



Issue Date: 7th June 2019

## SAFETY ALERT NOTICE.

### NAS Emergency Ambulance Door lock safety systems

#### Identified Issue / Concern / Problem/ Evidence of harm.

Following review of an incident reported by a crew where a side door open alarm did not appear to activate on an EA, it was identified that there was a lack of clarity regarding the safety systems operating in an ambulance to highlight the issue of a door not closed properly or not closed at all.

One of the learning outcomes was that if the hand brake is not fully released (in this case it was 1 notch up) the spoken alarm does not activate, though an alternative audible warning does.

#### Actions Required / Risk Treatment strategy

It is imperative that all doors are confirmed to be closed prior to attempting to drive the vehicle and that this safety aspect of the VDI has been completed. No safety system can physically close the door.

If a vehicle door is open at any point when stationary a small orange light flashes on the ATSR control panel (cab & Saloon) to draw attention to the illuminated door open warning light – this action happens regardless of handbrake and gear stick position. Naturally this light will extinguish if the doors are all closed.

When a vehicle has **1)** its handbrake fully released and **2)** the vehicle is put into gear the system checks that all doors are closed and speaks a loud warning “Stop, Door open” if any are open.

If either one or both of the 2 conditions are not met the vehicle will not speak but the handbrake not being released fully will illuminate the red warning light & park brake symbol on the dashboard and once the vehicle speed reaches 5kph a very loud fast bleeping will sound constantly to warn the driver of an open door.

If the driver only rectifies the handbrake not fully released (which on its own is signified only by a slower beeping alarm), then the verbal warning will activate advising “stop, door open”.

Naturally as the driver will stop to check the door, having been alerted by the bleeping, when they engage and then fully release the hand brake the system will revert to speak in a loud warning if the door is still not closed.

Issued by: Ciarán McCullagh – Quality, Safety & Risk Manager – North Leinster.