

# NASEMSO AVL Committee Minutes

June 28, 2013

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- **Call to Order**  
Chair Brian Litza called the meeting to order at 12:04pm Eastern
- **Roll Call**  
Dia Gainor  
Brian Litza  
Katrina Altenhofen  
Dennis Blair  
Forest Weyen  
Joe Ferrell  
Tom Mitchell  
Pat Irwin  
Chip Cooper
- **Agenda – any additions?**  
None
- **Approve minutes from April 25, 2013**  
A few items missing from the minutes – approval deferred to the next meeting
- **KKK-A-1822F Specification Change Notice**  
Quick review of changes:  
Payload capacity  
Certification of payload signage (new label)  
Calculation form to identify weights  
Door capable of moving patient on stretcher as well as putting on spine board  
O2 regulator and suction
- **Connected Vehicles Report (Dia)**  
NHTSA with funding from Federal Highway Administration – working with auto manufacturers – using the **DSRC** (Designation Shortwave Radio Communications) – ‘radar on wheels’. Dia attended the demonstration. Vehicles were set up to listen to and talk to each other

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'you're encroaching on me' 'we're all traveling together and the car ahead breads' – alarm systems would go off. Intersection collision warning – will sense blind spots (oncoming vehicles) and will notify vehicle.

More dynamic than radar because it will detect multiple objects, just not the one in front of you.

Think about requiring this in ambulances- huge potential for avoiding ambulance collisions.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (US DOT) Connective Vehicle Research webpage:

[http://www.its.dot.gov/connected\\_vehicle/connected\\_vehicle.htm](http://www.its.dot.gov/connected_vehicle/connected_vehicle.htm)

- **ASTM F30 Ballot**

Doesn't seem to be a lot of changes. Lists items that should be checked depending on how often ambulance goes on runs. Doesn't seem to be anything concerning in here, pretty straightforward.

Language in red is changed.

- **NFPA Workgroup Status – May meeting overview**

Dennis and Dia were both at the meeting.

Dennis report:

Listened to input and changes made were reasonable. Everyone got to have a say, and the input given was reasonable and logical.

Took out Chapter 9 (related to testing). A lot of the changes came from the Fire Truck Standards. Lower standards were improved.

Will be good standards if the suggestions are accepted. Had to convince that the 1901 standards (fire) weren't reasonable because these aren't fire trucks.

Committee that approves this is a little more fire-stacked, so will see what comes out of this. Technical committee should be more balanced with EMS.

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Dia:

Technical Committee composition was the most tense conversation. Many groups calling NFPA out on the balance of representation. Ambulance users/regulators were a tiny percentage of the group. Group is at the maximum size, so can't fix unless people step out. First come first serve on who replaces, not a correction of the imbalance. Committee will start meeting later this summer to go through the revision process.

NFPA okayed the downgrade of the standard to self-certification (regarding testing and certification) =less expensive for the manufacturer. Changes restore the independent certification.

Document represents what NASEMSO, Ambulance Manufacturers & ambulance users/purchasers recommended to make NPFA 1917 acceptable.

- **Model Rules for Ambulance Vehicle Design Project**

Not sure where to go in this process. Need to see where the Technical Committee goes before we should start this project. However, need to start working on the path we are going to go. A few months ago talked about two paths: 'strawman' approach as well as 'generic language' that accepts what standard a state wants to base it on.

Shouldn't wait much longer to figure out next steps. Initial plan was to have some recommended language to provide at the Annual Meeting.

Katrina: Should move forward with the 'strawman' approach. States could utilize this as their primary Rule. Dennis agrees.

Chip: if we put up language that is to our liking, and states adopts that, may force NFPA to come our way.

Dia: curious what the vision is of the Rules? A select subset of what is traditionally found? (measurements, floor height, cot dimensions?)  
What do you envision?

Brian: determined this at the Mid-Year meeting. Arkansas is very strawman, and talked about using this as the beginning. Each state

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could 'fill in the blank' but we give the states guidance on what they need to include when they write the Rule. Do we want to keep with this plan and start with the Arkansas Rule? Don't want to get into the details, just the outline of what to think about.

Chip: build in high level language where the 1917 concerns are.

ACTION: Brian will take the Arkansas Rule, and will create an outline with common areas and considerations. Will send out so that at the next meeting can fill in the outline with additional items. Will have something to present at the annual meeting

- **Model Language Update**

Should be prepared to create an action plan at the Annual.

- **Next AVL Committee Meeting – 07/25/2013**

- **New Business/ Other**

Chip: why is NHTSA not stepped up to the plate regarding this issue?

Presidential directive that if there are standards out there, the feds don't have to support / develop standards of their own. GSA saw that 1917 was coming out, so didn't have to pay to update their own.

GSA decided that NFPA was the right organization to write these standards (default – didn't think of anyone else). NHTSA appeared to support this. The US DOT has jurisdiction on vehicle types (motor coaches, buses, etc.) but don't have jurisdiction over ambulance except for a few design standards, but have even waived that. Ambulance have been included in exemptions to safety standards.

Two sides: evolution to design standards (still have the ASTM standards) and the lack of federal authority to make anything happen. The Model Rules will help with this. If we come up with the items that states should not waiver on.

DIA: what is the recommendation of this committee regarding the 1917 changes? (Public comment period is up before the next Board meeting)

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**ACTION:** Poll the NASEMSO members that were at the meeting.

Brian's suggestion is to put forth the full document and encourage the states to do the same thing. Pat moves to put forth document forward. Joe/Chip second.

NFPA has a website to accept public comments. But have to comment on each section. Recommend that order document for the important sections first. Then have to go through the whole document – suggestion to have NASEMSO make all the recommendations but put together a few paragraphs of the important sections for

**ACTION:** Dia will put paragraphs together and get the document out to the states.

- **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Chip Cooper. Second by Katrina Altenhofen. Adjourned at 11:01.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachael Alter.