



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



SAFETY ACTION NOTICE - 01/11

To: Each Manager, Supervisor & Staff Member
c.c.: NAS Leadership Team
From: Pat Grant, National Fleet, Logistics & Support Manager
Date: 3rd October 2011
Subject: **EMERGENCY AMBULANCE - VEHICLE SIDE ACCESS**
Priority: **HIGH IMPORTANCE – INFORMATION RELEASE**
Action: **DISPLAY IN ALL AREAS – FOR INFORMATION**

The National Ambulance Service wishes to inform staff of recent developments in relation to the side access door on Emergency Ambulances.

THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE DOOR REMAINS UNCHANGED, I.E. TO BE USED ONLY AS AN EMERGENCY EXIT OR WHEN IT IS DEEMED TO BE THE ONLY SAFE OPTION TO ACCESS THE PATIENT COMPARTMENT.

The NAS have carried out a number of actions as a means of managing the risks identified by the Health and Safety Authority “Alert to Ambulance Owners and Operators and those who may provide Ambulance Crew Members”.

Additional reporting systems and safety features have been implemented and installed on all Emergency Ambulance vehicles within the National Ambulance Service that are fitted with rear hinged side access doors.

The Vehicle Daily Inspection Form, that is completed by all staff at the commencement of each shift, has been re-formatted to include a specific check to be carried out by staff, and recorded on the VDI Form, to ensure that the side access door is operating correctly and that the security and warning systems, to include audible and visual warnings in the driver cab and visual warnings in the patient compartment, are functioning as designed within the vehicle to activate if the side access door is not closed properly.

Each Emergency Ambulance Vehicle with a rear hinged side access door has been further fitted with a secondary motion lock to the side door, which activates when the vehicle reaches a speed in excess of 2 kilometres per hour, thus preventing the door from being operated when the vehicle is in motion. Within the patient compartment of the vehicle, a green light adjacent to the door confirms that the secondary motion lock has activated when the vehicle exceeds 2 kilometres per hour.

PRIOR TO OPENING THE SIDE ACCESS DOOR AT ANY TIME, STAFF MUST CONFIRM WITH THE DRIVER THAT THE VEHICLE IS STATIONARY AND THAT IT IS SAFE TO OPEN THE SIDE ACCESS DOOR.

Any issues or concerns in relation to the operating integrity of a vehicle, with particular emphasis on the side access door, should be recorded on the appropriate documentation, e.g. VDI Form, Defect Notification Form, Incident/Near Miss Report, etc. and reported immediately to your immediate Line Supervisor/Line Manager as appropriate

Inspection, maintenance and servicing of the door components, to include functionality of all safety features, will be carried out bi-annually when the vehicle is having scheduled maintenance or servicing carried out.

The NAS is further considering if any other systems or developments over and above those recommended by the Health and Safety Authority are desirable and thus **the current status of the side access door as described above will remain in place for the time being.**

Staff will be informed on any future developments with the side access door on Emergency Ambulances and appropriate information and documentation will accompany any future developments.

Staff should continue to be familiar with the safe operating practises in relation to the operation of the side access door on Emergency Ambulances as contained within document AMBOF013 Ambulance Operations (Fleet), (Interim) Procedure, Safe use of the patient compartment side door on CEN compliant Emergency Ambulances, issued in June 2010 and reactivated in July 2011.

Note:

*Any queries regarding the contents of this **SAFETY ACTION NOTICE** should be directed through your immediate Line Supervisor/Line Manager in the first instance.*

Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchairr
Teach Dara, Ascaill an Crann Teile, Páirc na Mílaoise, Nás na Rí, Co. Chill Dara

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