



Standard Specification for Rotary Wing Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and Specialized Medical Support Air Ambulances¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2318; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification pertains to fixed (airplanes) and rotary-wing (helicopters) aircraft used for prehospital emergency medical care and transportation of patients by air, collectively air ambulances. It outlines the minimum requirements, including personnel, patient care equipment, and supplies that shall be met before the aircraft can be classified as an air ambulance.

1.2 Recommendations for basic life support (BLS) air ambulances are contained in the first part of this specification that defines the minimum requirements for aircraft configuration and capability, the minimum number of seats for personnel, and the minimum medical equipment and supplies.

1.3 Recommendations for advanced life support (ALS) air ambulances include the first part of this specification that defines the minimum requirements for aircraft configuration and capability, the minimum number of seats for personnel, and the minimum medical equipment and supplies. Additional requirements for ALS are found in [Annex A1](#).

1.4 Recommendations for specialized medical support (SMS) air ambulances include those for BLS and may include some or all of the ALS requirements that define the minimum requirements for aircraft configuration and capability, the minimum number of seats for personnel, and the minimum medical equipment and supplies. Additional requirements for SMS air ambulances are found in [Annex A2](#).

1.5 In this specification, minimum requirements for air ambulances providers are identified, however, ambulance services, under the direction of their medical director, are encouraged to use them as a core list and adjust their configuration or manifest or both according to their mission profile and patient population.

1.6 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are

mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.7 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[F1149 Practice for Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Authority of Individuals and Institutions Providing Medical Direction of Emergency Medical Services](#)

[F1229 Guide for Qualification and Training of EMS Air Medical Patient Care Providers](#)

2.2 AHA Standard:³

[2010 Guidelines for CPR and ECC](#)

[National EMS Scope of Practice Model DOT HS 810 657 \(current 2/2007\)⁴](#)

[CAMTS: 9th Edition Accreditation Standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System, approved August 2012](#)

[Association of Air Medical Services \(AAMS\) Model State Guidelines, first edition approved 2012](#)

2.3 CGA Standards:⁵

[CGA C-9 Standard for Color-Marking of Compressed Gas Cylinders Intended for Medical Use](#)

[CGA E-7 Standard for Flow meters, Pressure Reducing Regulators, Regulator/Flow Meter and Regulator/Flow Gage Combinations for the Administration of Medical Gases](#)

[CGA P-2 Characteristics and Safe Handling of Medical Gases](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [F30](#) on Emergency Medical Services and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [F30.01](#) on EMS Equipment.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2015. Published February 2016. Originally approved in 2004. Last previous edition approved in 2004 as F2318–04, which was withdrawn January 2013 and reinstated in November 2015. DOI: 10.1520/F2318-15.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from the American Heart Association, ahajournals.org.

⁴ <http://www.ems.gov/education/EMSScope.pdf>

⁵ Available from the Compressed Gas Association, 14501 George Carter Way, Suite 103, Chantilly VA 20151-2923.