

The General Services Administration (GSA) recently issued a change notice to the current KKK-1822-F specifications pertaining to Star of Life (SOL) ambulances. This change notice affects EMS agencies in Virginia because EMS Regulations (12VAC5-31-810) requires a ground ambulance to be commercially constructed and certified to comply with current federal specifications for the SOL ambulance as of the date of vehicle construction, with exceptions as specified in the EMS Regulations. This change notice (#6) relates to EMS provider and patient compartment seating, patient seating, litter fasteners and anchorages, storage compartments and cabinets design, location of medical equipment and supplies, and mounting and retention of medical devices and equipment. Change Notice 6 is scheduled to be implemented on July 1st, 2014.

The suggested changes to the KKK-1822-F ambulance specifications are based upon research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). From an EMS provider and patient safety perspective these changes are long overdue and a positive change. However, from a financial perspective, some of the changes will result in a significant cost increase. Specifically, the cost to incorporate crash test rated stretcher retention systems that meet SAE J3027 standards in ambulances constructed after July 1, 2014 may result in additional costs between \$20,000 and \$40,000 depending upon the brand and type of stretcher and retention system utilized.

This change notice is not retroactive, but may cause backwards compatibility issues with some older stretchers not fitting the new stretcher retention systems.

The GSA is offering an opportunity to submit public comment on or before May 21 that may result in a delay of the July 1 implementation date. In order to provide public comment, visit the GSA website to find the proposed Change Notice 6 at: <https://apps.fas.gsa.gov/vehiclestandards/>

- 1) On the [FEDERAL VEHICLE STANDARDS](#) page
- 2) “Please select a year,” choose “2015”
- 3) Next, in the [RIGHT BOX](#) - *Select a Vehicle Type to View Federal Standards Documentation*, choose “Ambulances” from the drop down menu
- 3) Once “AMBULANCES” is selected, click on GET “DOCUMENT TO VIEW”
- 4) There are two (2) references to Change Notice 6 in the document list. “KKK-A-1822F Change Notice 6” is toward the top of the list and “Additions to draft change notice 6” appears at the bottom of the document list.
- 5) After clicking on either document, look for “Make Comment” to submit your comments to GSA. “3.11.6 Litter Fasteners and Anchorages” appears in the “Additions to draft change notice 6” document at the bottom of the documents list.

EMS agencies and key stakeholder organizations are urged to review the specification change and make comments.