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 a 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.
**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.
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.
  - Online at [www.safercar.gov/parents](http://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.
  - 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.

**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?
  - 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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Courses</th>
<th>Renewal Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dauphin County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lackawanna County</strong></td>
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<td>Course ID: PA201910301119</td>
<td>Course ID: PA20191081149</td>
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<td>Date: March 24–27, 2020</td>
<td>Date: January 16, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milton Hershey School—Campus Safety Building</td>
<td>Commonwealth Health Training Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>731 Meadow Lane</td>
<td>1 Oakwood Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hershey, PA 17033</td>
<td>Scranton, PA 18508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Shannon DePatto</td>
<td>Contact: Cathy Connors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 717-531-7233</td>
<td>Phone: 570-471-3026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sdepatto@pennstatehealth.psu.edu">sdepatto@pennstatehealth.psu.edu</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:econnors@paaap.org">econnors@paaap.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Montgomery County</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chester County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course ID: PA201911061139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: April 20 - 22, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 22: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm</strong></td>
<td>Goodwill Fire Company No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Fire Company</td>
<td>552 E Union St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1323 Colwell Labe</td>
<td>West Chester, PA 19382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conshohocken, PA 19428</td>
<td>Contact: Teresa Rychlak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Teresa Rychlak</td>
<td>Phone: 484-446-3078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 484-446-3078</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:trychlak@paaap.org">trychlak@paaap.org</a></td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:trychlak@paaap.org">trychlak@paaap.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Somerset County</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Allegheny County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Course ID: PA201909231009</td>
<td>Date: February 26, 2020</td>
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<td>Date: April 23, 24, 30 &amp; May 1, 2020</td>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Northern EMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western PA School for Blind Children</td>
<td>1620 Somerset Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201 N Bellefield Ave</td>
<td>Somerset, PA 15433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA 15213</td>
<td>Contact: Kelly Whitaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Kristen Urso</td>
<td>Phone: 814-943-3360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 412-885-0266</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kwhtaker@paaap.org">kwhtaker@paaap.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kurso@paaap.org">kurso@paaap.org</a></td>
<td><strong>Erie County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blair County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: March 17, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>PennDOT District 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1620 N Juniata Street</td>
<td>downstairs conf. rm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollidaysburg, PA 16648</td>
<td>606 West 2nd Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Kelly Whitaker</td>
<td>Erie, PA 16507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 814-943-3360</td>
<td>Contact: Mary Lakari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kwhtaker@paaap.org">kwhtaker@paaap.org</a></td>
<td>Phone: 814-838-9971</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Centre County</strong></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mlakari@paaap.org">mlakari@paaap.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: March 24, 2020</td>
<td><strong>Venango County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson Twp Police Dept</td>
<td>Date: June 16, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>State College, PA</td>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Kelly Whitaker</td>
<td>UPMC NW Seneca Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 814-943-3360</td>
<td>3163 State Route 257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kwhtaker@paaap.org">kwhtaker@paaap.org</a></td>
<td>Seneca, PA 16346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Luzerne County</strong></td>
<td>Contact: Mary Lakari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Phone: 814-838-9971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mlakari@paaap.org">mlakari@paaap.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>EMS of Northeastern PA</td>
<td><strong>Montgomery County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>169 CenterPoint Blvd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenkins Township, PA 18640</td>
<td>Date: May 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Cathy Connors</td>
<td>Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 570-471-3026</td>
<td>Goodwill Fire Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:econnors@paaap.org">econnors@paaap.org</a></td>
<td>714 E. High Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warren County</strong></td>
<td>Pottstown, PA 19464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 14</td>
<td>Contact: Teresa Rychlak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngsville Borough Police</td>
<td>Phone: 484-446-3078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Railroad Street</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:trychlak@paaap.org">trychlak@paaap.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youngsville, PA 16371</td>
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<td>Contact: Mary Lakari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 814-838-9971</td>
<td>Date: June 16, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Washington County</strong></td>
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<td>3163 State Route 257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: October 1, 2, 8, 9, 2020</td>
<td>Seneca, PA 16346</td>
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<td>Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Contact: Mary Lakari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleroi Fire Department</td>
<td>Phone: 814-838-9971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>328 Fallowfield Ave.</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mlakari@paaap.org">mlakari@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleroi, PA 15022</td>
<td><strong>Montgomery County</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Terri Rae Anthony</td>
<td>May 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 412-365-7212</td>
<td>9:00 am – 3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:terriaanthony@hotmail.com">terriaanthony@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Philadelphia County</strong></td>
<td>714 E. High Street</td>
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<td>Pottstown, PA 19464</td>
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<td>Dates: May 26 - 29, 2020</td>
<td>Contact: Teresa Rychlak</td>
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<td>Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Phone: 484-446-3078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superior Ambulance and Training Institute</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:trychlak@paaap.org">trychlak@paaap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>921 East Main Street</td>
<td><strong>PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Trainings - Update Courses:</strong> Please RSVP if attending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove City, PA 16127</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Mary Lakari</td>
<td>• The Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) has approved the CPS Technical Update for 6 Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credit hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 814-838-9971</td>
<td>• PA TIPP instructors are now approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMSs can receive 6 EMS continuing education credits for attending the 2019 edition of the PA TIPP technical update class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mlakari@paaap.org">mlakari@paaap.org</a></td>
<td>Please contact TIPP if you are interested in hosting an Update class for CPS technicians in your area.</td>
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</table>

PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Trainings - Update Courses

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- PA TIPP instructors are now approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMSs 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.