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MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agencies
Regional EMS Councils
Ambulance Manufacturer Division, National Truck Equipment Association

FROM: Michael D. Berg, BS, NRP
Manager, Regulation and Compliance

DATE June 22, 2016

SUBJECT: New Ambulance Safety Standards

The recent changes to the KKK 1822 ambulance standards and the development of new standards by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) and the National Association Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has created questions at the state EMS level and especially from EMS agencies planning to purchase either a replacement or remount ambulance. To further complicate matters, at the national level, there are no “standards” for remounting of ambulances; this is a future project. Within the *Virginia EMS Regulations* 12VAC5-31-810 Ground ambulance specifications states in part:

“B. A ground ambulance must be commercially constructed and certified to comply with the current federal specification for the Star of Life ambulance (U.S. General Services Administration KKK-A-1822 standards) as of the date of vehicle construction, with exceptions as specified in these regulations.”

After consultation with the Virginia Office of the Attorney General, it has been determined that on or after July 1, 2016, any newly constructed or remounted ambulance must comply with the above *Regulation in order to be permitted in Virginia*. This means that remounted ambulances must meet the same safety requirements identified in any Change Notice issued by the General Services Administration (GSA) KKK 1822 Ambulance standards. A Virginia EMS agency cannot elect to exclude themselves from any of these required standards and receive a permit to operate an ambulance in the Commonwealth.

For future reference, both the NFPA1917 Standard for Automotive Ambulances and the (CAAS) Ground Vehicle Standard V1.0 incorporate all the safety standards referenced in the GSA document.