

Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems  
*CAMTS*  
**Position Statement**  
**on the**  
**Use of *CAMTS* Accreditation Standards as State Minimum Standards**

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (*CAMTS*), begun in 1990, serves as a voluntary standard writing and verification organization. The Commission comprises representatives from sixteen different member organizations, with one representative from each of the member organizations, and two general public representatives sitting on the *CAMTS* Board of Directors. The Board, with input from each of its member organizations, establishes standards required and recommended for those medical transport systems wishing to receive accreditation.

The goal of *CAMTS* is to provide standards that reflect a high quality, safe and stable medical transport service. Through an extensive application process, including an on-site verification using trained and skilled site surveyors, the program can receive acknowledgement as “*CAMTS* Accredited.” Accredited systems must be in substantial compliance (not necessarily total), as determined by the Board of Directors in a blinded review of the application and survey reports.

The Board encourages and believes that all medical transport systems should meet the *CAMTS* Accreditation Standards and applauds companies, states and services that recognize *CAMTS* as their minimum for licensing or contracts. However, the Accreditation Standards are by no means minimal standards for a safe and quality program. Instead, they represent a standard that exceeds those minimums and are deserving of a higher recognition.

Because the *CAMTS* Standards are written to apply to medical transport systems worldwide, they may not address the unique needs or characteristics of the local region or state. Additionally, to verify consistency and a track record in quality service, *CAMTS* requires a minimum of one year of performance and documentation before applications can be processed for Full Accreditation. *CAMTS* offers Conditional Accreditation to services that are in operation for less than one year and greater than four months. A preliminary site visit is scheduled to verify that the program has developing policies and processes that are in compliance with the *CAMTS* Accreditation Standards. A service receiving Conditional Accreditation is not permitted to advertise as accredited but will receive a letter of conditional status that can be provided to local and state regulators and to reimbursement agencies who require *CAMTS* accreditation.

States should determine the minimum standards for its jurisdiction. If this includes meeting *CAMTS* standards, states should recognize that the standard setting is a dynamic process and revised standards are issued approximately every two years.

In addition, states should recognize that the Federal Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 (ADA), codified in part in section 49 USC §41713, explicitly prohibits states from directly or indirectly enacting laws or regulations “related to the price, route, or service” of an air carrier that may provide air transportation. All commercial air ambulance services are provided by air carriers certificated to provide transportation under this Federal law. This means that states may not regulate areas within the USDOT’s economic jurisdiction. This includes using *CAMTS* Accreditation standards, as they relate to Federal Aviation Administration statutory aviation authority, for the state’s minimum standards. States wishing to adapt *CAMTS* Accreditation as minimum standards should consult their state Attorney General for guidance.

The *CAMTS* Accreditation Standards, as well as standards from other organizations, can and should be used for reference. *CAMTS* encourages and recommends that states provide “deemed status” for those services that have documented their commitment to maintaining quality service by completing and obtaining *CAMTS* Accreditation.