

NIOSH research/SAE Standards

NIOSH has completed much of their project on researching and developing specific crash standards and testing procedures for ambulance safety criteria. This work is being done in cooperation with the Ambulance Manufacturer's Division of the NTEA.

The final products of the NIOSH efforts are being published as Recommended Practice Standards by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Three of those ambulance standards have been officially approved and published at this time:

- **SAE J3026 Ambulance Patient Compartment Seating Integrity and Occupant Restraint**
- **SAE J3027 Ambulance Litter Integrity, Retention and Patient Restraint**
- **SAE J3043 Ambulance Equipment Mount Device or Systems (Includes additional criteria and detail from SAE J2917 and J2956).**

Inclusion of these standards in the design of a new production ambulance will require moderate to major changes in design, construction and equipment in each specific category.

Additional SAE standards for integrity of modular body, floor and cabinets, as well as surface de-lethalization and occupant excursion are currently under development by NIOSH and will be promulgated when completed and approved.

GSA KKK-A-1822F

It is noted that regulation of ambulance specifications is a function of each individual state, and that only 30 of the 50 states currently require compliance to KKK at some level. At this point in time, no state has yet taken action to adopt another standard.

Change Notice #8 – As part of the Recommended Practice Standards referenced on Page 1(SAE J3026, SAE J3027 and SAE J3043). GSA opened the comment period April 6, 2015. The comment period closes May 20, 2015. It is our belief these Standards will be adopted. If so:

- **Change Notice #8 will have an effective date of July 1, 2015.** This notice requires compliance with SAE J3026, J3027 and J3043 for ***new production ambulances contracted for (ordered) after July 1, as well as some other minor clarifications to the document.***

The inclusion of these new SAE standards as a requirement in KKK **is a major change with significant effect**. Some considerations are (in no specific order):

- 1) These standards are the best science our industry has ever had. Properly executed, they will create a huge improvement in patient compartment safety.
- 2) **Like everything else, improvements come with a price. Implementation of these standards will have a substantial cost impact on the price of compliant vehicles.**
- 3) These new standards will only be required in states that mandate KKK or that somehow otherwise adopt the requirements.
- 4) **The Litter requirements are undoubtedly the most significant change. The SAE J3027 compliant product lines offered by the two existing cot manufacturers may not yet be complete enough to fully satisfy the needs of the market.**
- 5) There are no requirements for existing fleets or for units that are remounted.

Providers will need to contact their state EMS office for direction on required levels of compliance.