



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
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ADVISORY: 15-7-01 - CORRECTED

TO: All Massachusetts Licensed Ambulance Services

FROM: Michael Kass, JD, MS, EMT
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

DATE: July 13, 2015

RE: Updates to United States General Services Administration's Federal Specification for the Star of Life Ambulance, KKK-A-1822F and Massachusetts Implementation Timeline

In accordance with 105 CMR 170.455 (Class I ambulances) and 105 CMR 170.460 (Class II ambulances), and Administrative Requirement 2-405, all Class I and Class II ambulance vehicles must, at a minimum, meet the United States General Services Administration's (US GSA) Federal Specification for the Star of Life Ambulances, KKK-A-1822-F, that are in effect at time of purchase. This Advisory is to alert you that the US GSA has promulgated an updated KKK-1822-F specification, effective July 1, 2015. See accompanying US GSA change notice.

The primary change in this update is that the US GSA has adopted in KKK-1822-F a new safety standard for securing stretchers, based on the research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Specifically, this change requires ambulances contracted for and constructed after July 1, 2015 to incorporate crash test rated stretcher retention systems that meet SAE J3027 standards. The US GSA has concluded that from a patient and EMS personnel safety perspective, this is a positive change that is long overdue. The US GSA acknowledges that incorporating this new standard may result in significant additional costs depending on the brand and type of stretcher and retention system used.

The Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (Department) understands that with significant cost involved, services may need lead-time to budget for this change. **Therefore, the Department will allow ambulance services until July 1, 2016 to come into compliance** with this stretcher retention system standard, as well as other changes in the updated KKK-1822-F change notice.

For further information, contact Philip Bonaiuto, Ambulance Regulatory Program Field Supervisor/Inspector, at phil.bonaiuto@state.ma.us.