



Interim Guidance Regarding Neonatal Isolette Ambulance Securing Mechanisms

It has recently come to the attention of the office of the board that further guidance is necessary regarding acceptable stretcher securing mechanisms for neonatal transport isolettes.

Kentucky Administrative Regulation, 202 KAR 7:501, Section 7 (2) states that, ***“A ground ambulance shall comply fully with the ambulance design criteria contained in “Federal Specifications for Ambulances”, KKK-1822, in effect when the ambulance is manufactured, except for color and provider identification”***. On July 1 2015, the Government Services Administration incorporated “Change Notice #8” into the KKK-A 1822F standard.

Included within Change Notice #8 were several safety standards, but the one that is pertinent to this guidance is SAE J3027. The SAE J3027 standard describes the testing procedures required to evaluate the integrity of a ground ambulance-based patient litter, litter retention system, and patient restraint when exposed to a frontal or side impact. Its purpose is to provide litter manufacturers, ambulance builders, and end-users with testing procedures and, where appropriate, acceptance criteria that, to a great extent ensures the patient litter, litter retention system, and patient restraint utilizes a similar dynamic performance test methodology which is applied to other vehicle seating and occupant restraint systems.

202 KAR 7:501 requires that all NEW ambulances (ordered on July 1, 2015 and after) adhere to the KKK-1822 standard; this will be applicable to isolette transport vehicle/mounting systems as well. If a SAE J3027-compliant isolette mounting system is available, new vehicles must include a compliant mounting system.

We should also note that the SAE J3027 standard does not apply to remounted ambulances manufactured after July 1, 2015. 202 KAR 7:501, Section 7 (2)(c) states, “The ambulance provider shall require, for units that are later modified, the conversion company to supply a letter to verify the modification meets or exceeds the KKK-1822 specification requirements, except for color or provider identification, as incorporated in the KKK-1822 specifications on the ambulance's original date of manufacture”. Simply stated, this means that remounted ambulances are required to adhere to the KKK-A 1822 standard at the time it was “originally” manufactured, which if manufactured prior to July 1, 2015 will not include SAE J3027.

If additional questions or clarification is necessary, please feel free to contact Mr. Paul Phillips, Director of Field Operations at Paul.Phillips@kctcs.edu or (859)-256-3571.

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