

State of Minnesota
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board

Board Ambulance Standards Ad-Hoc Work Group Meeting

Monday April 25, 2016 – 10:00am

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Pat Coyne, , Chad Dotzler, Joe Kounkel, Fred Pawelk, Kjelsey Polzin, Jeff Czysen, Matt Will (Phone), Tom Frost (Phone), Tony Spector, Bob Norlen

1. Call to Order

Pat Coyne, Work Group Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07am and began the meeting with introductions.

2. Approve Agenda

Agenda was approved by consensus of the Work Group members.

3. Approve Meeting Notes from March 21, 2016 Meeting

Meeting notes from March 21, 2016 meeting where approved by consensus of the Work Group members.

4. Chairs Comments

None

5. Update on Ambulance Standards Discussion at NASEMSO Meeting

- Infant and Child Transport Safety Discussion

Ms. Polzin provided an overview of information that was provided at the NASEMSO (National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials). There was specific session on regarding research and development of safety standards for children being transported in ambulances. Ms. Polzin stated the session was very informative, and indicated there is more work being done by various research and testing groups to come up with standards language that could be adopted. The session had three separate presentations done by [Dr. Marilyn Bull \(Riley Hospital for Children\)](#); [Jim Green \(NIOSH\)](#) and [Dan Sjoquist \(Serenity Safety Products\)](#). Ms. Polzin encouraged the work group to view each of their presentations. Note: click on each name to view the presentation.

Mr. Norlen reported on two sessions he attended at NASEMSO regarding ambulance standards discussion with state officials from across the country. The first presentation was from an ambulance vendor perspective on having multiple standards, cost associated with ambulance manufacturing and testing and different standards that don't overlap. This session was done by [David Cole \(Medix Specialty Vehicles\)](#) and [Randy Hanson \(AEV\)](#). A second panel discussion on ambulance standards was moderated by Michael Berg (State of Virginia and Chair of the NASEMSO Ambulance Standards Committee) with panel members James Green (NIOSH), Mark Van Arnam (CAAS), Jennifer Marshall (NIST), John McDonald (GSA) and Kendall Holland (NFPA). Each of the panel members gave an overview of their role with ambulance standards development, the reasons for standards the importance of states adopting standards from a patient and crew safety and industry safety standpoint. When the floor was opened up for questions from the state officials, most of the discussion revolved around why one standard was better than another and states are looking for direction on which standard should be used. A number of states indicated they would not pick a standard for implementation in their state and would leave it up to the ambulance manufactures to build to a recognized standard. The main take away was the current standards (GSA KKK-A-1822, NFPA 1917, and CAAS GVS) do or will include the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) safety testing standards for ground ambulances, which are the most important aspects of all of the standards. There was also a question to John McDonald on when the GSA KKK-A-1822 standard would sunset. Mr. McDonald indicated the GSA KKK-A-1822 would be in effect until there was consensus on another ambulance manufacturing standard that the Federal government could use as the standard for ambulances manufactured for the federal government.

6. CAAS GVS v 1.0 – Standard Effective July 1, 2016

Document was provided to the work group indicating the CAAS GVS v1.0 will accepted as an ANSI approved ambulance standard effective July 1, 2016.

7. GSA-KKK-A-1822F Change Notice 9 Draft

Document provided to the work group indicating the GSA-KKK-A-1822F will be added related to SAE Standards and Recommended Practices for ambulance equipment mounts.

8. Discussion of the merits and/or concerns about either standard (CAAS or NFPA 1917)

The work group had discussion on pros and cons of the CAAS or NFPA standards, the impact on Minnesota EMS providers, regulation of ambulance services regarding a set standard and impact on the ambulance vendors in Minnesota. After significant discussion the following motion was made by Work Group member Jeff Czyson:

Motion to: *Recommend Minnesota adopts current Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Ground Vehicle Standard (GVS) for newly contracted ambulance construction effective <date to be determined>.* Motion seconded by Joe Kounkel. Motion passed by consensus of the Work Group.

9. Discussion on recommendation to the Board

The passing of this motion turned the discussion to a formal recommendation to the Board. Mr. Coyne noted that the work group still had time to develop a recommendation to the Board, our timeline is given is until September 2016. This will give the Work Group time to further review the CAAS GVS standard to determine if exceptions or limitation to the standard need to be part of the recommendation. Question was raised about necessary statute or rule changes, Mr. Spector gave an overview of the process for either needed changes to statute and/or rule and indicated staff would work on developing language for the changes that may be needed based on the final recommendation for the Board.

Mr. Pawelk distributed a document that he had been working on with specific questions related to the CAAS Standard. Mr. Coyne recommended that the Work Group members create similar documents with questions or clarifications needed before finalizing the recommendation. Mr. Pawelk will send his document to Mr. Norlen for distribution to the Work Group for discussion at the next meeting. Other items brought up that may need to be addressed by the Work Group for recommendation to the Board include ambulance maintenance standards and ambulance operational standards related to fatigue and other behavioral focus for safe ambulance operation.

10. Other Committee Business

None noted.

11. Next Meeting

Monday May 16, 2016 – 10:00am EMSRB Office

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned by Work Group consensus at 12:00noon