



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

December 15, 2016
1:00 PM EST

Attending – Eric Hicken, Dr. Marilyn Bull, Jim Green, Brandon Kelly, Teresa Merk, Michael Berg, Matt Maltese, Cindy Wright-Johnson, Katrina Altenhofen, Stephanie Busch, Katherine Hert, Mary Hedges, Katherine Shafer, Dave Bryson

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions – Eric Hicken called the meeting to order. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting started a few minutes late.

Review and Approve November 23rd Meeting Record – The October Meeting record was approved as submitted.

Interim Guidance Initiative Update (see attached draft) – Brandon Kelly presented the draft document which he said has gone through multiple (approximately 30) revisions. As it went through the revision process it evolved into more of a position paper. They added the SAE standards recently developed for ambulances as well as reference to FMVSS 213. Brandon said he spent a lot of time on the phone with Jim Green who helped him understand how and why these SAE standards can be incorporated into the document.

Matt Maltese commented that he has done a lot of work on FMVSS 213. He feels the injury criteria for FMVSS 213 are weak and that FMVSS 213 is in flux now at NHTSA. He agrees that this can go forward but it won't be easy. Jim Green said FMVSS 213 is the best we have, but is not perfect. If we look at the criteria for pass-fail, it may be all we have. Matt mentioned that FMVSS 208 also has injury criteria. Dr. Marilyn Bull suggested modifying the wording in the draft to indicate that while these standards are not perfect, they are preferable to not having a standard. She added that this would be an interim statement until the crash testing we want to do is completed. Brandon said he could add language to clarify the statement that may help to resolve this. Jim said that after working with manufacturers the last few years, he feels that they will be extremely reluctant to say they meet the standard. Matt said the big box retailers are demanding testing beyond FMVSS 213. He asked if it is possible to provide a guidance document to the state EMS offices to show what is available? Jim Green said he has heard that this market is reluctant to say what testing they have done and he does not think the ambulance agencies have the buying power that is available in the passenger car seat market.

Cindy Wright Johnson commented that she believes we have the pathway to develop the standards once we obtain funding to conduct the testing. Regarding purchase volume, there are EMS agencies that will purchase 700 or more for their units around the country. Dr. Bull said the industry needs education on this issue but they also may need translation of the 2012 Best Practice document. Brandon said we may not be ready for statement #1 (shown below) in the draft document and it may need to be deleted.

- 1) Enough information exists today for the manufacturers of devices that claim to provide occupant safety for children in ambulances to test their devices to the FMVSS-213 injury criteria.
 - a. All testing should utilize the ambulance specific crash pulses described in SAE-J3044; SAE-J2956 and SAE-J2917 respectively.
 - b. Litter(s) used in testing shall meet SAE-J3027 Integrity, Retention and Patient Restraint Specifications.
 - c. Manufacturers should indicate to prospective purchasers whether their device(s) have met these requirements for the weight range indicated for the device.
 - d. NASEMSO also acknowledges that testing is a substantial cost, and that additional testing may be required once the standard(s) have been implemented.

Matt Maltese suggested asking the manufacturer if they did a crash test and if so, did the child stay restrained? Also, ask them to show a video of the crash test. Brandon suggested inserting that in place of number 1 above. Dr. Bull asked about translating the 2012 document. Brandon responded that the problem is the 2012 document refers to FMVSS 213 for every standard. Dr. Bull said we focus on the *injury criteria* of FMVSS 213. Matt Maltese recommended that in view of the problems with FMVSS 213, we focus on the child being retained in the restraint. Jim Green agreed. Dr. Bull clarified that means restrained on a cot and not on a bench seat. Brandon said he agreed with Jim and Matt. We need to say that the patient is restrained on the cot.

The debate may focus on what weight to use in the document. Brandon said he did not want to go down to 4 pounds because that would limit it to only one product on the market now. Dr. Bull requested we start at 5 lbs. Teresa asked if a link to each standard could be inserted as well as adding a revision date. Katherine offered to add that.

Motion made/2nded/passed - Remove number 1 from the draft and add guidance as described by Matt. Add the standards in the back of the document. Change the weight reference in the document to 5-99 pounds.

Federal Partner Comments/Update (for those with information to share)

- **NIOSH** - Jim Green said he has not heard anything further on the DHS First Responder Group potential funding.

Agency and Vehicle Licensure Committee Update – Michael Berg said that NFPA is working to develop a proposal for ambulance remount standards. Some ambulance companies are concerned because they do their own remounts in house.

2017 Meeting Schedule – Eric said the 2017 meeting schedule is posted on the website at <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/Meeting-Records.asp>

Save the Date: March 7, 2017 In-person Meeting at NASEMSO Spring Meeting
<https://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/Spring/index.asp>

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM EST

Next Meeting – January 25

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