



National Association of State EMS Officials

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October 3, 2016

Sarah L. McEntee
Executive Director
Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services
1926 Waukegan Road
Glenville IL 60025

Dear Ms. McEntee,

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) membership is comprised of the personnel of state agencies with primary responsibility for development and regulation of the emergency medical services (EMS) system in their state. NASEMSO supports its members in developing EMS policy and oversight, as well as in providing vision, leadership and resources in the development and improvement of state, regional and local EMS and emergency care systems.

The majority of states regulate ambulance services as one component of their overall duties to protect ill and injured persons accessing EMS in the out of hospital setting. The safety and integrity of ambulance vehicles is therefore a paramount concern, the design of which falls within 45 state EMS offices' legislative mandate. Insufficient research exists to suggest that there is only one "right" or "best" or "safest" design of all facets of an ambulance.

During the past few years, NASEMSO has participated in the development of ambulance design standards by both the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) and endorses the processes used by both organizations. Due to the diversity of the EMS community with respect to provider type, as well as the varied regulatory needs of states, NASEMSO supports the coexistence of both NFPA 1917 and CAAS GVS ambulance design standards and affirm our position that these two standards are not duplicative, but rather complimentary; therefore, the acceptance of both standards is in the best interest of state EMS offices and the EMS community.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Wages
President

cc: Kendall Holland, NFPA
Mark Van Arnam, CAAS