D.E. Instructor Certification

January 23	Conyers
February 27	Metter
March 20	Stone Mountain

More Training for CPSTs

Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs

March 6-7	Fort Benning
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New GTIPI Staff Members

Jason Kelley, CPS Training Coordinator

Jason recently completed graduate study at the University of Georgia. He brings valuable experience as a police officer of six years with the Perry Police Department. Jason currently resides in Athens with his wife, Bethany.

Tonya McKibben, PI&E Assistant

If you have ordered from our resource center or the GOHS Online Store recently, your request was probably filled by Tonya. Tonya comes to us with experience in customer service, distribution, and packing. She is also a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Please join us in welcoming them!



Funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute
1070 Culpepper Drive, Suite 300
Conyers, GA 30094
800-342-9819 or 678-413-4281
www.ridesafegeorgia.org

Celebrating Two Decades of Traffic Safety Education in Georgia

“In 2002, nearly 1.2 million people worldwide died as a result of a road traffic crash... between 20 million and 50 million people globally are estimated to be injured or disabled every year.”

Source: World Health Organization, http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic/en