

PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project
 PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
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 Media, PA 19063
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www.paaap.org

Special points of interest:

- Seat Belt Extenders
- Counterfeit Car Seats
- Guide to Avoiding Counterfeit Car Seats
- Upcoming Trainings



Seat Belt Extenders



A seat belt extender is an extra piece that goes between the male and female ends of the seat belt to make the belt longer. It has a buckle and metal tongue connected by either a strip of webbing or rigid connector. Seat belt extenders are designed for adults who cannot properly fasten their seat belt because of their size or driving position. Seat belt extenders are designed for that purpose alone — not for use with child safety seats or booster seats. The vehicle manual addresses the use of seat belt extenders and provides guidance and warnings for their use, if needed.

- ♦ **Contact the vehicle manufacturer to request a seat belt extender, if needed.** Seat belt extender hardware must match the seat belt system in the vehicle. The vehicle manufacturer may have different seat belt extenders based on the seat belt buckle in the vehicle. Never purchase seat belt extenders from a third party vendor or use a seat belt extender from another vehicle.
- ♦ **Seat belt extenders can change the geometry of the seat belt on the body.** The seat belt extender will make the buckle stalk (the female end of the buckle) longer. As the buckle stalk gets longer, the buckle moves away from the side of the hip - where it should be positioned - toward the middle of the body. As the buckle moves closer to the center of the body, the shoulder belt moves out of position, crossing the arm and instead of crossing the center of the shoulder. A properly positioned shoulder belt holds the head and chest in position and limits the forward movement in a crash. If the shoulder belt is across the arm - where it should never be positioned - then it is likely that you will hit your head on a part of the vehicle, such as: back of the front seat, the doorframe, or the window. The smaller the person using a seat belt extender, the greater the risk to the occupant.
- ♦ **Seat belt extenders are not safe to use with car seats and/or belt-positioning booster seats.** A seat belt extender may seem like a convenient solution for parents who find it difficult to secure a bulky car seat in the vehicle that covers the seat belt buckle. A recessed seat belt buckle may make it hard to buckle a child into a booster seat. Consider the following when discussing the use of a seat belt extender with a car seat or a booster seat:



- ♦ Read and follow the car seat and vehicle manufacturers instructions. Car seat instructions provide warnings to use only the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt system or provide a warning for where the seat belt buckle is positioned in the belt path. The vehicle manual provides a warning to "Never use a seat belt extension to install a child restraint."
- ♦ Using a seat belt extender with a booster seat can change the geometry of a seat belt system in a way that was not anticipated during the design and crash-testing of the booster seat.
- ♦ The seat belt extender may alter where the shoulder and lap belts meet and the geometry of the seat belt. Instead of the shoulder belt going from the hip to opposite shoulder, the belt will go from closer to the belly button to the shoulder.
- ♦ Using a seat belt extender may position the hard seat belt buckle across the child's body.

SEATBELT EXTENSION

WARNINGS

⚠ Persons who fit into the vehicle's seatbelt should not use an extension. Unnecessary use could result in serious personal injury in the event of a crash.

⚠ Only use extensions provided free of charge by Ford Motor Company dealers. The dealer will provide an extension designed specifically for this vehicle, model year and seating position. The use of an extension intended for another vehicle, model year or seating position may not offer you the full protection of your vehicle's seatbelt restraint system.

⚠ Never use seatbelt extensions to install child restraints.

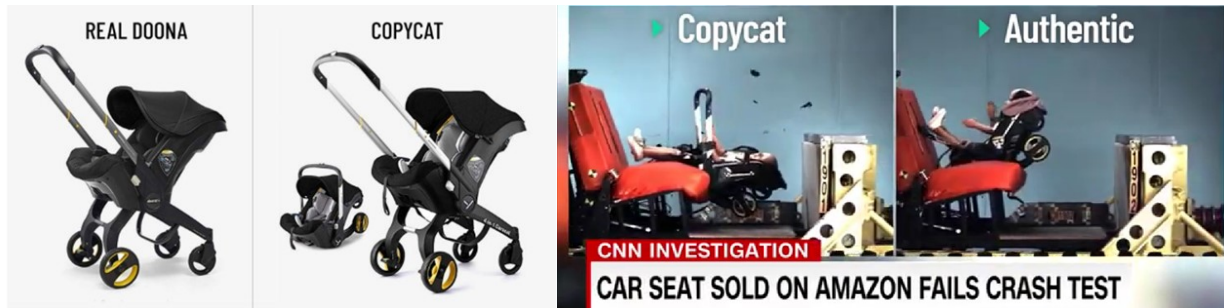
⚠ Do not use a seatbelt extension with an inflatable seatbelt.

⚠ Do not use extensions to change the fit of the belt across the torso, over the lap or to make the seatbelt buckle easier to reach.

If, because of body size or driving position, it is not possible to properly fasten the seatbelt over your lap and shoulder, an extension that is compatible with the seatbelts is available free of charge from Ford Motor Company dealers. Only Ford seatbelt extensions made by the original equipment seatbelts manufacturer should be used with Ford seatbelts. Ask your authorized dealer if your extension is compatible with your Ford vehicle restraint system.



Counterfeit Car Seats



Listed for \$299, the copycat car seat was \$200 cheaper than the Doona Car Seat and Stroller.

Beware: Counterfeit car seats are being advertised and sold online and are found on many ecommerce platforms. These car seats do not meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (FMVSS 213) and are potentially dangerous for children. CNN purchased a copycat Doona car seat and had it crash-tested at the University of Michigan Research Institute. During the simulated 30 mph crash-test, the car seat was thrown forward and rotated beyond the allowed rotation limit as the car seat shell broke apart at the designated seat belt path.

Car seats that meet FMVSS 213 are made using a safe, thoroughly tested design, while counterfeit car seats are made with cheaper materials using unsafe, non-federally-regulated designs. The materials and engineering in the counterfeit car seats have not been tested adequately enough to be considered safe, and some have design flaws that can be very dangerous.

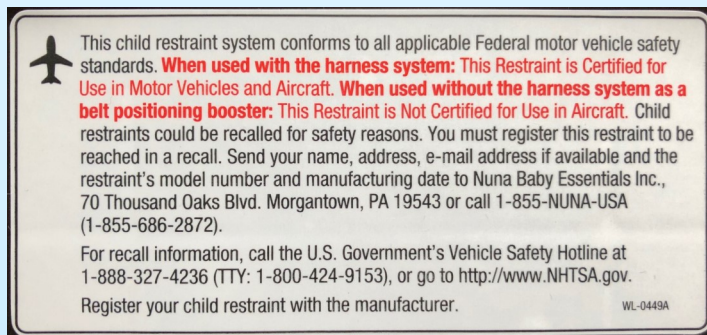
Pennsylvania law states:

§ 4581 Restraint systems (d) Standards.--

- (1) A **child passenger restraint system** shall be used as designated by the manufacturer of the system in motor vehicles equipped with seat safety belts and **shall meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (49 C.F.R. § 571.213).**
- (2) A **child booster seat** shall be used as designated by the manufacturer of the system in motor vehicles equipped with seat safety belts and **shall meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (49 CFR § 571.213)** that is designed to elevate a child to properly sit in a federally approved safety seat belt system.

Car seats that meet FMVSS 213 will have:

- ♦ A car seat instruction manual and registration card.
- ♦ The required safety labels:
 - ♦ Name and address of the Manufacturer
 - ♦ Verification that it conforms to federal standards
 - ♦ Date of manufacture and model number
 - ♦ Basic instructions for correct use and installation
 - ♦ A harness retainer clip (chest clip) which is found on all car seats in the United States



When examined, counterfeit car seats were found to have:

- ♦ No car seat instructions, registration card, or safety labeling, including the date of manufacture.
- ♦ All seat parts made of plastic; including the buckles.
- ♦ A poorly fitting harness for the child and missing the harness retainer clip (chest clip).
- ♦ A loose piece of plastic used for the harness adjuster on the underside of the carrier.
- ♦ A flimsy part provided to attach the carrier to the base. With very little pressure that part almost snapped.
- ♦ Plastic so flimsy that it could be bent by hand.



Portable Thickened Baby Toddler Child Safety
Travel Car Seat Fit Age 0 - 5 Years

Installation

Guide to Avoiding Counterfeit Car Seats

The most obvious tell-tale sign that a car seat may be counterfeit is the missing label that states the car seat conforms to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 (FMVSS 213). Counterfeit car seats may also be missing the registration card, car seat instruction manual, harness retainer clip (chest clip), and basic use labels. A counterfeit car seat may look similar to the car seats that meet the federal motor vehicle safety standards, but are made of materials that will not provide protection in a crash. When the counterfeit car seats were tested, the crash test dummy came out of the car seat and the materials were found to have dangerous chemicals in the textiles.

Tips to ensure a car seat meets federal safety requirements and Pennsylvania Law:

- ♦ **Check the Labels:** NHTSA recommends to always check for a car seat label that states, “This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards”. If a label with this statement is not present on the car seat, it is likely a counterfeit or noncompliant car seat.
 - ♦ Federally-compliant car seats and booster seats have the following safety labels:
 - ♦ the car seat manufacturer’s contact information,
 - ♦ model number and manufacture date,
 - ♦ basic use and installation information,
 - ♦ weight and height, and
 - ♦ an air bag warning label for all car seats that can be secured rear-facing.
- ♦ Non-compliant car seats often feature poorly worded safety labels that seem to have been translated to English from another language. **Counterfeit car seats are often missing vital warning labels, or contain labels with grammatical or other errors.**
- ♦ **Locate the car seat instruction manual and a car seat registration card:** In addition to safety labels, car seats and booster seats are required to come with instruction manuals and a registration card. If your car seat is missing this essential paperwork, there is a high probability the car seat is counterfeit.
- ♦ **Register your car seat:** Register your car seat with the manufacturer to be certain of its authenticity. Every car seat comes with a model number and a manufacture date. Some counterfeit car seats will print copies of the stickers that belong to a car seat manufacturer, but they will use a model number already in use or create a fake model number. Registering your car seat allows the manufacturer to contact you if there is ever a recall or issue with your car seat. Car seats can be registered:
 - ♦ Online at the car seat manufacturer’s website, using the model number and manufacture date that is found on a sticker on the car seat.

OR

- ♦ Online at www.safercar.gov/parents. Select "Car Seat and Booster seats and then Registration". Complete the online form and submit. It takes just a few minutes to register your car seat.

OR

- ♦ By filling out the registration card that came with the car seat. The registration card has the car seat’s information. Mail the card; no postage required.



Look for the car seat manufacturer model number and manufacture date labels

Car seat manufacturers use the registration information to contact owners about safety issues, including recalls.

- ♦ **Look for obvious design flaws:** Counterfeit car seats may be missing a commonly present feature, such as a harness retainer clip, or use material that may easily deform with little pressure.
- ♦ **Beware of third-party sellers and generic brand names:** When researching products from online retailers, steer clear of third-party sellers with strange and unfamiliar names. They may very well be counterfeit car seats. Instead, research car seat brands that are sold in brick-and-mortar stores, and look for online listings that are shipped and sold directly by the car seat manufacturer.
- ♦ **Buy in person:** Going to a retail store helps ensure the product you’re buying was bought directly from the manufacturer.
- ♦ **Buying online:** Ask the following questions:
 - ♦ Does the manufacturer have a website you can find easily?
 - ♦ Is the car seat on the American Academy of Pediatrics list of FMVSS 213 child safety seats? (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/Pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Product-Listing.aspx>)
 - ♦ Does the cost of the car seat seem too good to be true? If so, there’s a good chance you’re looking at a knockoff.
 - ♦ Is the car seat it being sold directly by a trusted retailer? Stores such as Target, Buy Buy Baby and Nordstrom sell only certified car seats directly from the manufacturer. On other online sites, such as Amazon, be absolutely sure the seller is not a third party and that the car seats are being sold directly by the car seat manufacturer.
- ♦ When there are any questions about whether a car seat is genuine, contact the manufacturer. Car seat manufacturers customer service representatives are easy to contact and they want to help.

Child Passenger Safety Trainings

The **CPS Certification** course provides the training necessary to become a certified CPS technician. This four-day course establishes CPS certification for a two-year cycle. The fee is \$95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

The **CPS Renewal** course is for CPS technicians with an expired certification. The one-day course allows re-certification for a two-year cycle. The fee is \$95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

The **TIPP CPS Technical Update** class has been pre-approved for 6 CEUs towards re-certification. Please contact TIPP if you are interested in hosting an Update class for CPS technicians in your area.

For questions on how to create a personal profile or register for a class, please go to <https://cert.safekids.org/resources-faqs/how-to>.

Certification Courses

Dauphin County

Course ID: PA201910301119
Date: March 24—27, 2020
Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Milton Hershey School—Campus Safety Building
731 Meadow Lane
Hershey, PA 17033
Contact: Shannon DePatto
Phone: 717-531-7233
Email: sdepatto@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Montgomery County

Course ID: PA201911061139
Date: April 20 - 22, 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
**April 22: 10:00 am—8 :00 pm
Plymouth Fire Company
1323 Colwell Labe
Conshohocken, PA 19428
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Allegheny County

Course ID: PA201909231009
Date: April 23, 24, 30 & May 1, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Western PA School for Blind Children
201 N Bellefield Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Contact: Kristen Urso
Phone: 412-885-0266
Email: kurso@paaap.org

Union County

Course ID: PA201910151075
Date: May 11, 12, 14, 15, 2020
Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Evangelical Community Hospital
Westbranch Medical Center
7095 Westbranch Highway
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Contact: Deana Carson
Phone: 570-768-3201
Email: deana.carson@evanhospital.com

Philadelphia County

Course ID: PA201911201188
Dates: May 11, 12, 14, 16, 2020.
Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
**May 16: 7:30 am - 11:30 am
People's Emergency Shelter
325 N 39th Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19104
**May 16: Plymouth Fire in Conshohocken
Contact: Gina Duchossois
Phone: 215-590-5437
Email: duchossois@email.chop.edu

Mercer County

Course ID: PA201911221200
Dates: May 26 - 29, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Superior Ambulance and Training Institute
921 East Main Street
Grove City, PA 16127
Contact: Mary Lakari
Phone: 814-838-9971
Email: mlakari@paaap.org

Cumberland County

Course ID: PA2019121354
Date: June 16 - 18, 2020
Time: 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Hamden Township EMS Building - Good Hope
1200 Good Hope Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Contact: Shannon DePatto
Phone: 717-531-7233
Email: sdepatto@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Berks County

Course ID: PA2020010413
Dates: June 22 - 25, 2020
Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks
920 Van Reed Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Contact: Sue Ernst
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com

Washington County

Course ID: PA201911131169
Date: October 1, 2, 8, 9, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Charleroi Fire Department
328 Fallowfield Ave.
Charleroi, PA 15022
Contact: Terri Rae Anthony
Phone: 412-365-7212
Email: terrieraethony@hotmail.com

Renewal Courses

Lackawanna County

Course ID: PA201911081149
Date: January 16, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Commonwealth Health Training Center
1 Oakwood Drive
Scranton, PA 18508
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Chester County

Course ID: PA2019121975
Date: January 28, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Goodwill Fire Company No. 2
552 E Union St.
West Chester, PA 19382
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Somerset County

Course ID: PA2020010617
Date: February 26, 2020
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Northern EMS
1620 Somerset Ave.
Somerset, PA 15963
Contact: Kelly Whitaker
Phone: 814-943-3360
Email: kwhitaker@paaap.org

Erie County

Course ID: PA201911211191
Date: May 20, 2020
Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Erie County Department of Health
downstairs conf. rm.
606 West 2nd Street
Erie, PA 16507
Contact: Mary Lakari
Phone: 814-838-9971
Email: mlakari@paaap.org

Venango County

Course ID: PA201911221191
Date: June 16, 2020
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
UPMC NW Seneca Place
3163 State Route 257
Seneca, PA 16346
Contact: Mary Lakari
Phone: 814-838-9971
Email: mlakari@paaap.org

Montgomery County

May 4, 2020
9:00am – 3:00pm
Goodwill Fire Company
714 E. High Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org



PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Trainings - Update Courses: Please RSVP if attending

- CPS Technical Update is pre-approved for 6 CPS CEUs. Contact your TIPP regional coordinator to schedule a presentation in your region and earn 6 CPS CEUs toward recertification.
- The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) has approved the CPS Technical Update for 6 Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credit hours.
- PA TIPP instructors are now approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMTs can receive 6 EMS continuing education credits for attending the 2019 edition of the PA TIPP technical update class.

Please contact TIPP if you are interested in hosting an Update class for CPS technicians in your area.

Montgomery County

February 7, 2020
9am-3pm
Abington Public Safety Training Facility
2200 Florey Lane
Abington, PA 19001
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Luzerne County

February 20
9:30 am—3:30 pm
EMS of Northeastern PA
169 CenterPoint Blvd
Jenkins Township, PA 18640
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Blair County

Date: March 17, 2020
Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
PennDOT District 9
1620 N Juniata Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Contact: Kelly Whitaker
Phone: 814-943-3360
Email: kwhitaker@paaap.org

Centre County

Date: March 24, 2020
Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Ferguson Twp Police Dept
State College, PA
Contact: Kelly Whitaker
Phone: 814-943-3360
Email: kwhitaker@paaap.org

Warren County

Tuesday, April 14
Youngsville Borough Police
40 Railroad Street
Youngsville, PA 16371
Contact: Mary Lakari
Phone: 814-838-9971
Email: mlakari@paaap.org

Lancaster County

April 17, 2020
9:00am – 3:00pm
East Earl Township Building
4610 Division Highway
East Earl, PA 17519
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org