

EMS Vehicle Requirements and Permitting

PURPOSE: To ensure all EMS vehicles licensed in West Virginia meet the standards established for safety, operations and equipment necessary to provide for the level of care licensed and transportation of the sick and injured as prescribed in §64 WV CSR 48-5.

PROCEDURE: All EMS vehicles intended for use by a licensed West Virginia EMS agency or fire department rapid response agency shall meet standard criteria for each class of vehicle, crew configuration, scope of practice, and care provided.

A. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.1

1. Unless specified differently herein, ground ambulances must meet applicable U.S. Government Services Agency or subsequent federally approved specification at the time of the vehicle's manufacture.
2. Each EMS vehicle must be maintained in good repair and operating condition and shall have a current state inspection if required by the state issuing the vehicle license.
3. EMS vehicles may not be maintained or operated except by a licensed EMS agency. U.S. Government EMS vehicles are exempt from this requirement.
4. The EMS agency may exercise emergency operating privileges, including the use of audible and visible emergency warning devices, only during response to the location of an emergency call, while at the location, and during transportation of a patient. Operation of these devices must follow WV Code §17C-2-5.
5. All operators of ground EMS vehicles shall meet the requirements §64 WV CSR 48-6.7.1.i, 6.7.1.j and 6.7.1.k in addition to minimum standards established for the individual's level of certification.

B. **EMS VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.1.7. The EMS agency shall ensure that each EMS vehicle has all required equipment and supplies necessary for the level of service being provided while en route to an incident, at the scene, and during transport of a patient.

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C. EXTERIOR VEHICLE MARKING REQUIREMENTS: §64 WV CSR 48-5.1.11.

1. Retroreflective Striping

- a. A retroreflective stripe, a combination of retroreflective stripes, or Battenburg markings shall be affixed to the ambulance in the following proportions:
 - i. 25 percent of the length of each of the cab side surfaces when approached from each side
 - ii. 75 percent of the length of each patient compartment side surfaces when approached from each side
- b. The stripe or combination of stripes shall be a minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) in total vertical height.
- c. The 6 in. (152 mm) tall stripe or combination of stripes shall be permitted to be interrupted by objects (e.g., receptacles, cracks between slats in roll-up doors), provided the full stripe is conspicuous as the ambulance is approached.
- d. A retroreflective graphic design shall be permitted to replace all or part of the required striping material on the front and sides of the vehicle if the design or combination thereof covers at least the same surface area as required by section a.
- e. A retroreflective licensed agency name placed on the front, sides, and rear of the vehicle to identify to the general public the agency providing services.
- f. Any vertically entry hinged doors and compartment doors shall have either at least 60 inches² (38,710 mm²) of retroreflective material affixed to the inside of the door. This also is referred to as edge markings, or diamond plating, or flashing lighting to indicate to the general public that an entry or compartment door is opened.
- g. At least 50 percent of the rear-facing vertical surfaces other than glass and lenses, visible when facing from the rear of the ambulance, shall be equipped with retroreflective material.
- h. Where chevrons are used, each stripe in the chevron shall be a single color alternating between two high-contrast colors. Each stripe shall be 6 in. (152 mm) in width.
- i. Where Battenburg markings are used, each box in the Battenburg markings shall be 144 in.² (92,903 mm²).

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- j. All retroreflective material shall conform to the requirements of ASTM D4956, Standard Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting for Traffic Control, Section 6.1.1, for Type I Sheeting.
 - k. All retroreflective materials that are colors not listed in ASTM D4956, *Standard Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting for Traffic Control*, Section 6.1.1, shall have a minimum coefficient of retroreflection of 10 with an observation angle of 0.2 degrees and an entrance angle of -4 degrees.
 - l. Any printed or processed retroreflective film construction shall conform to the standards required of an integral colored film as specified in ASTM D4956, *Standard Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting for Traffic Control* Section 6.1.1.
2. A 12-inch star of life shall appear on both sides and the rear of the vehicle.
 3. An EMS vehicle may only be lettered with the terms "Paramedic", "Advanced Life Support", "Critical Care Transport", or similar service-level designation when the vehicle is licensed by the WVOEMS for that level of service.
 4. The public access emergency telephone number 9-1-1 must be displayed on any ambulance that respond to 9-1-1 calls. Specialized Multi Patient Medical Transport (SMPMT) and non-public access EMS vehicles may display a different number.
 5. Emergency warning lights must be visible from all four sides of the vehicle as published by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS).

D. **Non-Transporting EMS Vehicles: WV 64 CSR 48-5.2**

1. The EMS agency may use non-transporting EMS vehicles intended for the immediate movement of personnel and equipment to the location of an incident. Personally owned vehicles (POVs) may be used for similar purposes and are exempt from §64 WV CSR 48-5, if they are authorized by the official representative of the licensed EMS agency. POVs and their operators are subject to requirements of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the WVOEMS Emergency Vehicle Permit Policy.
2. Non-Transporting EMS vehicles may not be used for the transportation of patients, except in the case of a disaster.

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- E. **Transporting EMS Vehicles, excluding (SMPMT):** §64 WV CSR 48-5.3. Transporting EMS Vehicles are used for the delivery of basic life support, advanced life support, or critical care transport. The equipment, supplies and staffing required are dependent upon the level of service being provided on a particular incident as specified in the medical direction system's policy, protocols, and scope of practice. Transporting EMS vehicle may be used to deliver services at the level at which they are certified or below. Transporting EMS vehicles may not deliver services at levels exceeding that at which they are certified. This does not include and ALS unit responding to intercept a BLS unit in which ALS personnel must bring equipment and take over care while the BLS unit continues to transport to the Emergency Department during a particular response.
1. **Staffing:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.3.2. Staffing is dependent upon the level of service being provided on a particular incident as specified in the medical direction system's policy, protocols, and scope of practice. Appropriate staff shall be onboard at all times during patient treatment and transport:
 - a. **Basic Life Support (BLS):** at a minimum a certified EMVO and EMT.
 - b. **Advanced Life Support (ALS):** at a minimum a certified EMVO and ACT/AEMT or Paramedic, provided that individual protocols may specify alternative staffing as specified by the WVOEMS Medical Director System.
 - c. **Critical Care Transport (CCT):** at a minimum a certified EMVO and two MCCPs or one MCCP and one MCCN as required by treatment guidelines and policies specific to the individual patient's care requirements as specified by the OEMS Medical Director System. Hospital-based specialty medical personnel may replace one of the certified personnel for the purpose of providing a higher level of care required by a particular patient.
 2. **Equipment and supplies:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.3.2.d the minimum equipment and supplies required are dependent upon the level of service being provided on a particular incident as specified in the WVOEMS policy, protocols, and scope of practice. This equipment and supplies shall be onboard at the time of response and during patient treatment and transport.
- F. **Specialized Multi-Patient Medical Transport (SMPMT):** §64 WV CSR 48-5.6
1. A SMPMT vehicle is used to transport patients, with a medical history and no apparent immediate need for any level of medical supervision, to and from scheduled medical appointments.

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2. SMPMT vehicles must be maintained in good repair and operating condition and have a current state inspection, if required by the state issuing the vehicle license.
 3. The interior of SMPMT vehicle including all storage areas, equipment, and supplies must be clean and sanitary.
 4. Safety belts must be available and operational for all seat positions in SMPMT vehicles.
 5. SMPMT vehicles shall not be equipped with any form of stretcher.
 6. An EMS agency may not use a SMPMT vehicle for delivery of basic or advanced life support, except in the case of a disaster.
- G. **SMPMT Vehicle Specifications:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.7.
1. The vehicle may be a commercial passenger van or specially modified passenger van. Passenger sedans, limousines, recreational vehicles and sport utility vehicles with fewer than three (3) passenger doors and a wheelbase of less than 100 inches are not permitted.
 2. The name of the agency must appear on both sides and back of the vehicle in four inch minimum-height letters. Clearly readable logos or emblems are acceptable
 3. A contact phone number, other than 9-1-1, may appear on the vehicle.
 4. Neither the word ambulance nor other emergency designation must appear on the vehicle, provided that such appearing as part of the name of the agency shall be exempt.
 5. A star of life is not permitted on the vehicle.
- H. **SMPMT Vehicle Equipment and Supplies:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.6.8.b
1. Communications equipment which provides voice communication between the vehicle and its dispatch center.
 2. Minimum equipment and supplies required are as specified in the WVOEMS policy.
 3. All SMPMT vehicles must be inspected by the WVOEMS.

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4. SMPMT vehicles must be staffed with one person who shall be certified, at a minimum, as an Emergency Medical Vehicle Operator (EMVO) pursuant to §64 WV CSR 48-5.6.7.
 - I. **Air Ambulance:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.4. There shall be two categories, one for rotary wing aircraft and one for fixed wing aircraft. All EMS agencies engaging in air ambulance service under §64 WV CSR 48-5 shall operate under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) part 135 rules.
 - J. **EMS Vehicle Inspections:** §64 WV CSR 48-5.1.12 All EMS vehicles are subject to inspection by the Commissioner for compliance with §64 WV CSR 48-5 at any time and without prior notification. This inspection is in addition to other inspections required for EMS vehicles by federal, state, or local regulations.
 1. **Inspection Procedures:**
 - a. EMS vehicles must meet all requirements for each level of service as specified in §64 WV CSR 48-5. Detailed requirements for EMS vehicle operational safety, personnel safety, and patient care equipment and supplies are established by the WVOEMS in accordance with scope of practice requirements and all applicable federal or state laws or regulations, Emergency Services ACT, §64 WV CSR 48-1 and WVOEMS Polices
 - b. WVOEMS Vehicle classifications based on level of service:
 - i. Non-Transporting (Class A).
 - ii. Ground Ambulance (Class B and C).
 - iii. Critical Care Transport (Class D and E).
 - c. Ground vehicles must be currently licensed as a motor vehicle by the state or commonwealth, if applicable, for type and licensed state.
 - d. Ground Vehicles must have a current vehicle safety inspection by a state or commonwealth, if applicable, for type.
 - e. Aircraft must be currently licensed and inspected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the aircraft and its components. OEMS will provide inspection of all medical equipment and supplies for the level of service provided.

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2. EMS Vehicle Permit FEES:

- a. Fees shall be \$200.00 annually for EMS Ground Ambulances, Critical Care Transport, Specialized Multi Patient Medical Transports Vehicles, and Fixed/Rotary Wing Air Ambulances. §64 WV CSR 48-4.39.c
- b. Non-refundable fees for vehicle inspections are due upon receipt of invoice per §64 WVCR 48-4.39
- c. Vehicles that do not comply initially shall be subject to subsequent inspection fees.
- d. Non-transporting vehicles are exempt from inspection fees.

3. New EMS Vehicles:

- a. Shall be inspected by WVOEMS or its designees, prior to being used for patient transport.
- b. Shall be compliant with all applicable laws, §64 WV CSR 48-1 and WVOEMS Polices.
- c. Vehicles which meet criteria shall be issued a permit valid for a period of twelve (12) months and ending on or before the last day of the month that the permit was issued.

4. Annual Inspections:

- a. Each agency shall be visited annually for EMS vehicle permit inspections by WVOEMS or its designee.
- b. All aircraft type EMS vehicles will be fully inspected by the WVOEMS and/or the FAA inspector.
- c. EMS vehicles to be inspected will be randomly selected by WVOEMS immediately prior to the site visit. Agencies will not be notified of selected EMS vehicles prior to Inspectors arriving on site.
- d. EMS vehicles not meeting the pre-established criteria shall not be issued a permit

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5. Spot Inspections of EMS Vehicles:

- a. All EMS vehicles shall be subject to spot inspections at the discretion of WVOEMS or its agents. Spot inspections will not take place when responding to calls, during arrival and departure from providing patient care, or if it is determined by WVOEMS or its agents that an EMS vehicle is out of service for restocking or decontamination.
- b. May be initiated by WVOEMS or its designee at any time or location, regardless of current EMS vehicle permit status.
- c. Shall not interfere with emergency response or patient care.
- d. Shall be based on criteria for the crew configuration of the EMS vehicle at the time of inspection. (**EMS personnel shall possess relevant credentials at the time of inspections, as required by §64 WV CSR 48-6.2.m.**)
- e. Inspections will be completed using standard criteria and forms established and published by WVOEMS for each class of EMS vehicle.

6. EMS vehicles not meeting the pre-established requirements:

- i. Shall be removed from service and not used for patient care until the identified deficiencies are corrected.
- ii. Re-inspection shall be at a time and place determined by WVOEMS.

7. Reserve EMS Vehicle Permitting: (owned by the EMS agency)

- a. Reserve vehicles shall be currently licensed, inspected and mechanically operational.
- b. Must have functional vehicle systems, i.e. lights and siren, heating and air conditioning, seatbelts, etc.
- c. Must be fully equipped and stocked as required for the class and staffing only when in-service for patient care or transport.

8. Loaner EMS Vehicle Permitting: (not owned by the EMS agency)

- a. The appropriate WVOEMS staff or designee must be notified if a loaner EMS vehicle is utilized.

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- b. Must be fully equipped and stocked as required for the class and staffing when used for patient care or transport.
- c. No permit inspection is required if placed in use for ten (10) days or less.
- d. Use beyond ten (10) days requires a full permitting inspection.