

THINGS TO KNOW

Things to know about Fire Truck Safety and Specifications

Safety: It seems that fire fighter's safety is always an afterthought!!

Injuries to fire fighters while they are getting in and out of the fire truck is a big problem, especially when you buy from manufacturers who assemble on Non-NFPA compliant commercial chassis with add-on crew cab conversions (European chassis mainly, "*road haulage trucks converted into fire trucks*").

NFPA 1901 standards on Apparatus help create industry awareness on "Cab Ergonomics" which include minimum standards for steps, standing surfaces and grab handles. Your specification, MUST include:

- Maximum stepping height from ground to first step must Not be More than 610mm
- Maximum step height between steps must Not be More than 457mm
- Minimum front cab door steps must Not be Less than 610mm wide x 203mm deep
- Minimum rear cab door steps must Not be Less than 533mm wide x 305mm deep
- All steps must be of slip resistance surfaces
- Lighted steps and standing surfaces
- Minimum 32mm handrail diameter
- A distance of at least 50mm from handrail to the mounting surface

Specifications:

- A carefully thought out apparatus specification that incorporates what is truly needed and what MUST be compliant to NFPA or similar international standards for fire and emergency vehicles as opposed to what the manufacturer's sales person try and sell you
- As part of the planning process, it is critically important to define what you absolutely "need" and what you "want".
- In this tight economy environment, do a survey of what is available from reputable and real fire truck manufacturers and get estimated budget value(s) before you apply and motivate for funds from Council, Board of Directors or Government
- Once an appropriate budget is approved, prepare a strict "compliant only" specification as opposed to a "mix-and-match" open specification. Start with a base truck and define what the "needs" are, break the truck specification into (i) the chassis/cab, (ii) the pump and pump control area, (iii) the body and compartments, (iv) the electrical system and components, (v) loose equipment
- Do Not buy or be forced to buy by the authorities purely on the "bottom line value" for non specification compliant offers, rather stick to your motivation to buy on "lowest price to specification" and "best value for money"
- Make sure the manufacturer you are buying from is a reputable manufacture that can supply trucks in accordance to the strict fire and emergency truck standards and who can support the vehicle for its lifespan

**ALL E-ONE FIRE EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE COMPLIANT WITH THE
COMPULSORY SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS (SANS
10090:2003) NFPA 1901 FOR AUTOMOTIVE FIRE APPARATUS**

For more information and help on Fire and Emergency Truck specifications, contact:

Luke de Koker

Ldekoker@efa-africa.com