

Reusing Child-Safety Seats after a Minor Accident

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently revised its advice to parents and caregivers, and now allows the reuse of child-safety seats after a minor crash **if all of the following conditions apply:**

- Visual inspection of the child-safety seat, including inspection under any easily movable seat padding, does not reveal any cracks or deformation that might have been caused by the crash.
- The vehicle in which the child-safety seat was installed could be driven from the scene of the crash.
- The vehicle door nearest the child-safety seat was undamaged.
- None of the vehicle's occupants was injured.
- Air bags (if any) did not deploy.

Your facility's written policies should require a certified child-safety seat inspector to inspect any seat involved in a minor accident. Your fire or police department should have a certified inspector on staff. Also, familiarize yourself with seat manufacturer's information regarding performance, operation, and installation of their product.

Never make exceptions. It can be a costly error. For more information on child safety seats, visit these web sites:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.gov
- Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov
- The National Safe Kids Campaign: www.safekids.org

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.