

CPS NEWS

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: NHTSA Proposes Amendments to FMVSS 213, 213a, and 213b

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<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-05-30/pdf/2025-09750.pdf>

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **NPRM: NHTSA Proposes Amendments to FMVSS 213, 213a, and 213b**
- **National Digital Check Form NDCE**
 - Creating an Account
 - Downloading the App
 - Tips Using an Electronic Device

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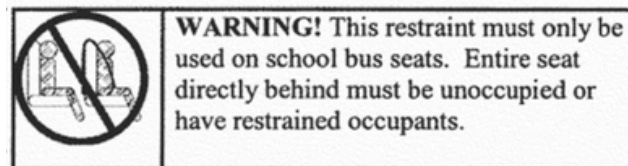
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NHTSA is proposing amendments to FMVSS No. 213a, "Child Restraint Systems (CRS) —Side Impact Protection". The amendment includes:

- Exempting school bus child restraint systems from the side impact standard, if they meet specified labeling requirements.



- Harnesses and car beds were exempted from side impact testing.
- A school bus car seat that uses a harness with a base is not categorized as a harness and does not qualify for the exemption.
- This amendment would define a school bus child restraint as a car seat that is manufactured for school bus seats that has a label that states the car seat can only be used on a school bus seat and mirror the definition in FMVSS 213 and 213b.

FMVSS 213 and 213b Definition of School Bus Child Restraint System:

S5.3.1 * * * (b) School bus child restraint systems (including harnesses manufactured for use on school bus seats) must have a label that conforms in content to Figure 12 and to the requirements of S5.3.1(b)(1) through S5.3.1(b)(3) of this standard. The label must be permanently affixed to the part of the school bus child restraint system, that attaches the system to a vehicle seat back.

- Excluding the Child Restraint Air Bag Interaction twelve-month-old (CRABI-12MO) test dummy from testing in forward-facing child restraint systems and amending the dummy positioning procedures.
 - The CRABI-12 MO represents a child that weighs 22 pounds. The dummy is used to test products designed for children weighing between 11 pounds and 30 pounds.
 - This amendment will include language that the CRABI-12MO will not be used to test forward-facing child restraint systems.
 - The amendment also proposes to delete paragraphs S9.1(c) and (d) that contain positioning information related to the forward-facing testing with the CRABI-12MO test dummy.
- Delaying the compliance date from June 30, 2025, to December 5, 2026;
 - The December 5, 2026, compliance date would coincide with the compliance date for the frontal impact updated requirements.
 - The amendment proposes to give car seat manufacturers more time to test and certify products to the side impact standard to ensure currently compliant child restraint systems remain available on the market.
 - This proposal would still allow for the option of early compliance with the side impact standard.

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National Digital Car Seat Check Form

The Traffic Injury Prevention Project (TIPP) is moving to the National Digital Car Seat Check Form. There are still a few packs of the TIPP car seat check form available, but once the supply has been depleted, they will not be reprinted. The National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) is a free HIPAA-compliant resource available to all certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs). The car seat check form is available for use on paper or on an electronic platform. Using the electronic platform streamlines data collection during the car seat check. CPSTs can easily download their car seat check data.

The NDCF is being taught in the current version of the Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training. The NDCF is introduced in Module 2 and is used for activities during Module 7, 9, and 12. The paper copy of the NDCF can be used for Skills Evaluation 4. If a check form other than the NDCF is used for Skills Evaluation 4, time must be added to the schedule to review the alternate form. TIPP has printed copies of the NDCF forms, and they are available in a pad of 50 forms. The forms can be requested for child passenger safety certification classes or to have on hand as you shift to using the NDCF check form.

- A free training app (Apple, Android, Amazon) is available for students to use in place of the paper form if they prefer. To locate the app, search NDCF Training in the app store.
- The NDCF Training app icon is a blue car seat on a yellow background.
- Students do not need a NDCF user account to use the NDCF Training app.
- Data entered in the NDCF Training app will not be saved.



Creating an Account:

Log into your Safe Kids Certification profile (<https://cert.safekids.org/>)

- Download a current copy of your wallet card.
- The wallet card can be found under the “Action” menu.



Go to <https://carseatcheckform.org/>

- At the bottom of the page, select
- “Create New Account” and complete the online form and accept the terms of use.
- Upload your current wallet card.

An acceptance email from info@carseatcheckform.org will be sent within 1 – 3 business days.



The check form can be used in one of three ways:

- **Web-based check form (requiring internet access) on a computer, tablet, or phone.**
 - Internet access is always needed for this option.
 - Data is entered into the web-based platform on an electronic device in real-time.
- **Mobile App available in iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon.**
 - The free mobile app is available from iTunes, Google Play and Amazon. Internet access is needed to download and setup the app on the electronic device.
 - Use of the mobile app allows CPSTs to conduct a car seat check without access to the internet while using an electronic device.
 - Data collected is stored on the app until internet access is available.
 - Once the electronic device is connected to the internet, the collected data can be uploaded to the CPST's NDCF user account.
- **NDCF paper check form to collect data, followed by data input.**
 - Use the most current paper version of the NDCF. The car seat check form is reviewed and updated as needed. The current version is 9.0.
 - Agencies can collect personally identifiable information on the paper version.
 - Data collected on the paper version of the NDCF must be manually entered at a later point in time either through the web-based platform or mobile app.

Resources:

Quick Start User Guide: https://nscmediaservice.blob.core.windows.net/cpsboard/ndcf_quickstart_guide.pdf

NDCF “How To” Videos: <https://www.cpsboard.org/ndcf/tutorial-videos/>

Paper Form: <https://www.cpsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ndcf-car-seat-check-form-9.0.pdf>

Paper Form User Guide: <https://www.cpsboard.org/ndcf/paper-form-user-guide/>

PDF Print version of Paper User Guide: <https://www.cpsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ndcf-paper-form-user-guide-v9.0.pdf>

Digital Form User Guide: <https://www.cpsboard.org/ndcf/digital-user-guide/>

PDF Print version of Digital User Guide: <https://www.cpsboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ndcf-digital-user-guide-v9.0.pdf>

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PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project

NDCF Continued from page 2

National Digital Car Seat Check Form



Download the App

The NDCF app is available free of charge for iOS, Android, and Amazon Kindle devices. Visit the app store and search “car seat check form”. Look for the green and white icon. The NDCF can be used on any device that has data/internet access or the ability to download the App for use when internet access is unavailable. Google Chrome is the preferred browser when working with web applications. However, it will work on other browsers.

Note: An NDCF user account must be created and approved before the NDCF app can be downloaded and used.

App Login: The app is designed to be used in areas without Wi-Fi. Once the app has been downloaded onto a device, sign into the app using your NDCF user login information.

- Initial login must be completed while connected to Wi-Fi.
- Once the initial login is complete, the device should be placed in airplane mode to eliminate the potential for any app failures because it will continually search for Wi-Fi.
- Car seat check forms completed offline can be uploaded into the user account when the device is reconnected to Wi-Fi.
- Car seat checks are stored within the app and do not take up additional memory on the device until uploaded into the user account.
- Sign into the app, connect to Wi-Fi and begin downloading stored car seat checks.



The NDCF web-based and mobile app contains the following live links:

- NHTSA recall site to [check for car seat recalls](#)
- Check To Protect recall site to [check for vehicle recalls](#)
- GHSA website to [view child passenger safety state laws](#)

NHTSA Recall App is available only on the App Store for iPhone



Note: Links require internet connection. CPSTs should have a printed copy of a current car seat recall list when using the app without internet connection, or in case connection is lost when using the web-based platform. A current recall list can be found on the Recall page of the TIPP website (<https://pakidstravelsafe.org/product-recalls/>).



Technicians are strongly encouraged to practice using the NDCF prior to their first event.

- **Option 1:** When creating a new seat check form, select “Practice” from the state dropdown menu
- Seat checks submitted using “Practice” will not be added to State data.
- **Option 2:** Download the NDCF Training App by searching “NDCF Training” – look for this icon:



Personally Identifiable Information is not collected through the NDCF.

- Forms completed using the app will be issued a Form ID number once uploaded to the online user account. This unique Form ID number may be used to reference specific car seat check information if the form needs to be reviewed after submission.
- Local data and information not collected on the NDCF may be collected and stored in a separate document.
 - Caregivers can sign in on a paper form and the Technician can record the corresponding NDCF ID number for the caregiver on the sign in form.
 - A sample Sign-In Sheet is available in the “Resources” section of carseatcheckform.org

NATIONAL DIGITAL CAR SEAT CHECK FORM SIGN IN		
First Name	Last Name	Vehicle Make
City	State	Zip
Phone Number	Email address	
Child #1 Name	Child #1 Age	
Child #2 Name	Child #2 Age	
<small> I, the undersigned, agree that the sole purpose of this program is to help reduce the incidence of improper installation and use of car seats, booster seats and seat belts, and that the information being provided is for educational purposes only. I understand that the program does not collect, store, or disseminate any personally identifiable information regarding the safety or recall status of any car seat, booster seat, or vehicle seat, or any component of the vehicle seat or its label. Furthermore, I understand that the information in this program will not guarantee my child's safety in a motor vehicle crash. I understand that it is important to read and follow the instruction manuals for both the vehicle and the car seat. For these reasons, I hereby release any and all participating organizations or individuals, including this site owner, from any present or future liability for any injuries or damages that may result from a vehicle collision or otherwise. </small>		
Signature: _____		

10:02 75%

+ Child List Save Close

Caregiver Information

* indicates required field

City

Knowville

State*

Practice Clear

Zip*

37915

Vehicle Information

What model year is the vehicle?*

Note: Review the form to ensure that all entries are correct. Car seat check forms can be edited before the form is submitted. Once submitted, the form cannot be edited.

- If a mistake was made and the form must be corrected, the “Report Feedback” form at carseatcheckform.org must be completed.

1. **Can CPSTs working together on a car seat check have access to the data in the NDCF?** Data is available to all CPSTs listed in the “Additional Technicians” field on the form, with a current NDCF account. The data will be added to the cleaned data file for the account holder and available in a raw data format for the other CPSTs.
2. **How do I find an existing Tech ID number when creating a check form?** Begin typing the CPSTs last name or Technician ID number. If the CPST has an account, the last name will auto populate. Select the CPST’s name. Up to three additional Technicians may be added to the form.

Tips to Ensure a Successful Experience While Using Electronic Devices

- Familiarize yourself with the National Digital Car Seat Check Form prior to your first car seat check.
- Be sure to charge electronic devices before a car seat check event. Have portable chargers on hand to recharge the device if necessary.
- Once logged into the app, place the device in airplane mode. This will ensure the app runs smoothly in areas with limited data connection and will not drain the battery on the device.
- ALWAYS check that the device has not been left in a vehicle before the caregiver leaves.
- Consider working with a partner who is using a paper copy of the form for the first few car seat checks. One CPST can enter data on a device as the other CPST conducts the car seat check using the paper form.
- Have up-to-date copies of the NDCF [paper car seat check form on hand as a backup](#) in the event of unexpected challenges with the device.
- Consider purchasing an antiglare screen protector for events held outside in the sun.

Child Passenger Safety Trainings

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Continued from page 1



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NHTSA is also proposing two amendments to FMVSS No. 213, "Child restraint systems" and FMVSS No. 213b, "Child restraint systems", with the mandatory applicability beginning December 5, 2026". The amendment includes:

- Excluding school bus child restraint systems from the requirement to have lower anchors for connection to the vehicle's child restraint anchorage system and changing certain labeling requirements to reflect how school bus child restraints are used.

S5.9 * * * (a) Each add-on child restraint system other than a car bed, harness and belt-positioning seat, shall have components permanently attached to the system that enable the restraint to be securely fastened to the lower anchorages of the child restraint anchorage system specified in Standard No. 225 (§ 571.225).



NHTSA did not intend to require lower anchorage attachments for school bus child restraint systems (CRSs) as these types of CRSs are expected to have a seat back mount to install them on the school bus seat.

NHTSA proposes to add a requirement specific for school bus CRSs in S5.5.2(g)(1)(ii) that would indicate the seat back mount is used as the method for attaching the CRS to the vehicle instead of the "child restraint anchorage system or vehicle seat belt" because those methods are not used when using school bus CRSs.

This NPRM proposes that the amendments would become effective immediately on the date of publication of any final rule.

Note: Comments to this NPRM must be submitted no later than June 30, 2025. The proposed effective date would be the date of publication of the final rule in the Federal Register.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/30/2025-09750/federal-motor-vehicle-safety-standard-no-213a-child-restraint-systems-side-impact-protection-federal>

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Certification Courses

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.

Berks County*

Course ID: PA2025010442
Date: August 4 - 7, 2025
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks Lower Level
Conference Room
920 Van Reed Road
Contact: Cheryl Gouker
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
*Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Dauphin County

Course ID: PA202412301167
Date: September 9 - 12, 2025
Paxtonia Fire Company
125 S. Johnson Street
Harrisburg, PA 17112
Contact: Angela Mountz
Phone: 717-982-7402
Email: afickesmountz@pennstatehealth.psu.edu



Renewal Courses

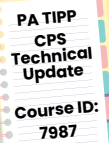
The CPS Renewal course is for CPS technicians with an expired certification. The one-day course allows recertification for a two-year cycle. The fee is \$95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

Berks County*

Course ID: PA2025010441
Date: July 25, 2025
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks Lower Level
Conference Room
920 Van Reed Road
Contact: Cheryl Gouker
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
*Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Lehigh County

Course ID: PA20250205198
Date: August 27, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
LVHN Parent Education Classroom
1243 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard
Suite 303
Allentown, PA 18103
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3036
Email: trychlak@paaap.org



PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Technical Update Classes

Class is pre-approved for 6 CEUs toward CPS Recertification. Contact your TIPP regional coordinator if you are interested in hosting or attending a CPS Technical Update.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend one of the following courses.

Lehigh County

Date: September 4, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lehigh Valley Health Network
1243 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard
Suite 303 - Parent & Family Education
Classroom A
Allentown, PA 18103
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lancaster County

Date: September 16, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Women and Babies Hospital
690 Good Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lycoming County

Date: October 2, 2025
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Montoursville Borough Building
617 North Loyalsock Avenue
Montoursville, PA 17754
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

PA TIPP instructors are approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMTs can receive 6 EMS continuing education credits for attending the class.

Luzerne County

Date: October 3, 2025
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Back Mountain Emergency Services
Building
Corner of Route 118 and Ambrose Rd.
Lehman, PA 18612
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Chester County

Date: October 15, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Longwood Fire Company
1001 E. Baltimore Pike
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Contact: Teresa Rychlak
Phone: 484-446-3078
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lackawanna County

Date: October 16, 2025
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Cottage Hose Ambulance Services
2 Greenfield Road
Carbondale, PA 18407
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org