MEMORANDUM

TO: NFPA Technical Committee on Ambulances
FROM: Yvonne Smith, Project Administrator
DATE: January 22, 2013
SUBJ: NFPA 1917 Proposed TIA No. 1089 FINAL TC BALLOT RESULTS

According to 5.4 in the NFPA Regs., the final results show this TIA HAS achieved the ¾ majority vote needed on both Question 1 (Technical Merit) and Question 2 (Emergency Nature).

30 Eligible to Vote
0 Not Returned

Technical Merit:
1 Abstentions (Patrick)
25 Agree (1 w/comment; Hicks)
4 Disagree (Chestnut, Frazeur, Juneau, Southard)

Emergency Nature:
1 Abstentions (Patrick)
25 Agree (1 w/comment; Hicks)
4 Disagree (Chestnut, Frazeur, Juneau, Southard)

There are two criteria necessary to pass ballot [(1) affirmative ¾ vote and (2) simple majority] with both questions needed to pass ballot in order to recommend that the Standards Council issues this TIA.

(1) The number of affirmative votes needed for the report to be published is 22.
(30 eligible to vote - 0 not returned - 1 abstentions = 27 x 0.75 = 21.75)

(2) In all cases, an affirmative vote of at least a simple majority of the total membership eligible to vote is required. This is the calculation for simple majority:
[30 eligible ÷ 2 = 15 = (15)]

Final ballot comments are attached for your review. Ballots received from alternate members are not included, unless the ballot from the principal member was not received.

Attachments
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LETTER BALLOT
PROPOSED TENTATIVE INTERIM AMENDMENT LOG NO. 1089
1917
Standard for Automotive Ambulances

Question 1: I agree with the TECHNICAL MERITS of the Proposed TIA 1089 to Delete 4.12.3
in its entirety and renumber 4.12.4 and its Annex material

_________ AGREE  _______ X _______ DISAGREE*  _______ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

Excessive vehicle speed can be an attribute to vehicle crashes as is indicated in Table - B6
of the Analysis of Ambulance Crash Data – Final Report, which was issued by the Fire
Protection Research Foundation. Further, a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed, and
the weight of the vehicle, may induce more severe loads on occupants during a vehicle
crash. The objective of the standard is to improve ambulance safety of which limiting
vehicle speed should be considered which the technical committee attempted to do. To
remove the section restricting speed could suggest speed was not considered in the attempt
to improve the safety of the ambulance. Finally, the exceptions list is intended to allow a
vehicle to be accepted by an end user with a known exception to the standard. The
exceptions provision allows for states to accept an ambulance even though it does not meet
the speed restriction requirements contained therein. Given there is an initiative to
promote TIA 1088 which modifies the sections discussing exceptions and allows for a
vehicle to be placed into service with known exceptions, this TIA becomes irrelevant.

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

_________ AGREE  _______ X _______ DISAGREE*  _______ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

I do not approve this TIA and therefore do not agree it is emergent.

Signature
Wesley D. Chestnut

Name (Please Print)

1/17/2013

Date
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LETTER BALLOT
PROPOSED TENTATIVE INTERIM AMENDMENT LOG NO. 1089
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☐ AGREE ☑ DISAGREE* ☐ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

SEE ATTACHMENT


Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

☐ AGREE ☑ DISAGREE* ☐ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

SEE ATTACHMENT


Signature

DON FRASER

Name (Please Print)

1-4-13

Date

Please return the ballot on or before Thursday, January 10, 2013.

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Yvonne Smith
NFPA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

FAX: (617) 984-7056
E-mail: ysmith@nfpa.org
Explanation for disagreeing with the technical Merits of the proposed TIA 1089

NASEMSO submitted no proof that ambulances traveling at a slower speed than the maximum allowed (posted speed limit) will create a safety hazard. Speed is the primary component cited when discussing accident severity. NFPA 1917 is designed to be a national standard. The maximum governed speed, 77 mph, is very fast yet reasonable for the road conditions found throughout the country. Only two states, Texas and Utah, have higher speed limits, and only on specified road segments. I think that EMS providers who want their crews to travel at higher rates of speed should accept direct responsibility by signing off as an exception, as required in section 4.17.

Explanation for disagreeing with the emergency nature of the proposed TIA 1089

This issue is not an emergency because:

1. Providers that desire to not abide by the standard can take exception as required by section 4.17.
2. The issue should be fully researched and vetted prior to making such a profound change to the maximum speed requirement.
Question 1: I agree with the TECHNICAL MERITS of the Proposed TIA 1089 to Delete 4.12.3 in its entirety and renumber 4.12.4 and its Annex material

Agree  [ ] Disagree*  [ ] Abstain*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

The proposed TIA seeks to remove from the standard any design requirement that would limit or restrict the operating speed of the ambulance in any way. In support of this proposal, the submitter argues that a few states allow a maximum speed of 80-85 mph (in Texas, only on a few rural controlled-access highways), and that many states legally allow a responding emergency vehicle to exceed the speed limit by 10 mph or more. The submitter suggests, therefore, that an ambulance which is not capable of responding at the maximum allowable speed somehow becomes a “safety hazard for operators and occupants.”

I do not agree that a responding emergency vehicle needs to be the fastest vehicle on the highway, nor do I believe that a vehicle with the typical handling characteristics of an ambulance can be safely operated at speeds in excess of 75 mph in any but the most exceptional of circumstances. Remember that these are vehicles that are very often operated by drivers with limited emergency vehicle experience, and even less, if any, high speed driver training, and these are also vehicles which all too frequently carry at least one unrestrained crewmember during patient transport operations. The slight marginal response-time benefit that might potentially be achieved by traveling another 10-15 miles per hour faster than 77 mph is, in my view, vastly outweighed by the added risk of serious injury and death posed by such high-speed operations - an extreme risk that extends not only to the occupants of the ambulance, but also to other motorists who may encounter the ambulance en-route.

To the extent that this Committee is charged with promulgating new design standards that make the ambulance safer for crewmembers, patients and other motorists, I believe that the reasonable 77 mph maximum speed limitation contained in section 4.12.3 advances this desirable goal by recognizing that excessive response speed has been, and continues to be, a very well-documented and exceptionally dangerous traditional practice which has not historically been controlled effectively through the application of other less restrictive methods. I am therefore opposed to the submitter's proposal seeking to delete this requirement from the standard.

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

Agree  [ ] Disagree*  [ ] Abstain*
EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

See above explanation.

Signature

JIM JUNEAU

Name (Please Print)

07 JAN 13

Date

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NFPA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LETTER BALLOT
PROPOSED TENTATIVE INTERIM AMENDMENT LOG NO. 1089

Standard for Automotive Ambulances

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___________ AGREE  xxx DISAGREE*  ___________ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

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Due to the weight and build of the chassis, I do not feel that the vehicle should go to the speed above 77 MPH. In the Fire Industry all Fire Apparatus in 1901 are governed down to 60 or 65 based upon the size of the vehicle. (Engines are 65 and Aerial are 60), as to the danger it creates I have seen no evidence to support the argument at hand.

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

___________ AGREE  XX ________ DISAGREE*  ___________ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

Please see Above. I am in disagreement with the argument therefore do not see that it is of an emergent nature.

Kenneth Southard ______________________________
Signature

_Kenneth Southard ______________________________
Name (Please Print)

_01/02/2013 ______________________________
Date

Please return the ballot on or before Thursday, January 10, 2013.

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1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LETTER BALLOT
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EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.
We have a contractual relationship with NASEMSO and thus must recuse ourselves from this portion of the 1917 project work.

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

_________ AGREE ___________ DISAGREE* __X__ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.
We have a contractual relationship with the NASEMSO and thus must recuse ourselves from this portion of the 1917 project work.

_________________________________________________
Signature

Richard Patrick ________________________________
Name (Please Print)

January 17, 2013 ________________________________
Date

Please return the ballot on or before Thursday, January 10, 2013.

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Supporting documentation substantiates

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an EMERGENCY NATURE.

☐ AGREE ☐ DISAGREE* ☐ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments:

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

Emergency nature is evident from documentation

Brian Hicks
Signature

Signature

Date

Yvonne Smith
NFPA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

FAX: (617) 984-7056
E-mail: ysmith@nfpa.org

Thursday, January 10, 2013.

Please return the ballot on or before Thursday, January 10, 2013.