

Connecticut Technician Report January 2004

National SAFE KIDS Transition from AAA

National SAFE KIDS has completed the transition from AAA, officially taking over the CPS Certification process on January 1, 2004. All questions and problems should now be addressed to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Starting in February 2004, the toll free number to call regarding certification questions for SAFE KIDS will be **877-366-8154**. For the present time, however, please call the main SAFE KIDS number at 202-662-0600 and ask for the CPS certification line.

All updates and new information for the certification process are posted on the www.cpsboard.org. The latest update has the new fee schedule for the certification and recertification. You can sign up for automatic notification of updates on the website at <http://www.cpsboard.org/elist.htm>.

Review of Shelf Liner Use

From Joe Colella, CPS Training & Technical Manager, National SAFE KIDS Campaign, via the *CPSP listserve*...

To my knowledge, there is no recommendation NOT to use shelf liner or rug gripper when installing child safety seats. The SAFE KIDS CPS Update-Refresher DOES provide a clarification of the function of slip-reducing materials, though. This clarification was reviewed by and agreed upon by some well-respected CPS advocates, as well as by several engineers from vehicle and child restraint manufacturers, prior to inclusion in the course.

Two slides in that curriculum are specifically related to this topic. The first addresses placing padding beneath or behind a safety seat to make it "seem" tighter. The second specifically addresses the use slip-

reducing materials. To ensure that the messaging contained is clear, the actual instructor notes for those two slides are below.

Inappropriately adding items under or behind a child safety seat:

- Putting items behind or under CRD has no likely crash benefit.
- By making a child safety seat "seem" tighter, it potentially creates the illusion of correct installation.
- This use of add-on padding forces the child safety seat away from the vehicle seat, negatively affecting performance.

It is okay to use shelf liner on slippery vehicle seats, but:

- There is no likely crash benefit, since the child safety seat gets no closer to the vehicle seat.
- Adding friction can create false sense of security, since it makes the installation seem tighter.

NOTE: One exception might be in the case of a belt positioning booster. Since the child's weight is the only thing holding many boosters in place, the additional friction of shelf liner may assist in pre-crash positioning.

As you can see, there is not a recommendation AGAINST shelf-liner contained in the SAFE KIDS CPS Update-Refresher curriculum. Clarification is necessary, however, because field observations indicate that many advocates and parents believe shelf liner enhances crash-performance. If friction-providing materials are used, their function should be correctly represented.

Joseph M. Colella
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National SAFE KIDS Campaign

National Child Passenger Safety Week

Don't forget National Child Passenger Safety Week is February 8th through 14th. Further information will be available at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

New from E-Z-On Products....

RIDE RYTE BOOSTER

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**USE WITH 86-Y HARNESS,
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Full-Back Ride Ryte Booster- Model # FB322 - (Recommended if child's head is above the top of the seat back)

30-80 lbs. for passengers using E-Z-ON 86-Y Universal Harness, or upright E-Z-ON Vests in *autos or school buses*, or CamHarness on *school buses*.

No-Back Ride Ryte Booster - Model #NB321

30-80 lbs. for passengers using E-Z-ON CamHarness, 86-Y Universal Harness, or upright E-Z-ON Vests in *school buses*.

40-80 lbs. for passengers using E-Z-ON 86-Y Universal Harness or upright E-Z-ON Vest in *autos*.

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- **30-100 lbs. - Belt-positioning - Forward Facing - up to 57" tall**
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