

**State of Minnesota**  
**Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board**  
**Ambulance Standards Ad-Hoc Work Group Meeting**  
**February 22, 2016 – Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Pat Coyne, Chair; Aaron Reinert, Vice Chair; Jeff Czyson, Vice Chair; Joe Kounkel; Fred Pawelk; Tom Fennell; Tony Spector, EMSRB Executive Director; Bob Norlen; Jim Green, NIOSH – telephone guest; Kjelsey Polzin (phone); Tom Frost (phone).

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Coyne opens the meeting and begins introductions for attendees and telephone guest Jim Green.

**2. Approve Agenda**

Mr. Czyson moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Kounkel seconded. Committee consensus.

**3. Approve Minutes of 2/8/16 meeting**

Mr. Kounkel moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Fennell seconded. Committee consensus.

**4. Chairs Comments**

Mr. Coyne invites Mr. Reinert to provide background information on the development of NFPA 1917 and the CAAS GVS Standards. Mr. Reinert was a team member with each group.

Mr. Reinert shares the eventual sunset of KKK-A-1822F is announced in 2008 when the creation of non-governmental ambulance standards are beginning. We have two standards in place at this time, NFPA and CAAS, and shares that each State has the ability to determine which of the two will be followed or develop their own. NASEMSO has pushed for continuation of KKK-A-1822F until NFPA or CAAS are adopted. It is shared that a State may not reference a defunct document. MN has joined VA, NC, MD, and WA in the adoption of a standard. The group discusses pros/cons of creating an independent standard for MN, written from scratch or sampled from each document, and determines it best to adopt one of the two, in total.

**Considerations:**

NFPA is ANSI accredited to create Standards. CAAS is in the process of accreditation and utilized approved ANSI process in the development of their GVS v1.0. If CAAS receives ANSI accreditation it is undetermined if GVS v1.0 will be accredited retroactively or if this will be withheld until GVS v2.0 is released. This version is currently in process.

Mr. Coyne asks about the inclusion of SAE recommendations in these standards and Mr. Reinert and Mr. Green share that several bodies such as SAE, AMD, FMVSS perform independent testing and provide this information to NFPA and CAAS for adoption.

**5. Presentation from Mr. Jim Green, CDC/NIOSH**

Copies of this presentation were distributed by Executive Director Spector on flash drive and will be made available to absent members. All members felt the presentation was of high value.

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Discussion:

Mr. Green shared the ability for States to allow exceptions to the Standards. Mr. Norlen questioned the resultant liability of allowing exceptions and the group acknowledged this is an ongoing practice to varying degrees. Additional questions were raised about where exceptions to the CAAS GVS may be required and Mr. Reinert reached out for permission to share the near-final version of the document. Prior to the conclusion of the meeting he received this approval and the document will be shared with members.

**6. Review National Standards comparison**

Mr. Green acknowledges the documents are similar but have distinct differences. Mr. Pawelk, Mr. Kounkel, Mr. Reinert, Mr. Czyson agreed the NFPA 1917 Standard is very thorough but leaves little room for manufacturers to make adjustments or improvements. Talking points included the required thickness of metals, wire, angle of brakes, etc. Mr. Pawelk and Mr. Kounkel shared that manufacturers work diligently to ensure safe, high-quality builds and NFPA 1917 may prove limiting.

Mr. Reinert shares CAAS GVS establishes a “minimum” and encourages advances beyond. Mr. Czyson shares CAAS GVS encourages innovation while NFPA 1917 stifles it.

**7. Work Group Steps and Actions**

Mr. Czyson offered that the group must recommend the adoption of either NFPA 1917 or CAAS GVS. Members were in agreement with this action. Additional discussion ensued with regard to other actions to be taken by the group such as vehicle maintenance, inspection requirements, and driver training.

**8. Other Committee Business**

None

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2016, 10:00-12:00, EMSRB, Room TBD.

**10. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 15:09.