

NFPA® 1917-2013

Standard for Automotive Ambulances

TIA Log No. 1088

Reference: 4.17, 4.17.1, 4.17.2, and 4.17.3

Comment Closing Date: February 13, 2013

Submitter: Dia Gainor, National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)

1. Revise 4.17, 4.17.1, 4.17.2, and 4.17.3 to read as follows:

4.17 Statement of Exceptions. The entity responsible for final assembly of the ambulance shall deliver with the ambulance ~~either a certification that the ambulance fully complies with all minimum requirements of this standard, or, alternatively, When exceptions to this standard are required by the purchaser, a Statement of Exceptions based on any exceptions to this standard that are required to meet the specifications of the purchaser shall be listed and attached to owner's manual. specifically describing each aspect of the completed ambulance that is not fully compliant with the requirements of this standard at the time of delivery.~~

4.17.1 The Statement of Exceptions shall contain, for each exception at the time of delivery ~~noncompliant aspect of the ambulance or missing required item, the following information:~~

(1) ~~A~~ a separate listing of the section(s) of the applicable standard for which compliance is lacking an exception has occurred

(2) ~~A description of the particular aspect of the ambulance that is not in compliance therewith or required equipment that is missing~~

(3) ~~A description of the further changes or modifications to the delivered ambulance that must be completed to achieve full compliance~~

(4) ~~Identification of the entity that will be responsible for making the necessary post delivery changes or modifications or for supplying and installing any missing required equipment to the ambulance to achieve full compliance with this standard~~

4.17.2 Prior to or at the time of delivery of the ambulance, the Statement of Exceptions shall be signed by an authorized agent of the entity responsible for final assembly of the ambulance and by an authorized agent of the purchasing entity, indicating mutual understanding and agreement between the parties regarding the substance thereof.

4.17.3 ~~An ambulance that is delivered subject to a Statement of Exceptions other than a certification of full compliance shall not be placed in emergency service until the ambulance has been modified as necessary to accomplish full compliance with this standard.~~

Submitter's Substantiation: The states' EMS offices have the exclusive authority to license EMS agencies and vehicles to function in their respective states, and in turn, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is the only nationally representative organization of the state EMS offices. NASEMSO has determined that there would be significant complications created related to its members' ability to regulate ambulance vehicle design with the language as currently written. The language marked for deletion poses legal impediments with respect to the state EMS directors' ability to certify ambulances in their respective states.

Specifically, the requirement for a statement of exceptions including a prohibitive provision (4.17.3) is contrary to the legislative mandate of states that set the conditions under which an ambulance may be placed into service. This is a function of the authority of the states and not one that can be agreed to between a purchaser and a manufacturer. We accept that the Statement of Exceptions should be published since that assists state EMS inspectors to determine what, if any, exceptions from this specification exist based on the manufacturer's determination, and that 4.17.2 ensures awareness on the part of the purchaser, but any further conditions or requirements are an impediment to the states' regulatory processes.

Considering the seven states that do not regulate ambulance vehicle design and other states that may incorporate only select components of a specification, other language is marked for deletion or modification because it is either too restrictive or suggestive of actions that may not be required in a given state (e.g., 4.17.1(3) and (4)). This would prevent

state EMS directors from permitting vehicles that will operate safely and successfully as ambulances in their respective states. Furthermore, 4.17.3 may create considerable liability for the ambulance owner and the states. Foreseeable examples of this include the discovery after an incident or upon a state inspection of paperwork associated with the new vehicle that the ambulance purchaser documented that it would modify the vehicle prior to placing it into service when there was no legal obligation to do so.

Approval of this TIA does not negate the need for favorable consideration of the TIA related to 4.12.3.

Emergency Nature: The statement of exceptions, as noted in the 2013 edition of NFPA 1917, would prohibit states from being able to use the standard to purchase ambulances since it does not allow for variability from state to state. The requirement for a Statement of Exceptions, including a prohibitive provision (4.17.3), is contrary to the legislative mandate of states that sets the conditions under which an ambulance may be placed into service. This is a function of the authority of the states and not one that can be agreed to between a purchaser and a manufacturer. We accept that the Statement of Exceptions should be published since that assists state EMS inspectors to determine what, if any, exceptions from this specification exist based on the manufacturer's determination, and that 4.17.2 ensures awareness on the part of the purchaser, but any further conditions or requirements are an impediment to the states' regulatory processes.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. To submit a comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the [Secretary, Standards Council](#), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.