

Instructions for EMS Community Review of Ambulance Patient Compartment Human Factors Design Guidebook, Second Draft

Background

Over the last number of years, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) First Responders Group (FRG) has been conducting research into how to make ambulance patient compartments safer environments. This has included crash worthiness testing of patient compartment components by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as well as research into patient care effectiveness and safety issues by a team comprised of BMT Designers and Planners (BMT D&P), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Carlow International. The latter research will result in the *Ambulance Patient Compartment Human Factors Design Guidebook* (Guidebook).

Purpose of the Guidebook

The purpose of the *Guidebook* is to provide design guidance that can be used by EMS provider organizations (EMSPOs), as well as manufacturers, to develop designs and specifications for ambulance patient compartments that will be safer for the EMS provider (EMSP) and the patient as well as allows the EMSP to provide more efficient patient care. The *Guidebook* is envisioned to be a target for the EMS community to use for future patient compartment design though it can be used for retrofitting existing patient compartments.

Currently, a second draft of the *Guidebook* has been produced. This draft is the result of a significant amount of research into how EMSPs perform their jobs and what challenges they face, as well as reviews by members of the EMS community. Its intent of the document is to provide performance and safety requirements and goals, but not to provide specific solutions and to leave room for industry to find innovative ways to meet the requirements.

EMS Community Review

To ensure that the *Guidebook* is a strong tool for the EMS community, we are looking for EMSP and manufacturer feedback on the second draft. This feedback should address the following areas:

- Relevancy – how relevant are the sections as they relate to the needs of the EMS community?
- Completeness – how complete are the contents in terms of addressing how the patient compartment should be designed to support EMSP and patient safety as well as patient care? Keep in mind that the *Guidebook* will not provide solutions.
- Level of detail – is it too much, too little, or just right?
- Readability and ease of comprehension – how easy is it to read and understand the contents?
- Format – is the format helpful in presenting the information?
- Other ideas on how the *Guidebook* can be enhanced.

As you review the *Guidebook*, please use the attached Excel Spreadsheet to document your comments. Be as precise and specific as possible and include the Chapter, Paragraph, and page number of the contents on which you are commenting. Include your contact information in case we need to reach out to you to better understand your comments.

We need your comments by **June 30, 2014, please send to** Jennifer Marshall at 301-975-3396 /Jennifer.marshall@nist.gov or Larry Avery at 828-669-7028 /lavery@dandp.com. If you have any questions, please send us an email.

Thank you very much for your review, your comments will be invaluable in helping us produce a strong, useful design guidebook that will help the EMS community design patient compartments that enhance safety and patient care.