



Frequently Asked Questions

Module 9

Forward-Facing Car Seats

Steps for Forward-Facing Car Seat Use – Did they change?

The order of steps for forward-facing car seat use has been updated to the following:

- Step 1: Selection
- Step 2: Direction
- Step 3: Location
- Step 4: Harness Adjustment and Fit
- Step 5: Installation

Steps 4 and 5 are swapped in order for the 2020 curriculum revision. The reasoning for this change is to remind students and Child Passenger Safety Technicians to teach the caregiver to adjust the harness to fit the child prior to teaching them to install the car seat. Realigning these steps avoids having to uninstall the car seat to make adjustments to the harness height and/or buckle strap location after installing the car seat. Placing the child in the car seat and tightening the harness on the child is incorporated as the final part of Step 5: Installation.

Clarifications on Activity–Examine Forward-Facing Car Seat Misuse

Activity Name

The name for the activity on *Instructor Guide* page 9-48, *Technician Guide* page 9-14 and PowerPoint slide 9-30 is noted incorrectly. The correct name is Examine Car Seat Misuse since both rear-facing and forward-facing scenarios are included in the activity.

Misuse Scenario Setup

The scenarios provided on *Instructor Guide* page 9-3 are suggested scenarios for the activity on *Technician Guide* page 9-14. Scenarios used by Instructor Teams to support this activity may vary based on the seats available for use in the training. For example:

- In Scenario 1, if a car seat with a lower weight limit of 3 lbs. is NOT available for the use at the training, then a selection error should be included in the scenario since the child who is 3 lbs., 10 oz. would not meet the minimum weight requirement of the car seat.
- In Scenario 5, if a combination car seat with an internal harness with a maximum weight use rating of 40 lbs. is NOT available at the training and is replaced with a combination car seat with an internal harness with a maximum internal harness rating of 65 lbs., there would not be a selection error since the child would meet the weight requirement of harness use of the combination car seat.

Activity Checklist Clarifications

Concerning the activity checklist on *Technician Guide* page 9-14:

Question 1

It may be difficult for students to answer Question 1: "What is the car seat make, model and date of manufacture?" during the activity without disturbing the misuse scenario depending on where the car seat manufacturer has placed this information on the car seat.

The Instructor Team may provide the information to the students either verbally or written on note cards accompanying the scenarios. Another option would be for the students to complete Question 1 and Question 4 (Is the car seat under recall?) after all students finish their review of the misuse scenarios. Students should complete Question 1 and Question 4 at some point during the activity since these questions provide the opportunity for students to gain familiarity with using a recall list.

Questions 3 and 5

Question 3: "Is the car seat type appropriate for age/size?" and Question 5: "Does the child fit in the car seat per height and weight requirements?" ask similar questions. Change Question 3 to read "Is the car seat type appropriate for the child's age?" The correct answer would be based on the car seat manufacturer's instructions and best practice.

Misuse Scenario 2

Misuse Scenario 2 includes a selection error that it not noted. Children under the age of one should always travel in a rear-facing car seat.

Misuse Scenario 4

Misuse Scenario 4 indicates that the forward-facing convertible car seat is used in the full recline position. The activity checklist does not address the use of recline mechanisms. This scenario provides the opportunity during review for the Instructors to ask if the students noticed if there is anything else that may be incorrect with the car seat. This can lead to a reminder to check the car seat manufacturer instructions to determine if the car seat is permitted to be in a full recline position when being used forward-facing.

Additional Activity Checklists

The activity worksheet as found on *Technician Guide* page 9-14 is available for download in the Resources for Modules 9 tab in the Instructor Resources section of cpsboard.org. As time allows, have students complete the checklist for additional car seats (beyond the two car seats recommended in the instructions for the activity).