



# NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**March 23, 2016**

1:00 PM EDT

**Attending:** Eric Hicken (NJ), Chair, Katherine Schafer (NM), Vice Chair, Donnie Woodyard (LA), Stephanie Busch (VT), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Tom Winkler (PA), Dan Sjoquist (Serenity Safety Products), Cynthia Wright Johnson (MD), Tina Turgel (HRSA), Sailesh Tangirala (Ferno), Paul Phillips (KY), John McDonald (GSA), Sue Morris (OH), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI)

**Call to Order and Call Roll** – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed new members to the call.

**Review and Approve February 18th Meeting Record** – The meeting record was approved as submitted.

**New Member Introduction, Sailesh Tangirala** - Eric Hicken introduced new member Sailesh Tangirala, Product Manager for Ferno. He has been an engineer with Ferno for 10 years and has actively participated in developing the test standards with AMD and NFPA, working with Jim Green. He is looking forward to participating in the Committee's efforts to develop standards for transporting children safely in ambulances.

**Member Spotlight** – Dan Sjoquist is President/CEO of Serenity Safety Products and Chair of the AMD Seat and Restraint Committee. Dan became involved in 2007 when a good friend of his, a paramedic, had questions about transporting a baby from a vehicle crash. He and his partner Kevin Gallagher, who is a paramedic, started Serenity Safety Products, and began testing infant seats in 2008. They worked with Dr. Marilyn Bull beginning in 2008. He began working with Jim Green in 2009 and became involved with the Ambulance Manufacturers Division (AMD). In 2010 he was elected chair of the Seating and Restraints Committee of the AMD. He was involved in developing the J30-26 Crash Standard for Seating and Restraints (recently published by SAE) which describes how seats must be crash-tested. This standard has now been adopted by CAAS and GSA. It applies to integrated seating for children in ambulances. He understands the intent of NASEMSO to create guidance that can be used by EMS providers. Dan answered questions from members. Jim Green explained that the energy pulse for ambulances is greater than the energy pulse for cars, and the crash tests have not used the higher energy pulse for ambulances.

Eric suggested creating a guide for acronyms and definitions of the terminology used. Dan noted that Jim Green has some great material developed by his son. Jim offered to provide a slide show that helps to explain the terminology. He, Sailish and John have been working on a video that will describe this background information.

### **Federal Partner Comments/Update**

- Tina Turgel, HRSA EMSC Program, thanked Eric and the Committee for including them. T Morrison-Quinata was sorry she missed the call today. Tina said they want to help move these standards forward.
- Jim Green, NIOSH, said he Dan, John and Sailish were at the AMD meeting last week and had the opportunity to discuss their ideas. Jim would like the committee to help advocate for funding of testing and certifying child safety in the ambulance. What is missing is the pass-fail criteria the manufacturers can use for testing. Tina Turgel inquired about the amount of funding necessary to develop the criteria. Jim estimated a range of \$300,000-\$400,000 for testing cots and seats. More funding may be needed for an educational component. Jim pointed out that it is important to create a standard that ambulance manufacturers can realistically meet. Eric had additional questions because he has been talking with a potential funder.

Eric said the Committee has some excellent goals but feels we need to develop specific steps to reach the goals. He urged members to come to the April meeting with specific steps to discuss.

**Safe Transport Resources** – Eric encouraged everyone to review the resources that Rachael Alter compiled and posted on the NASEMSO website. This is a public section of the website and can be viewed by clicking on Committees / Safe Transport of Children Committee / Resources. See <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/Resources.asp>

**Nightwatch Video** – Eric noted that the reality show Nightwatch has a segment showing the improper restraint of kids in the back of the ambulance. It can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/Nightwatch/videos/1104014569631219/>

**Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM EDT. The next meeting will be **April 6, NASEMSO Spring Meeting, Bethesda.**

*The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.*