



AMBULANCE CEN APPROVAL

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Ambulance CEN Approval

The CEN standard, commonly known as BS EN 1789:2000 - Medical Vehicles and their Equipment - Road Ambulances is a voluntary standard. However, due to the importance of the requirements for ensuring the safety of both patients and paramedics, it has been widely viewed as a purchasing requirement for new ambulances and therefore adopted within the health industry.

The scope of the standard is as follows:

"Specifies the requirements for the design, test methods, performance and equipping of road ambulances for the transport of sick or injured persons".

This applies to ambulances of classes A1, A2, B and C capable of transporting at least one person on a stretcher. In addition, it specifies general requirements for medical devices in ambulances.

CEN compliance will provide the purchaser with:

- One specific standard to choose for an industry benchmark
- Paramedics and ambulance crews will have a safer working environment
- Patients are transported in as safe and comfortable a vehicle as possible

VCA became involved in the certification scheme after being appointed as the UK notified body for the dynamic testing requirements for the security of equipment detailed in Paragraphs 4.5.9 and 5.3 of the CEN standard. This was viewed as a natural extension of VCA's statutory responsibility for the type approval testing of virtually all other forms of vehicle transport. In addition to witnessing the dynamic test work, VCA can also provide a testing service for the full set of performance requirements detailed in the standard.

Some of the subjects covered in the standard are as follows:

- Masses and Dimensions
- Electrical Requirements
- Vehicle Performance Requirements
- Medical Devices
- Fixation of the Equipment in the Patient's Compartment
- Emergency Exits
- Minimum Seating Dimensions
- Braking Requirements
- Glass Requirements
- Interior Lighting
- Interior Sound

The process of gaining CEN certification is the same as for VCA's normal type approval scheme. For more information of the requirements of the standard please contact Claire Rees at VCA's Midlands Centre Office in Nuneaton or by email: ambulance@vca.gov.uk

Please note that the CEN standard is not published by VCA but by BSI. The full title of the current standard is BS EN 1789:2000 Incorporating Amendment 1 Medical Vehicles and their Equipment - Road Ambulances. A copy can be obtained from BSI, contact:



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