



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER R. RINN
Acting Commissioner

Policy Guidance is hereby provided to:

All New Jersey Mobile Healthcare Agencies

Issue: The Department promotes the use of mobile devices in the mobile healthcare setting and professional installation of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) mounting devices in licensed vehicles. Improper installation of the MDT may obstruct or invade the airbag deployment path. Obstructing or invading an airbag deployment path is not a safe practice and an unnecessary risk.

N.J.A.C. 8:40-4.4 Vehicle safety

(a) The vehicle shall be maintained in a safe operating condition. The vehicle and all required equipment shall be functional and operable when the MAV or BLS ambulance is "in-service."

N.J.A.C. 8:41-3.19 Vehicle safety

(a) The vehicle shall be maintained in a safe operating condition. The vehicle and all required equipment shall be functional and operable when the MICU, SCTU or AMU is "in-service."

N.J.A.C. 8:40-8.2 Enforcement actions

(a) An authorized representative of the Department may remove any or all of a provider's vehicles from service when, in his or her opinion, the vehicle, equipment or crewmembers pose an imminent threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public, or to patients using the service.

Department Review: The Department is interpreting "safe operating condition" to mean that the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) is not obstructing or invading the airbag deployment path when the vehicle is in motion.

A bulletin from the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) states in relevant part states; "No equipment should be mounted in any portion of the airbag deployment path recommended by the vehicle manufacturer"

<http://tricojif.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Air-Bag-Safety-In-Police-Fire-and-EMS-Vehicle.pdf>

Agencies utilizing mobile data terminals are required to:

1. Install mobile data terminals so that they do not block a portion of the airbag deployment path.
2. Develop and implement policies to ensure that mobile data terminals do not block a portion of the airbag deployment path when the vehicle is in motion.
3. Education all EMS Clinicians who operate emergency vehicles on these policies.

Terms & Conditions: This interpretation shall take immediate effect.

Duration: This guidance shall remain in effect until the current versions of N.J.A.C. 8:40 and 8:41 have been revised.

For: Christopher R. Rinn, Acting Commissioner

By: Scot Phelps, JD, MPH, Paramedic
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

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Expiration Date: Upon Regulatory Revision