Position Statement Regarding 2013 NFPA 1917 Specification for Automotive Ambulances for NASEMSO

The American Ambulance Association (AAA) supports standards that would increase the durability, dependability, operation and occupant safety of emergency vehicles.

The American Ambulance Association leadership is concerned that the current proposed draft of the 2013 NFPA 1917 Specification for Automotive Ambulances contains a number of new requirements that have been adapted from the NFPA 1901 Fire Apparatus Standard, and certain requirements have been arbitrarily added without adequate research, rationale and vetted processes.

In many cases some of these new requirements may be inappropriate or unsuitable for ambulances. Additionally, these requirements will appreciably raise the cost of vehicles produced under this standard, and may in some cases actually increase the liability of ambulance manufacturers and operators.

The American Ambulance Association leadership strongly believes that the research and testing work currently being done by NIOSH, DHS and NIST for the 2015 NFPA standard will provide us with validated data that will be invaluable in the design standards for ambulances, and we support that effort. The American Ambulance Association leadership urges NASEMSO leadership to develop model state requirements that would allow for a delay in implementation until this research is completed and the results of which can be used to modify these requirements.