

National Child Passenger Safety Certification Program

Identification of Misuse of Child Restraints: Instructor Guide for Skills Evaluation #3 (Misuse)

Instructor Notes

This skills evaluation consists of six scenarios:

- The six scenarios will each be set up in vehicles and the student must accurately detect and diagnose any misuse that they observe. Students do not correct misuse.
- **One scenario must include misuse of a booster (i.e. incorrect belt path)**
- It is recommended that duplicate stations be set up to allow more than one station for a single scenario.

Suggested Misuse Scenarios in Vehicles for Skills Test #3

The following are sample scenarios representing errors in CRS use and installation. Modifications to these set-ups can be made depending upon the particular CRSs and vehicles that are available for use. The selection of errors used in this exercise should focus on the demonstration of real world situations.

** Try to include at least one locking clip misuse and one LATCH misuse.

Scenario 1

- 10 months old, 18 pounds
- Rear facing in a convertible seat
- Harness in upper slots
- Harness retainer clip too low
- Seat reclined at more than 45 degrees from vertical
- Seat installed in rear outboard position when center-rear is available
- Continuous loop lap and shoulder belt with sliding latchplate, loose installation, no locking clip

Scenario 2

- Child rear facing in convertible or infant seat
- Child too heavy for upper weight limits of rear facing seat (designate the age and weight of the child according to CR selected for scenario)
- Seat installed in center rear position with lap only seat belt with locking latch plate
- Lap belt's locking latch plate at or near location where angle may not keep it locked (if possible)
- Locking clip used on lap belt (regardless of latch plate angle)

Scenario 3

- 11 months old, 21 pounds
- Forward facing in combination seat
- Harness in upper slots
- Seat in full reclined position (intended for rear-facing)
- Seat installed in rear outboard position
- Seat installation too loose

Scenario 4

- 1 week old, 4 pounds
- Rear facing in convertible seat with harness/shield
- Extra padding behind infant
- Seat installed in front passenger seat
- Passenger side air bag in vehicle
- Correct installation other than being in front seat in front of air bag

Scenario 5

- 2 year old 28 pound child
- In forward facing convertible seat
- Harness in lower slots
- Seat in fully reclined position
- Seat installed in LATCH equipped position
- Installed using seat belt and lower anchors

Scenario 6

- 13 months old, 18 pounds
- Forward facing in a convertible seat
- Harness in upper slots
- Seat in upright position
- Harness retainer at armpit level
- Seat installed in rear outboard position with lap and shoulder belt
- Locking clip installed on retractor side of belt path (visible with the door open)

Scenario 7

- 6 years old, 64 pounds
- In belt positioning booster
- Correctly installed using lap and shoulder belt for restraint
- Shoulder belt routed through shoulder belt guide that positions the shoulder belt across upper arm/shoulder rather than mid collar bone

Scenario 8

- 15 months old, 26 pounds
- Forward facing in a rear-facing only seat
- Harness in upper slots
- Seat installed in rear outboard position
- Locking clip used correctly on continuous loop lap and shoulder belt with sliding latchplate

Scenario 9

- 4 years old, 34 pounds
- In belt positioning booster
- Correctly installed using lap and shoulder belt for restraint

Scenario 10 (Represents correct use)

- 3 years old, 37 pounds
- Forward facing in a convertible seat
- Seat in upright position
- Snug harness through upper slots with retainer clip at armpit level
- Correct installation

Scenario 11

- 5 years old, 52 pounds
- In forward facing CR with harness with upper weight limit of 40 pounds (convertible or combination)
- Seat installed in rear outboard position
- Locking clip placed correctly on continuous loop lap and shoulder belt
- Seat installation too loose

Scenario 12

- 6 years old, 56 pounds
- In shield booster with shield in place
- Seat installed in rear outboard position
- Lap and shoulder belt available in rear outboard positions
- Note that installation may be technically accurate if it is installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions for a lap and shoulder belt. The key to look for in the student's response is that a belt positioning booster should be used rather than the shield booster.

Testing Rules and Procedures

1. Candidates may make three attempts to successfully pass each scenario. All attempts should be recorded on the same form with your instructor certification ID. Should a candidate need a third attempt, direct them to stop and review their workbook. **The third attempt should be graded by an instructor who has not graded them on that scenario.**
2. Selection and installation of each CR should **reflect best practice** given the scenario and vehicle circumstances.
3. ALL scenarios must be passed in order to pass the evaluation.
4. A time limit to complete repeated attempts may be determined at the discretion of the Lead Instructor.
5. During the six scenario skills tests:
 - Instructors will remain in the testing area at all times while students are present.
 - *Candidates must work individually and demonstrate skills without input from instructors or other technician candidates*
 - Students waiting for a vehicle or scenario should maintain enough distance from the scenarios so that conversations between the instructors and students being tested can not be overheard.
 - Instructors may indicate which part of the scenario (i.e. selection, harness adjustment, or installation) is incorrect, but should not offer suggestions of how to correct it (i.e. stating the harness is correct but there is another problem.)
 - Encourage technician candidates to refer to any or all course resources, including the Participant Manual and CR/vehicle manufacturers' instructions, in order to complete scenario evaluations.
6. **For each scenario, students determine correct or incorrect use based on age and weight information for that scenario and a visual inspection of the CR.**

In order to pass each of the six misuse scenarios, the candidate must:

- Diagnose and note on the test form whether or not best practice guidelines for **CR selection** are being followed. If best practice guidelines are not being followed, the student must recommend the correct type of CR.
- Diagnose and note on the test form whether or not best practice guidelines for **CR harnessing** are being followed. If best practice guidelines are not being followed, the student must recommend changes or corrections.
- Diagnose and note on the test form whether or not best practice guidelines for **CR installation** are being followed. If best practice guidelines are not being followed, the student must recommend changes or corrections.
- CR manufacturer, model name and number, and date of manufacture information will be provided along with the child age/weight information.
- CR and vehicle manufacturer instructions should be made available to students.
- **Students should not change, adjust or correct the scenarios for any reason.** Students should notify a supervising instructor if they inadvertently disturb the set-up in any way.
- Students are NOT allowed to touch the scenario seats, harnesses, or safety belts in the course of their examination. Any misuse will be identifiable without having to touch the CR, harness or seat belt. Again, students should notify a supervising instructor if they inadvertently disturb the set-up in any way.
- An instructor must check the scenarios after each candidate to be sure that the scenarios have not been disturbed or changed. Examples include: switched retractor, tightness of belt, angle of recline.

Read To Technician Candidates Before Starting Skills Evaluation:

- You are to work individually.
 - You may use written materials, such as your workbook.
 - Students must stand at least 10 feet away from a station while waiting so they cannot overhear student/instructor interaction.
 - Do not talk to any other candidates, whether you are at a station or not.
 - There are six scenarios in which you must accurately diagnose any misuse observed.
 - You are NOT allowed to touch the scenario seats, harnesses, or safety belts in the course of their examination. Any misuse will be identifiable without having to touch the CR, harness or seat belt.
 - Instructors will check the scenarios after your review to be sure that they have not been changed.
 - You must pass all three elements of each scenario to pass the selection and installation scenario. You must pass all seven scenarios to pass the skills evaluation.
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- **REMEMBER: IN ALL SCENARIOS - BEST PRACTICE IS BEST CHOICE.**

 - **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.**