Chrysler Group Adds Truck Tether Anchors to List of Vehicles with Higher Tether Weight Limits

Last year, Chrysler Group announced that tether weight limits had increased for most of its 2013 model year vehicles. Instead of limiting the use of the tether anchor to 48 pounds (child weight) the new guideline states that the tether anchor can be used with a seatbelt to install a child restraint up to the recommended weight limit of the child restraint.

“Chrysler Group is pleased to announce that an assessment of the tether anchors in Standard and Mega Cab Ram pickup trucks has shown that these vehicles can be added to the list. Like other vehicle families, this change is being made retroactively to the start of production of the current tether design. Specifically, the following model year vehicles have been added to the updated list of affected vehicles.

- 2009+ Ram 1500 Pickup Trucks – Regular Cab
- 2010+ Ram 2500/3500 Pickup Trucks – Regular Cab & Mega Cab
- 2011+ Ram 3500/4500/5500 Chassis Cab Trucks – Regular Cab

CPS Techs should note that the increased tether weight limit supersedes the information printed in the 2013-2014 model year owner’s manuals. The owner’s manuals for these vehicles were printed before this announcement. Caregivers can also call Chrysler Group’s customer service center to find out weight limits for their vehicles.

Submitted by Audrey Eagle, Sr. Specialist & Child Passenger Safety Advocate, Chrysler Group LLC and Vehicle Manufacturer Representative, National CPS Board (Auburn Hills,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Model Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chrysler</td>
<td>200 Sedan (not Convertible)</td>
<td>2011+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300 / 300C</td>
<td>2006+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sebring Sedan (not Convertible)</td>
<td>2007 - 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Town &amp; Country</td>
<td>2001+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voyager / Grand Voyager (including Cargo Van)</td>
<td>2001 - 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodge</td>
<td>Avenger</td>
<td>2008+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caliber</td>
<td>2007 - 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caravan / Grand Caravan (including Cargo Van)</td>
<td>2001+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Challenger</td>
<td>2008+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charger</td>
<td>2006+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dakota Pickup Truck</td>
<td>2005 - 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dart</td>
<td>2013+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Durango</td>
<td>2011+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Journey</td>
<td>2009+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Viper</td>
<td>2013+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiat</td>
<td>500 / 500e</td>
<td>2012+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>500L</td>
<td>2014+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>2014+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>2006 - 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>2007+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Cherokee</td>
<td>2005+</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patriot</td>
<td>2007+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrangler / Wrangler Unlimited</td>
<td>2007+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodge/ Ram</td>
<td>1500 Pickup Trucks</td>
<td>2009+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2500 / 3500 Pickup Trucks (Regular Cab)</td>
<td>2010+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3500 / 4500 / 5500 Chassis Cab Trucks</td>
<td>2011+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Regular Cab &amp; Mega Cab)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C / V Tradesman (Cargo Van)</td>
<td>2012+</td>
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Inflatable Seats Belts Introduced on 2014 Ford Fusion

The 2014 Ford Fusion becomes the only vehicle in its class to offer rear inflatable safety belts, which combine the attributes of safety belts and airbags. Rear inflatable safety belts provide additional protection for rear-seat passengers, who often are children or older adults more vulnerable to head, neck and chest injuries. Rear inflatable safety belts combine the attributes of safety belts and airbags. The shoulder belt developed for the outboard rear seats contains an airbag. During a crash, sensors determine when the inflatable belt should deploy and signal the belt's tubular airbag to rapidly inflate with compressed gas.

In everyday use, inflatable belts operate like conventional safety belts, and are compatible with child car seats and boosters. (Always refer to the child car seat or booster seat manufacturer’s instructions for specific information.) During a crash, the inflatable belt helps distribute crash forces across more of a passenger's torso than a traditional belt – up to five times more. Spreading the pressure over a larger area helps reduce pressure on the passenger's chest, and helps control head and neck motion.

Ford introduced the industry's first inflatable safety belts on the 2011 Ford Explorer; it is now available on six Ford and Lincoln models: Ford Explorer, Fusion, Flex, Taurus and Lincoln MKT and Lincoln MKZ.

Safety experts acknowledge that the back seat is the safest place for children, and Ford is committed to keeping all vehicle occupants safe.

*CPS technicians should always check with the car seat manufacturer to make sure that child safety seats are compatible with Ford’s inflatable seatbelt before assisting in the installation of the seat.*

National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program 2014 Curriculum Update

The revised curriculum continues to be a partnership between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Child Passenger Safety Board. The new curriculum will be available for teaching in January 2014.

One of the major changes is that the program is designed to be taught in 3 days, so the course focuses on “need to know” information. However, lead instructors and course administrators have freedom to develop agendas that best meet the needs of the students and may choose to hold the course over a longer period of time.

The course includes 13 modules with the following titles:

- **Program Introduction** – purpose, goals and requirements of course; costs associated with incorrect use of restraints; national statistics on child restraint use.
- **CPS Technician Role** – role of technician; best practice and caregiver choices.
- **Injury Prevention & Crash Dynamics** – challenges to crash survival; crash forces; how restraints prevent injury.
- **Seat Belt Systems** – seat belt parts, types of latch plates, types of retractors, other approved steps to lock seat belts.
- **Air Bags** – purpose and function of air bags; identifying features and markings for frontal and side air bags; inflatable seat belts; best practices about air bags.
- **Vehicle Lower Anchors & Tether** – description of, recognizing and explaining best practices.
- **Introduction to Car Seats** – federal motor vehicle safety standards relating to car seats; car seat parts and functions, NHTSA’s car seat recommendations; selecting the appropriate car seat; car seats for children with special needs.
- **Children in Rear-facing Car Seats** – why rear-facing; types of rear-facing car seats; 5 steps for rear-facing car seat use; best practices and caregiver choices; rear-facing errors and consequences
- **Children in Forward-Facing Car Seats** – when children should travel forward-facing; types of forward-facing car seats; 5 steps for forward-facing use; best practices for forward-facing; forward-facing errors and consequences
- **Children in Booster Seats & Seat Belts** – how boosters protect children; types of boosters; recommendations for seat belt use; best practices for boosters and seat belts.
- **CPS in Other Vehicles** – appropriate car seats by vehicle type (pickups, 15-passenger vans, school buses, airplanes, emergency vehicles)
- **Installation & Communication** – safe seating positions and appropriate restraints for all passengers; communicating with caregivers.
- **Closing & Checkup Event**—requirements for recertification; preparing for, conducting and participating in a checkup event.
Tips on How to Get CEUs for Recertification

CPS technicians are required to re-certify every 2-years to maintain their certification. One of the requirements for re-certification is earning 6 CPS CEUs. All technicians and instructors are required to log at least six hours of CPS technical continuing education (CEUs) into the system. The CEUs must be obtained and reported during one’s current certification cycle (two years). There is no carry-over from one period to the next, even when more than the required CEUs have been accumulated. CEUs must fit into one of the approved categories and meet content requirements. Technicians and instructors may mix and match categories to meet the six required hours of continuing education.

Categories of CEUs

In-person Session/Workshop (maximum 6 CEUs)
- Attend the TIPP Technical Update. The Update is prepared annually and submitted to Safe Kids Certification for CEU approval. TIPP Technical Updates are listed at www.pakidstravelsafe.org.

Teleconferences (max. 5 CEUs)
- TIPP offers an annual Pediatric Teleconference. The teleconference is generally offered in February. Content is pre-approved for one CEU. A teleconference is being planned for February 26, 2014. Our speaker is Dr. Marilyn Bull, who will be discussing child restraint options for children with special health care needs.

Online/Web sessions (max. 5 CEUs)
There are two types of online courses: Moderated (e.g. can ask questions) and Un-moderated (e.g. PowerPoint presentation).
- www.SafeKidsWebinars.org - Online presentations are available. Read and follow the instructions and requirements.
- www.cpsboard.org - Online presentations are available. Click on “Earn Recertification Credits” to access the online presentations and quizzes. Read and follow the instructions and requirements. A certificate of completion will be generated when the quiz is passed (80%). Print the certificate upon completion for documentation if audited.
- cert.safekids.org - CPS Online Profile: Two manufacturers provide online CEUs through special links in currently certified technicians’ online profiles. Click on “Online CEUs” action item and select Britax or Evenflo. Follow the instructions provided.

Newsletters/Manuals/Journals (max. 3 CEUs)
- Read the Tech Update located at www.cpsboard.org. Click on “Click on Earn Recertification Credits.” Scroll down towards the bottom of the page. There are several editions to choose from. Read two of the Tech Updates with quizzes for one CEU. Printout of the quizzes will be needed if you are audited. This option allows for one CEU during certification cycle.
- Take the LATCH manual quiz located at www.saferidenews.com. Click on “Quick Links.” Scroll down to the CEUs for CPSTs section and click on the links to the 2013 LATCH Manuals (pdf) for the Latch Quiz. This option allows for one CEU during the certification cycle.
- Take the CR manufacturer instructions quiz located at www.carseat.org. Click on “CEUs for Recertification” (under the column “Tools for Techs”). Click the blue word quiz near the bottom of the page to access the quiz. This option allows for one CEU during the certification cycle.

NHTSA adopted changes to FMVSS 213 to take effect on February 27, 2014

Overview of Changes:
- Standard applies to CRS crash tested for children who weigh up to 80 pounds.
- Hybrid III 10-year-old crash test dummy added for testing child restraints for children > 65 pounds.
- New dummy seating procedures to better evaluate belt-positioning booster seats during testing.
- Foam pad on back of dummy’s pelvis allows it to “slouch” in a repeatable, more realistic way producing a more reclined posture.
- New seating procedure adds a lap belt shield.
- New labels for harness CRS to clarify when LATCH lower anchors can be used.
- Lower anchors of LATCH can only be used to secure CRS to vehicle when CRS + Child weight ≤ 65 lb.
- Seat Belt is used to attach CRS to vehicle when CRS + Child weight > 65 lb.
- Labeling required when the combined weight of the CR plus the maximum recommended child weight for use with internal harnesses exceeds 65 pounds
- Label statement: “Do not use the lower anchors of the child restraint anchorage system (LATCH system) to attach this child restraint when restraining a child weighing more than ----*---- [*insert a recommended weight such that the sum of the recommended weight value and the weight of the child restraint system does not exceed 65 pounds] with the internal harnesses of the child restraint.”
- Tether anchor weight limits are not specified by this rule. NHTSA made a point to separate tether anchors from the lower anchors in specifying the lower anchor weight limits, and the ruling refrains from imposing a weight limit on tether use. Continue to consult the vehicle manual to determine tether anchor weight limits.
## 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 $75. To register, go to [www.safekids.org/certification](http://www.safekids.org/certification).

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 $75. To register, go to [www.safekids.org/certification](http://www.safekids.org/certification).

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 [http://cert.safekids.org/ResourcesFAQs/Howto.aspx](http://cert.safekids.org/ResourcesFAQs/Howto.aspx).

### CPS Certification Courses

**Centre County**  
Course ID PA20130909810  
January 28 - 31, 2014  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Pleasant Gap Fire Department  
475 Robinson Lane  
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823  
Contact: Kelly Whitaker  
Phone: 814-943-3360  
Email: kwhitaker@paaap.org

**Lackawanna County**  
Course ID #: PA20131113974  
February 11 - 14, 2014  
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sun Buick GMC Dealership  
4230 Birney Avenue  
Moosic, PA 18507  
Contact: Cathy Connors  
Email: cconnors@paaap.org  
Phone: 570-471-3026

**Union County**  
Course ID PA20130916828  
March 11 - 14, 2014  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Evangelical Community Health & Wellness Center  
7095 Westbranch Highway  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Contact: Deana Carson  
Phone: 570-522-4247  
Email: dcarson@evanhospital.com

**Schuylkill County**  
Course ID: PA20131029949  
June 3-6, 2014  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Rush Township Municipal Building  
Route 54  
Hometown, PA 18252  
Contact: Cathy Connors  
Email: cconnors@paaap.org  
Phone: 570-471-3026

### CPS Update Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luizene County</td>
<td>January 31, 2014</td>
<td>9:30 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Penn DOT Safety Building 381 South Main Street, PA</td>
<td>Cathy Connors</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cconnors@paaap.org">cconnors@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycoming County</td>
<td>February 25 - 26, 2014</td>
<td>9:00 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Old Lycoming Volunteer Fire Department 1600 Dewey Ave, PA</td>
<td>Kelly Whitaker</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwhitaker@paaap.org">kwhitaker@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair County</td>
<td>March 26, 2014</td>
<td>9:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State Police Troop G Headquarters 1510 N Juniata Street, PA</td>
<td>Cathy Connors</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cconnors@paaap.org">cconnors@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia County</td>
<td>April 11, 2014</td>
<td>9:30 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Central Susquehanna Community Foundation 725 West Front St., PA</td>
<td>Cathy Connors</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cconnors@paaap.org">cconnors@paaap.org</a></td>
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### CPS Renewal Courses

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luizene County</td>
<td>February 28, 2014</td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Northeast Training Center 1989 Wyoming Avenue, PA</td>
<td>Cathy Connors</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cconnors@paaap.org">cconnors@paaap.org</a></td>
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<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>March 25, 2014</td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Children's Aid Society 850 West Market Street, PA</td>
<td>Mary Lakari</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlakari@paaap.org">mlakari@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luizene County</td>
<td>April 25, 2014</td>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Northeast Training Center 1989 Wyoming Avenue, PA</td>
<td>Cathy Connors</td>
<td>570-471-3026</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cconnors@paaap.org">cconnors@paaap.org</a></td>
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### NHTSA Releases an Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First Half of 2013

“Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First Half (Jan–Jun) of 2013” (DOT HS 811 845). This NCSA Crash*Stat provides a statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2013 which shows that an estimated 15,470 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents a decrease of about 4.2 percent as compared to the 16,150 fatalities that were projected to have occurred in the first half of 2012.

For the full report, go to: [http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811845.pdf](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811845.pdf)

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**NHTSA Region 2 CPS Technical Conference**

**State College 2014**

Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel  
June 24 – 26, 2014

Conference information will be posted on [www.pakidstravelsafe.org](http://www.pakidstravelsafe.org)

**Early Registration opens**  
January 15, 2014

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**Traffic Injury Prevention Project**

**Pennsylvania**

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