



## **AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS GROUND AMBULANCE DESIGN / DOCUMENTATION / EQUIPMENT**

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### **I. AUTHORITY:**

*California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 12. California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.84, 1797.180, 1797.200, 1797.204, & 1798 Code of Federal Regulations 634. County of Orange Ambulance Ordinance. Policy sets minimum acceptable standards, any exemptions for public providers allowed by law.*

### **II. APPLICATION:**

To provide minimum ambulance design, documentation, and equipment standards for ambulance transportation providers and to ensure a system-wide standardized inventory to promote safety, readiness, and the ability to meet the requirements of a disaster response in the event of a declared emergency.

### **III. AMBULANCE DESIGN:**

- A. Each ambulance shall be classified in accordance with the National Incident Management System.
- B. No ambulance permit shall be issued or renewed for any ambulance that is older than ten years. Year 1<sup>st</sup> sold, as noted on CA DMV documentation, shall be the determining qualification. (e.g., an OCEMS permitted ambulance initially sold in 2001 would need to be taken out of service no later than December 31st, 2011). No salvage titles will be authorized.
- C. All ambulances shall be maintained in a clean condition (see OCEMS Policy 720.50 Section VIII. Cleaning Standards for Ambulances and Ambulance Equipment) and in good working order at all times.
- D. No ambulance shall be operated if staffed at less than the level of care marked on the unit, (e.g., "ALS," "Mobile Intensive Care Unit," or "MICU" – must be staffed by paramedics or registered nurses).
- E. Each ambulance shall have:
  - 1. Patient compartment door latches operable from inside and outside the vehicle.
  - 2. Operational heating and air conditioning units in the patient compartment.
  - 3. Vehicle installed suction equipment (house), capable of at least a negative pressure equivalent to 300mm Hg and 30 liter per minute air flow rate for 30 minutes of operation.
  - 4. Seat belts for all passengers in the driver's and patient compartment shall be fully functional.
  - 5. Gaskets affixed to the perimeters of all doors and windows shall be undamaged with their integrity intact and form the appropriate seal.
  - 6. All surfaces in the patient compartment (seats, mattress, etc.) shall be intact, impervious to fluid and able to be disinfected in case of contamination.
  - 7. The name of the public entity that operates an ambulance service or the name under which the ambulance licensee is doing business or providing service shall be displayed on both sides and the rear of each emergency ambulance. The display of the name shall be in letters in sharp contrast to the background and shall be of such size, shape, and color as to be



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readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet. All ambulance vehicles operated under a single license shall display the same identification.

8. A unit number or identifier, of at least two characters minimum, 3 to 4 inches in height and of a contrasting color from the background, shall be affixed to the right rear and both sides of the front of the vehicle, at a minimum.
9. Medical supplies, solutions, and medications shall be acceptable for medical use and replaced prior to expiration date.
10. Medical equipment and supplies used to treat a patient shall be acceptable for medical use and shall be securely stored to prevent loose flying objects in the case of an ambulance collision and shall be readily accessible for immediate use.

**IV. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR EACH AMBULANCE:**

The following documentation is required to be present in the ambulance to operate in Orange County and shall be kept current for each ambulance and be made available upon request:

- A. For currently permitted vehicles, a valid County of Orange ambulance permit (or facsimile) in the driver compartment.
- B. For currently permitted vehicles, a valid County of Orange ambulance permit decal affixed to the lower portion of the right rear window of the ambulance.
- C. Ambulance vehicle cleaning checklist that adheres to cleaning standards as identified in OCEMS Policy 720.50 Section VIII. Cleaning Standards for Ambulances and Ambulance Equipment.
- D. Evidence of passage of annual vehicle inspection performed by California Highway Patrol within the preceding twelve (12) months. Ambulances in possession of a valid and current California Highway Patrol ambulance inspection report shall be deemed in compliance with Vehicle Code and regulations adopted by the California Highway Patrol Commissioner.
- E. Evidence of passage of current odometer inspection(s) performed by the Division of Weights and Measures of the Agriculture Department of the County of Orange or other California county within the preceding twelve (12) months.
- F. Evidence of passage of an initial, and upon request, Med 9 radio inspection(s) performed by the County of Orange Sheriff Department of Communications.
- G. Current maps or electronic mapping device covering the areas in which the ambulance provides service.
- H. 2012 or more recent DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.
- I. Proof of insurance.
- J. Evidence of current CA DMV registration.

