



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 8, 2010

TO: EMS Medical Directors
EMS System Coordinators
EMS Ambulance Providers

FROM: Jack Fleeharty, Division Chief
Division of EMS & Highway Safety

SUBJECT: New Ambulance Inspection Criteria

Please be advised that this memorandum is in response to a circulating e-mail that addresses the Triple K inspection criteria our division uses when inspecting a new vehicle for ambulance licensure.

In an effort to alleviate some confusion and speculation, I would like to address a couple of issues concerning new vehicle inspection criteria. We currently incorporate the U.S. General Services Administration's Specification for Ambulance, KKK-A-1822E, when inspecting new vehicles, with the exception of Section 3.16.2, Color, Paint, and Finish.

Emblems and marking requirements are described in Section 3.16.4 of the KKK-A-1822E specifications and our administrative rules do not make an exception to this standard. Ambulance licensing requirements can be found in Section 515.830 of the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Center Code.

With that being noted, it is prevalent throughout the state that there are variations of compliance with the emblem markings, in everything from size, color, location, and/or Star of Life configurations. Many providers have incorporated some extreme variations to go with their particular logo design and paint schemes. This has led to a lot of pressure on our program staff and Regional EMS Coordinators who complete these inspections to allow variations to the specifications.

One of the goals for our division is to adopt the latest version of the U.S. General Services Administration's Specification for Ambulances and identify what criteria we will be requiring. In addition, our goals are to update all of our forms and policies, and forward the criteria to all ambulance providers with a six month lead time so that when ambulance providers place a bid for, or order new vehicles, they will know in advance what the current inspection and licensing requirements are. This requirement would then apply to any new vehicles inspected on or after the target date.

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It is our intent to recognize the federal requirements for emblems and markings and make an effort to meet those requirements. We will take into consideration the need for background colors other than blue for the star of life. Ultimately, our goal is to achieve some consistency throughout the state so vehicles that are licensed to operate by IDPH can be recognized as a licensed ambulance by the public.

I have encouraged our Ambulance Program Coordinator and our Regional staff to adhere to the standards currently in place. I know this has caused some frustration for some of the providers. It is safe to assume we will be reducing the amount of waivers that have been granted for vehicles and equipment requirements as it causes too many variations to the licensing standard.

I hope this memorandum provides some clarification of our division's future goals concerning our ambulance licensing and inspection program. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please contact your Regional EMS Coordinator or contact Mike Epping, Ambulance Program Coordinator, at 217-785-2080.

cc. Sam Gaines, MD, OPR Medical Director
Regional EMS Coordinators
Mike Epping RN, Ambulance Program Coordinator
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