



Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services
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February 18, 2014

Dia Gainor, Executive Director
National Association of State EMS Officials
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046

Re: Invitation to Participate in Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee

Dear Dia,

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) is a not for profit organization that accredits Ambulance Services in North America. CAAS has created standards for the operation of ambulance services, for both the public and private sector. These ambulance operating standards are highly regarded and many states have adopted them for purposes of inspection and certification. The CAAS Standards are considered to be the Gold Standards in North America.

CAAS has been identified by several EMS associations as the appropriate organization to develop and maintain consensus based ground ambulance vehicle standards. CAAS's Board of Directors is multi-disciplinary and represents the broad spectrum of the EMS industry. After an initial meeting with key industry association leaders, there was general support for CAAS to move forward to develop Ground Ambulance Vehicle Standards.

CAAS is establishing an Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee and has identified your organization as a key player in assisting to develop these consensus based ground ambulance vehicle standards. In addition, the following guiding principles have been established as a framework for the committee.

- Ensures safety of patient, provider and community
- Ensures the quality of ambulance design
- Supports and enhances the quality of patient care and patient movement
- Establishes performance based design standard
- Supports efficient EMS operations
- Incorporates emerging relevant technologies
- Analyzes benefits versus costs

The focus of the Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee will be to use the current KKK ambulance standard as the guiding document to revise and enhance. The expectation is a draft standard for public comment will be completed by September of 2014. In addition, the National Association of EMS State Officials (NASEMSO) will be actively participating in the process.

The following organizations are being invited to participate in the Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee:

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS)
American Ambulance Association (AAA)
National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)
National Emergency Medical Services Management Association (NEMSMA)
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
Ambulance Manufacturers Division (AMD)
American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (NAEMSP)
Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS)
National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

In addition, the following governmental agencies will also be invited to participate:

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
General Services Administration (GSA)
Health and Human Services (HHS)
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Transportation Research Board (TRB)

The Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee will be meeting in-person approximately 4 times in the next 6 months to establish the standards. The first in-person meeting will take place on March 24-25 in Washington, DC. The meeting will be conducted from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on March 24th and 8:00 am – 12:00 pm on March 25th. Each participating organization is asked to pay its own travel and hotel expenses to the committee meetings.

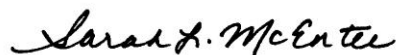
Attached is a general overview document that provides additional information regarding the Ambulance Vehicle Standards Committee.

Your organization is a vital part of this process and we look forward to your participation in the committee. We are looking to identify two people from your organization to participate on the committee. One person is the primary participant and the second person would be an alternate if the primary participant is unavailable to participate in one of the in-person meetings.

Please let me know who will be representing your organization no later than **Wednesday, February 26th**. My phone number is 847-657-6828 x 3030 and my email address is sarahm@tcag.com

We look forward to this exciting endeavor.

Best regards,



Sarah L. McEntee
CAAS Executive Director