

Child Occupant Protection Glossary

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3-in-1 Car Seat: See *All-in-One Car Seat*

4-in-1 Car Seat: See *All-in-One Car Seat*

5-in-1 Car Seat: See *All-in-One Car Seat*

5-point Harness: See *Harness, 5-point*

A

ACSD: See *Aviation Child Safety Device*

Adaptive Car Seat/Booster Seat: Car seat or booster seat that must be obtained through a specialized provider; typically used for children with health and/or behavioral needs

Adjustable Foot: See *Recline Adjustment*

Advanced Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Advanced*

After-Market Product: See *Non-Approved Product*

Air Bag: Vehicle occupant protection device made up of a fabric bag designed to rapidly inflate when the vehicle determines that there has been a crash; designed to be used with a vehicle seat belt; vehicle manufacturers use many terms to refer to air bags including SRS—supplemental restraint system, SIR—supplemental inflatable restraint

Air Bag, Advanced: Frontal air bag that uses a complex system of sensors and other technology to automatically adjust the timing and inflation in a crash; also referred to as smart air bag

Air Bag, Curtain: Side air bag that inflates from the roofline above the side windows to protect the occupant from striking the window or incoming vehicle or object; also referred to as IC-inflatable curtain and safety canopy

Air Bag, Front Center: Side air bag that inflates between the driver's seat and the center console to prevent front seat occupants from hitting each other in a crash

Air Bag, Frontal: Air bag at the front of a vehicle that absorbs crash energy to protect a front seat occupant; driver and front passenger air bags inflate from the steering wheel and dashboard, respectively; can be found in rear seats of some vehicles

Air Bag, Knee: Air bag that works in tandem with the other frontal air bags to control the position of the occupant and absorb energy in a crash; also reduces the risk for injuries to the knee, thigh and hip; located under the steering wheel and/or glove box

Air Bag, Passenger: Frontal air bag for the front part of the passenger compartment; typically, it is larger than the driver air bag and may protect either the front center or outboard passengers or both

Air Bag, Seat Cushion: Air bag designed to raise the front portion of a seat cushion to help keep the occupant in the correct position during a frontal crash; typically located within the driver's and/or front passenger's seat

Air Bag, Seat-Mounted Side: Air bag that inflates from the side of an outboard vehicle seatback to fill the space between the passenger and the door/window; manufacturers may refer to as torso air bag or torso bag

Air Bag, Side: Air bag that is designed to fill the space between an occupant and the vehicle door and/or window; may inflate in frontal, side impact, and rollover crashes; also referred to as side impact air bag; vehicle manufacturers use many terms to refer to side air bags including SIPS—side impact protection system, SAB—side air bag and SABIC—side air bag inflatable curtain

Air Bag, Side Impact: See *Air Bag, Side*

Air Bag, Smart: See *Air Bag, Advanced*

Air Bag, Torso: See *Air Bag, Seat-Mounted Side*

All-in-One Car Seat: Car seat that can be used rear-facing, forward-facing and as a booster; some manufacturers refer to as a 3-in-1, 4-in-1 or 5-in-1 car seat

ALR: See *Retractor, Automatic Locking*

Anchor, Seat Belt: One of the points where a seat belt attaches to the vehicle or vehicle seat

Angle: See *Recline Angle*

Angle Adjustment: See *Recline Adjustment*

Anti-Rebound Bar/Panel: Rigid bar or panel found on some rear-facing car seats used to reduce the movement of the car seat towards the rear of the vehicle (rebound) in the event of a frontal or rear-impact crash; also referred to as ARB

ARB: See *Anti-Rebound Bar*

Automatic Locking Retractor: See *Retractor, Automatic Locking*

Aviation Child Safety Device: Airplane-specific child restraint approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation and Transport Canada; also referred to as ACSD

B

Back Seat: See *Rear Seat*

Backless Booster Seat: Booster seat with no back structure so it relies on the vehicle's seat back and head restraint for the child's head, neck and back support; also referred to no-back booster seat; see also booster seat

Base: Bottom of a car seat; also is a common reference to the detachable base of an infant car seat

Belt Path: On a car seat, the area the manufacturer has designated for routing the seat belt or lower anchor attachment webbing for installation. On a booster seat, the area the manufacturer has designated for routing the seat belt over the booster seat and the child's body to restrain the child.

Belt-Positioning Booster: See *Booster Seat*

Belt Tensioning Device: See *Tension Device*

Belt Tensioning Plate: See *Tension Device*

Best Practice: Safest way to transport a child based on the child's age, weight, height and developmental level; gold standard of protection, while following the car seat manufacturer instructions

Booster Car Seat: See *Combination Car Seat*

Booster Seat: Backless or high-back seat that raises and positions a child so vehicle seat belt fits correctly over the stronger points of a child's body, the hips and across the chest; must be used with a lap-and-shoulder belt; also referred to as belt-positioning booster or BPB

BPB: See *Belt-Positioning Booster Seat*

Buckle: Hardware that accepts the latch plate and holds the seat belt or car seat harness in place

Buckle Slot: Narrow opening in a car seat where the buckle webbing is threaded through the car seat's shell

Buckle Strap: See *Buckle Webbing*

Buckle Tongue: See *Latch Plate*

Buckle Webbing: Webbing on a car seat with a buckle on one end that goes between the child's legs to accept the latch plate, often adjustable; also referred to as buckle strap or crotch strap

Built-In Car Seat/Booster Seat: Car seat or booster seat built into the vehicle seat; also referred to as integrated car seat/booster seat



Canadian Motor Vehicle Restraint Systems and Booster Seats Safety

Regulations: Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that regulates child restraint systems designed for use in a motor vehicle or aircraft to restrain, seat

or position children 80 pounds or less; also referred to as RSSR

Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety

Standards: Regulations established by Transport Canada that define minimum safety performance requirements for motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment in Canada; often referred to as CMVSS

Car Safety Seat: See *Car Seat*

Car Seat: General term for infant, convertible, forward-facing only and all-in-one car seats; also referred to as child seat, child safety seat, car safety seat, child restraint or child restraint system

Caregiver: Person responsible for a child's well-being and safety

Carrier: Infant car seat that often connects to a manufacturer-provided detachable base

Carrier Release: Mechanism used to release a carrier from its detachable base on an infant car seat; typically located on either the carrier or the detachable base

Carry Handle: Part attached to an infant car seat used to carry the car seat; instructions for some models allow or require the handle to be used in a position during travel that functions as an anti-rebound bar

Carry Handle Adjustment Button: Mechanism used to unlock the carry handle of an infant car seat so it can be adjusted among various positions such as those for carry and travel

CEU: Continuing Education Unit; also referred to as continuing education

Checkout Event: Standalone event for a specific date, time and location where caregivers come to learn from Child Passenger Safety Technicians how to use their car seats and booster seats in their vehicles

Chest Clip: Part that holds the harness on car seats together over the child's chest at armpit level; also referred to as harness retainer clip or retainer clip.

Child Passenger Safety: Term used for the science and practice of protecting children being transported; also referred to as CPS

Child Passenger Safety Technician: Person who has successfully completed the standardized Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training course; also referred to as CPS Technician, CPST and Technician

Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor: Person who has successfully completed the requirements to teach the Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training course; also referred to as CPS Instructor, CPST-I, CPSTI or Instructor

Child Restraint/Child Restraint System: Crash-tested device for an infant or child meets Federal standards for their protection in the event of a motor vehicle crash; general term for systems including car seats, booster seats, harnesses/vests or car beds; also referred to as CR or CRS; see also Car Seat

Child Restraint Anchorage System: See *LATCH System*

Child Safety Restraint System: Terminology used in the pupil transportation industry for child restraint systems; also referred to as CSRS

Child Safety Seat: See *Car Seat*

Child Seat: See *Car Seat*

CMVSS: See *Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards*

CMVSS 210.1: Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that regulates the design and performance of tether anchorages in passenger vehicles

CMVSS 210.2: Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that regulates the design and performance of lower universal anchorages in passenger vehicles

Collision: See *Crash, Vehicle*

Combination Car Seat: Forward-facing car seat that can be used with the harness up to a certain child size and then, with removal or stowage of the harness, as a booster seat; also referred to as a booster car seat, harness booster seat or harness-to-booster car seat

Compartmentalization: Occupant protection approach on school buses that combines energy-absorbent seat backs and closely spaced rows to create a small area within which the occupants are confined in a frontal or rear-end crash

Compliance Testing: Testing performed randomly by NHTSA to inform of potential noncompliance of a specific vehicle or child restraint system (or other motor vehicle equipment) based

on a failure to meet the minimum requirements of the applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS); it is neither an approval nor certification that the vehicle or equipment complies with all applicable FMVSS requirements

Conventional Car Seat/Booster Seat:

Car seat or booster seat that is readily available to caregivers from a local or online retailer

Convertible Car Seat: Car seat that can be used both rear-facing and forward-facing

CPS: See *Child Passenger Safety*

CPS Instructor: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor*

CPS Technician: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician*

CPST: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician*

CPST-I: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor*

CPSTI: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor*

CR/CRS: See *Child Restraint/Child Restraint System*

Crash, Frontal: Crash in which the impact occurs at the front end of the vehicle; the most frequent type of crash resulting in fatalities

Crash, Human: Second stage of a crash when the occupants collide with parts of the vehicle interior, air bag and/or restraint webbing, if restrained

Crash, Internal: Third stage of a crash; occurs after an occupant's body comes to a stop and their internal organs

continue to move toward the point of impact

Crash, Lateral: See *Crash, Side Impact*

Crash, Rear-End: Crash in which the impact occurs at the rear end of the vehicle

Crash, Rollover: Crash where the vehicle rolls over onto its side or upside down one or more times

Crash, Rotational: Crash where the vehicle spins

Crash, Side Impact: Crash into the side of a vehicle; the most severe/deadly type of crash; also referred to as lateral crash

Crash, Vault: Type of crash where the vehicle flips end over end

Crash, Vehicle: First stage of a crash when the vehicle strikes another vehicle or object; also referred to as collision and motor vehicle crash

Crash-Locking Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Dynamic*

Crotch Strap: See *Buckle Webbing*

Crumple Zone: Vehicle occupant protection feature that absorbs crash forces in order to extend the time it takes for the vehicle to come to a stop during a vehicle crash

CSRS: See *Child Safety Restraint System*

Curtain Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Curtain*

D

Dashboard: Panel extending across the interior of a vehicle below the windshield and usually containing

instruments, controls and screens; also referred to as instrument panel

Design Standard: Industry standard that recommends how the product should look, promoting uniformity among manufacturers

Detachable Base: Separate part that allows a carrier to be snapped in and out without requiring reinstallation; found on infant car seats; also referred to as base

Developmental Level: Needs, behaviors and capabilities that are common and different for that stage of development

Direct Routing Tether System: Tether system where a car seat's tether routes directly to a tether anchor without first going through a tether router

Dynamic Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Dynamic*

E

Ease-of-Use Ratings: Set of ratings developed by NHTSA to evaluate how easy certain car seat features are to use based on the following categories: instructions, vehicle installation features, labels and securing the child

ELR: See *Retractor, Emergency Locking*

Emergency Locking Retractor: See *Retractor, Emergency Locking*

EU Routing: See *European Belt Routing*

European Belt Routing: Type of infant car seat installation where the shoulder belt routes behind the car seat shell providing a stable installation without a base; also referred to as EU routing

Expiration Date: Point at which the manufacturer states a car seat, booster seat or other child restraint should no longer be used; length of allowed use varies by manufacturer, is optional and is usually expressed as a period of years from the date of manufacture; communicated by stamps in the plastic, on labels, in the instruction manual and/or on the manufacturers' websites

F

FAA: Federal Aviation Administration

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety

Standards: Regulations established by NHTSA that define minimum safety performance requirements for motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment in the United States; often referred to as FMVSS

Fitting Station: See *Inspection Station*

Flexible Lower Anchor Attachment

System: See *Lower Anchor Attachment System, Flexible*

FMVSS: See *Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards*

FMVSS 213: Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that regulates child restraint systems designed for use in a motor vehicle or aircraft to restrain, seat or position children 80 pounds or less

FMVSS 225: Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that regulates the design and performance of the child restraint anchorage system, commonly known as LATCH, in passenger vehicles

Foot Prop: See *Load Leg*

Forward-Facing: Facing the front of the vehicle

Forward-Facing Only Car Seat: Car seat designed for use by an older child in forward-facing mode only; cannot be used as a rear-facing car seat or booster seat

Frame: See *Shell*

Front Center Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Front Center*

Frontal Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Frontal*

Frontal Crash: See *Crash, Frontal*

G

Glove Box: Compartment built into the dashboard of a vehicle in front of the outboard passenger; used for miscellaneous storage and, often, the vehicle owner's manual; also referred to as glove compartment

Glove Compartment: See *Glove Box*

Good, Better, Best: Philosophy that Child Passenger Safety Technicians use to understand protection options and respect caregiver choices

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: Maximum weight a vehicle is designed to carry including the net weight of the vehicle with accessories plus the weight of passengers, fuel and cargo; also referred to as GVWR

GVWR: See *Gross Vehicle Weight Rating*

H

Harness: Combination pelvic and upper torso child restraint system that consists primarily of flexible material,

such as straps, webbing or similar material and that does not include a rigid seating structure for the child; uses a lap belt and tether to secure the occupant; harnesses are not required to have lower anchor attachments but may have them; typically used in place of a car seat or booster seat; also referred to as vest

Harness, 5-point: Webbing that keeps a child in the car seat and spreads crash forces across five points of contact (one over each shoulder, one on each side of the pelvis, and one between the legs) with the webbing joining at a buckle near the child's lap

Harness Adjuster: Mechanism that releases and tightens the harness in a car seat; may be a button, a toggle or other style; also referred to as harness release

Harness Adjuster Strap: Strap that is pulled to tighten the harness on a car seat

Harness Booster Car Seat: See *Combination Car Seat*

Harness Release: See *Harness Adjuster*

Harness Retainer Clip: See *Chest Clip*

Harness Slots: Narrow openings in a car seat where the harness is threaded through the car seat's shell

Harness-to-Booster Car Seat: See *Combination Car Seat*

Head Rest: See *Head Restraint*

Head Restraint: Car seat or vehicle seat part that is behind and sometimes alongside the head, specifically for enhanced protection of an occupant's

head and neck in a crash; may be adjustable or fixed; also referred to as head rest

Height Adjuster: Mechanism that moves the head restraint on a car seat or booster seat to predetermined positions, sometimes adjusting the harness height or shoulder belt guide depending on the car seat or booster seat

High-Back Booster Seat: Booster seat with a backrest that provides head, neck and back support for the child; see also booster seat

Human Crash: See *Crash, Human*



IC: See *Inflatable Curtain*

Inboard: Situated near the center of the vehicle

Incompatibility: When a particular car seat will not work or fit in a specific vehicle seating position

Indirect Routing Tether System: Tether system where the tether first goes through a router that is behind the vehicle seat and then attaches to a tether anchor that is located elsewhere, often behind an adjacent vehicle seat; a design common in pickup trucks

Infant Car Seat: Car seat designed for use by a young child in a semi-reclined rear-facing position only; typically, is a carrier with a manufacturer provided detachable base; not permitted by manufacturer to be used forward-facing; also referred to as a rear-facing only car seat

Infant Loops: Sewn slots in the harness webbing of some car seats that are manufacturer-designated attachment points for the splitter plate; used, following manufacturer's instructions, to remove a segment of webbing from the harness system so it is possible to get a snug fit on the smallest of allowed passengers

Inflatable Curtain: See *Air Bag, Curtain*

Inflatable Seat Belt: See *Seat Belt, Inflatable*

Inlay: See *Insert*

Insert: Additional component provided by the manufacturer to aid with child positioning, fit and/or comfort; also referred to as inlay and pad

Inspection Station: Dedicated location where caregivers come, usually by appointment, to learn from Child Passenger Safety Technicians how to use their car seats and booster seats in their vehicles; held at set dates, times and intervals; also referred to as fitting station

Instructor: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor*

Instrument Panel: See *Dashboard*

Integrated Car Seat/Booster Seat: See *Built-In Car Seat/Booster Seat*

Internal Crash: See *Crash, Internal*

ISOFIX: International Standards Organization's term for the standardized child restraint installation system; while the name LATCH is commonly used in the United States to refer to the child restraint anchorage system, and UAS was adopted in Canada, ISOFIX is the

term used elsewhere worldwide; vehicles made by companies based outside North America (especially Europe) often identify LATCH/UAS as ISOFIX in instructions and labeling

J

K

Knee Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Knee*

L

Label: Sticker or other panel permanently affixed to a car seat or booster seat that provides use information and important warnings, as required by Federal regulations

Lap Belt: Vehicle seat belt that is anchored at two points for use, restraining a vehicle occupant at the thighs/hips; does not provide upper body protection

Lap-and-Shoulder Belt: Vehicle seat belt that is anchored at three points, restraining the vehicle occupant at the thighs/hips and across the chest and shoulder; provides upper body protection

LATCH: Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children; name commonly used in the United States to refer to the child restraint anchorage system which is the required vehicle attachment system dedicated to car seats comprised of two lower anchors and a tether anchor

Latch Plate: Hardware that is pressed firmly into a buckle to connect the segments of a safety device, like a seat belt or car seat harness; also referred to as buckle tongue, tongue and tongue plate

Latch Plate, Crash-Locking: See *Latch Plate, Dynamic*

Latch Plate, Dynamic: Non-locking latch plate that has a bar that rotates to pinch the lap belt and shoulder belt together at the moment of a crash to prevent webbing slack from moving from the lap belt to the shoulder belt; does not lock to hold a car seat tight under non-crash conditions; also referred to as crash-locking latch plate

Latch Plate, Locking: Latch plate that holds the lap belt at a fixed length, after it has been adjusted

Latch Plate, Non-Locking: Latch plate that does not have a locking feature to hold the webbing at a fixed length; includes sliding, dynamic and sewn-on vehicle latch plates

Latch Plate, Sewn-On: Non-locking latch plate; webbing runs through a slot(s) in the latch plate and then sewn together

Latch Plate, Sliding: Non-locking latch plate; the seat belt webbing moves freely through a slot in the latch plate and does not lock at a fixed length

LATCH System: Full set of required LATCH features on either a vehicle (lower anchors and a tether anchor) or a car seat (lower anchor attachment system and tether); also referred to as child restraint anchorage system

Lateral Crash: See *Crash, Side Impact*

Learn, Practice, Educate: Guiding philosophy behind the *Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training* curriculum which promotes learning the facts/skills/information, practicing the facts/skills/information and educating caregivers on what you have learned; also referred to as LPE

Level Indicator: See *Recline Indicator*

Load Leg: Support mechanism that extends from a car seat to the vehicle floor; prevents or reduces excessive forward and downward rotation of the car seat in a crash; also referred to as foot prop, stability leg or support leg

Lock-Off: Feature built into a car seat or detachable base that holds a lap-and-shoulder belt at a fixed length when used during installation

Lockability Requirement: Requirement since model year 1996 (U.S.) for passenger seat belts to have a method to remain at a fixed length when used for car seat installation; Canada introduced the lockability requirement beginning in model year 2015

Locking Clip: Metal piece that can be threaded onto lap-and-shoulder belt webbing to hold the lap belt at a fixed length for a car seat installation; used in place of a locking latch plate or locking retractor

Locking Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Locking*

Locking Retractor: See *Retractor, Locking*

Lower Anchor Adjuster: Hardware on a car seat or booster seat's flexible lower anchor attachment system that is used

to lock and shorten/lengthen the system's webbing

Lower Anchor Attachment System:

Permanent set of parts on a car seat or booster seat that are used to install it to a vehicle's lower anchors

Lower Anchor Attachment System,

Flexible: Permanent set of parts on a car seat or booster seat that are used to install it to a vehicle's lower anchors; a flexible system is made of lower anchor connectors and a lower anchor adjuster(s) on webbing

Lower Anchor Attachment System,

Rigid: Permanent set of parts on a car seat or booster seat that are used to install it to a vehicle's lower anchors; a rigid system has non-adjustable lower anchor connectors that attach directly to the car seat or booster seat without the use of webbing

Lower Anchor Connector: Hardware on a car seat or booster seat's lower anchor attachment system used to connect onto a vehicle's lower anchor

Lower Anchor Webbing: Webbing of a car seat or booster seat's flexible lower anchor attachment system

Lower Anchors: Standardized pair of metal bars located near the vehicle seat bight that provides a location to attach the lower anchor connectors of a car seat or booster; usually part of a complete vehicle LATCH system

LPE: See *Learn, Practice, Educate*

M

Misuse: Using a car seat or booster seat against manufacturer's instructions

Motor Vehicle Crash: See *Crash, Vehicle*

N

National Child Passenger Safety Board:

Group that maintains the quality and integrity of the standardized Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training curriculum; activities are managed by the National Safety Council (cpsboard.org and nsc.org); also referred to as NCPSPB

National Digital Car Seat Check Form:

Free electronic form that Child Passenger Safety Technicians are encouraged to use when documenting car seat checks in order to collect data needed by individuals, agencies, states, manufacturers and NHTSA; also referred to as NDCF (carseatcheckform.org and cpsboard.org/ndcf)

National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration: Federal agency that is part of the Department of Transportation which promotes highway and transportation safety; established and enforces the FMVSSs; developed original Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training curriculum and remains committed to providing regular updates to the curriculum; also referred to as NHTSA (nhtsa.gov)

National Safety Mark: Prescribed expression, symbol or abbreviation or

any combination of them used to show that a vehicle or a car seat meets the necessary standards in Canada; also referred to as NSM

NCPSPB: See *National Child Passenger Safety Board*

NDCF: See *National Digital Car Seat Check Form*

NHTSA: See *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

No-Back Booster Seat: See *Backless Booster Seat*

Non-Approved Product: Product, typically made and marketed by a third party, that is not subject to FMVSS 213 or FMVSS 225 and is not approved for use with a car seat by the car seat or vehicle manufacturer; commonly referred to as after-market product or non-regulated product

Non-Locking Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Non-Locking*

Non-Locking Retractor: See *Retractor, Non-Locking*

Non-Regulated Product: See *Non-Approved Product*

NSM: See *National Safety Mark*

O

Occupant Protection: Safety features, like car seats, booster seats, seat belts and air bags designed to protect occupants of motor vehicles in the event of a crash

Outboard: Situated near the outside of the vehicle next to the window

P

Pad: See *Insert*

Padding: See *Seat Padding*

Passenger Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Passenger*

Passenger Vehicle: Motor vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings of 10,000 pounds (4,536 kg) or less and include passenger cars and light trucks—SUVs, pickups and vans

Passive Safety Feature: Feature that protects the passenger without requiring any action by the passenger to make it work; for example, air bags

Performance Standard: Regulation that mandates how a product should perform under certain conditions or circumstances but does not mandate how a product should be designed or look

Pinch Test: Preferred method to determine tightness of a harness relative to the child's body; you should not be able to vertically pinch excess webbing at the shoulder once the harness is tightened

Q

R

Rear-End Crash: See *Crash, Rear-End*

Rear-Facing: Facing the rear of the vehicle

Rear-Facing Only Car Seat: See *Infant Car Seat*

Rear Seat: Designated vehicle seating position that is not in the front row; also referred to as back seat

Recall: Voluntary or required action taken by a car seat and vehicle manufacturer to correct a problem, noncompliance or deficiency discovered after products have been distributed or sold

Recline Adjuster: Mechanism that moves the recline adjustment

Recline Adjustment: Part of some car seats that moves to change the recline angle; also referred to as adjustable foot and angle adjustment

Recline Angle: Position of a car seat with respect to how a seated child's back will rest relative to being fully upright; also referred to as angle

Recline Indicator: Mechanism that identifies a car seat's correct angle for use per manufacturer's instructions; also referred to as level indicator

Registration Card: Federally required, postage-paid return card that comes with every new car seat and booster seat; should be filled out and returned to the manufacturer so caregivers will be notified of safety issues, including recalls

Restraint System: Crash-tested device or system—such as a car seat, booster seat or seat belt—that is specifically designed to provide protection for an occupant in the event of a crash

Retainer Clip: See *Chest Clip*

Retractor: Mechanism that gathers and stores unused seat belt webbing and

locks the seat belt at a fixed length in a crash

Retractor, Automatic Locking: Retractor on a seat belt that, when locked, maintains a fixed length of seat belt webbing; often referred to as ALR

Retractor, Emergency Locking: Retractor that does not have a locking feature to hold the webbing at a fixed length; also referred to as ELR

Retractor, Locking: Retractor on a seat belt that, when locked, maintains a fixed length of seat belt webbing; also referred to as switchable retractor

Retractor, Non-Locking: Retractor that does not have a locking feature to hold the webbing at a fixed length; also referred to as ELR or emergency locking retractor

Retractor, Switchable: See *Retractor, Locking*

Retrofit: Installing, fitting or adapting a device or system in any way not provided on a product in its original condition; some types of retrofitting are acceptable if manufacturer's instructions are followed such as adding seat belts to a school bus or adding a tether anchor to an older passenger vehicle

Ride Down: Time it takes for an occupant or vehicle to come to a stop in a vehicle crash; a main objective of occupant protection is to extend the stopping time to reduce the crash forces on the body during a vehicle crash and take advantage of the vehicle safety features

Rigid Lower Anchor Attachment

System: See *Lower Anchor Attachment System, Rigid*

Rollover Crash: See *Crash, Rollover*

Rotational Crash: See *Crash, Rotational*

Router: Mechanism that guides a car seat's tether in an indirect routing tether system; may be a closed loop or open system; typically found in pickup trucks

RSSR: See *Canadian Motor Vehicle Restraint Systems and Booster Seats Safety Regulations*

S

SAB: See *Side Air Bag*

SABIC: See *Side Air Bag Inflatable Curtain*

Safe Kids Worldwide: Certifying body responsible for administering all aspects of the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Program; also referred to as SKW (cert.safekids.org and safekids.org)

Safety Belt: See *Seat Belt*

Safety Canopy: See *Air Bag, Curtain*

Seat Belt: Buckle, retractor, anchor, webbing and latch plate system that restrains the occupant in the vehicle; also referred to as a safety belt or seat belt system

Seat Belt, Inflatable: Seat belt with an air bag in the shoulder belt

Seat Belt Positioner: Non-approved product that is marketed as a way to alter the position of a seat belt on a child

Seat Belt Syndrome: Group of injuries associated with seat belt misuse including severe abdominal injuries and/or fractures of the lower spine

Seat Belt System: See *Seat Belt*

Seat Bight: Area where the vehicle seat cushion meets the vehicle seat back; also referred to as the vehicle seat bight, seat crack or seat crease

Seat Crack: See *Seat Bight*

Seat Crease: See *Seat Bight*

Seat Cushion Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Seat Cushion*

Seat-Mounted Side Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Seat-Mounted Side*

Seat Padding: Fabric that covers the shell/frame and foam, if present, of vehicle seats, car seats and booster seats; also referred to as padding

Sewn-On Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Sewn-On*

Shell: Molded plastic and/or metal structure of the car seat or booster seat; also referred to as frame

Shoulder Belt Guide: Mechanism on a booster seat that is used to place the shoulder belt correctly across an occupant's shoulder so it does not slide off or cross the neck; may be adjustable

Shoulder Belt Height Adjuster: Mechanism in a vehicle that is used to place the shoulder belt correctly across an occupant's shoulder so it does not slide off or cross the neck; may be adjustable

Side Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Side*

Side Air Bag Inflatable Curtain: See *Air Bag, Side*

Side Impact Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Side*

Side Impact Crash: See *Crash, Side Impact*

Side Impact Protection System: See *Air Bag, Side*

SIPS: See *Side Impact Protection System*

SIR: See *Supplemental Inflatable Restraint*

SKW: See *Safe Kids Worldwide*

Sliding Latch Plate: See *Latch Plate, Sliding*

Smart Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Advanced*

Snug Harness: Harness that does not allow slack; the webbing lies in a relatively straight line without sagging yet does not press into the child's shoulders enough to create an indentation

Splitter Plate: Metal component that connects the two ends of the shoulder harness to the harness adjuster on the back of a car seat; also referred to as a yoke

SRS: See *Supplemental Restraint System*

Stability Leg: See *Load Leg*

Supplemental Inflatable Restraint: See *Air Bag*

Supplemental Restraint System: See *Air Bag*

Support Leg: See *Load Leg*

Switchable Retractor: See *Retractor, Locking*

T

TC: See *Transport Canada*

Technician: See *Child Passenger Safety Technician*

Technician Proxy: Person who has successfully completed the standardized Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training course and who has been approved to provide seat check sign-offs for recertification

Tension Device: Feature of some car seats that aids installation by removing slack in the seat belt or lower anchor webbing; also referred to as belt tensioning device or belt tensioning plate

Tether: Adjustable webbing with a hook that is attached at one or two places to the top of car seats; commonly used in a forward-facing installation but can be recommended in some rear-facing installations; when attached to a tether anchor in the vehicle limits a child's forward motion in a crash; also referred to as a top strap or top tether

Tether Adjuster: Hardware on a tether that is used to lock and shorten/lengthen the webbing

Tether Anchor: Part in a vehicle that provides a location to attach a car seat's tether; often part of the complete vehicle LATCH system

Tether Hook: Hardware on tether webbing used to attach a car seat's tether to a vehicle's tether anchor

Tongue: See *Latch Plate*

Tongue Plate: See *Latch Plate*

Top Strap: See *Tether*

Top Tether: See *Tether*

Torso Air Bag: See *Air Bag, Seat-Mounted Side*

Torso Bag: See *Air Bag, Seat-Mounted Side*

Transport Canada: Transport Canada is a Canadian Federal institution that is responsible for transportation policies and programs that promote safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible transportation; within its portfolio under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Transport Canada develops and maintains regulations for child restraint systems in Canada; also referred to as TC

U

UAS: Universal Anchorage System; name given in Canada to the vehicle attachment system dedicated to car seats; comprised of lower anchors in the vehicle and the lower anchor attachment system on the child restraint system used to attach it to the vehicle

V

Vault Crash: See *Crash, Vault*

Vehicle Crash: See *Crash, Vehicle*

Vehicle Seat Bight: See *Seat Bight*

Vest: See *Harness*

W

Webbing: Woven fabric used for the vehicle seat belt or car seat harness,

adjuster, lower anchor connectors
and/or tether



Yoke: See *Splitter Plate*