



California Highway Patrol

HPH 82.4



AMBULANCE DRIVER'S HANDBOOK



An Internationally Accredited Agency

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

AMBULANCE DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

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THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OR
THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL.

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FOREWORD

The purpose of this handbook is to consolidate statutes, regulations, and information specifically related to the operation and equipment of emergency ambulances and provide ready reference material on ambulance driver certificates, attendant requirements, and information on ambulance service operations.

An examination for an ambulance driver certificate is conducted at the field offices of the State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The questions for these examinations are based on material contained in this handbook. However, this booklet **DOES NOT** contain all laws and regulations governing ambulance drivers, attendants, or ambulance services. The California Vehicle Code; California Health and Safety Code; and California Code of Regulations, Title 13 (Division 2), and Title 22 (Division 9) should also be consulted.

This handbook was prepared by the Department of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) with the cooperation of the DMV and the State of California, Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), pursuant to Section 2512(d) of the California Vehicle Code. Recommendations pertaining to emergency medical care training of ambulance personnel, medical care standards, and medical equipment performance standards or designs were provided by the EMSA. Questions regarding this handbook may be directed to the CHP, Research and Planning Section, P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001, or by telephone at (916) 843-3340.

Copies of this handbook may be purchased at local DMV offices, or from the CHP by contacting the Publications Unit at (916) 843-3640. A complete California Vehicle Code may be purchased at any local DMV office. Titles of the California Code of Regulations can be found on the State of California, Office of Administrative Law's Web site at www.oal.ca.gov. A hard-copy of Titles of the California Code of Regulations may be purchased from Barclays Law Publishers, at www.barclaysccr.com or by telephone at (800) 888-3600.

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INFORMATION AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

a. Compliance. Statutes and regulations governing the operation of emergency ambulances have been established for public health and safety. Compliance with these mandated requirements and the exercise of sound judgment together with defensive driving techniques are essential for safe ambulance operation and will enhance patient transportation.

b. Applicability of Regulations. The emergency ambulance service regulations contained in Titles 13 and 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), adopted by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) applies to all publicly and privately owned ambulances used for emergency service. These regulations do not apply to ambulances not used to respond to emergency calls or federally owned and operated ambulances.

c. Ambulance Service License Requirement. Owners of ambulance services, other than public ambulance services, shall not operate as an emergency ambulance service or respond to emergency calls unless the ambulance service has been licensed by the CHP pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1107.

2. EXPLANATORY NOTES.

a. Ambulance. The term ambulance is defined in 13 CCR Section 1100.2(a) as “a vehicle specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the purpose of transporting sick, injured, convalescent, infirm, or otherwise incapacitated persons.”

b. Ambulance Service. The term ambulance service is defined in 13 CCR Section 1100.2(c) as “a private or public organization or individual providing an ambulance for use in emergency service.”

c. Emergency Call. An emergency call, as defined in 13 CCR Section 1100.2(e), is “a request for an ambulance to transport or assist persons in apparent sudden need of medical attention; or, in a medical emergency, as determined by a physician, to transport blood, any therapeutic device, accessory to such device, or tissue or organ for transplant.”

d. Emergency Service. Emergency service, as defined in 13 CCR Section 1100.2(f) is a function “performed in response to an emergency call. Emergency service also includes transportation of a patient, regardless of a

presumption of death of the patient, or transportation of a body for the purpose of making an anatomical gift.”

e. Code 3 Operation. Code 3 is a term used to describe the use of red lights and siren. It has been declared as a matter of legislative policy that red lights and siren are restricted to authorized emergency vehicles engaged in police, fire, and lifesaving services pursuant to Section 30 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC).

f. Convictions. As permitted by Penal Code Section 1203.4(a), convictions that are specified as affecting employment or certification for the ambulance driver remain convictions regardless of a subsequent action by the court to dismiss or set aside a guilty verdict. However, as referenced in Section 13555 CVC, the Penal Code does not affect any revocation or suspension of the privileges of the convicted person to drive a motor vehicle. The dismissal order does not relieve a person of the obligation to disclose a conviction in response to any direct question contained in any questionnaire.

g. Ambulance Identification. Pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1100.4, “the name of the public entity that operates an emergency 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 readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet. All ambulances operated under a single license shall display the same identification.”

h. Service Availability. As stated in 13 CCR Sections 1107 and 1107(a)(3), owners other than public agencies shall not permit their ambulances to respond to emergency calls unless they have obtained a license to operate an emergency ambulance service from the CHP. A license will be issued only to persons or entities operating one or more ambulances designed and operated exclusively as ambulances of which at least one is available 24 hours daily to provide emergency transportation. “An ambulance service that provides service only for special events or industrial employees and does not respond to calls from the general public is exempt from 24-hour availability as a licensing prerequisite.”

i. Warning Equipment Standards. Emergency ambulances are required to be equipped with warning lamps and sirens that comply with standards established by 13 CCR Sections 671, 700, 811, 812, 813, 816, 817, 818, 1021, 1023, 1028, and 1029; and Sections 25252, 25252.5, and 27002 CVC. Also refer to CHP 895, Requirements for Ambulances.

j. Fire Extinguisher Servicing. Fire extinguishers carried on an ambulance must be inspected and serviced yearly or immediately after use, whichever occurs first.

A fire extinguisher shall be a dry chemical or carbon dioxide type with a minimum 4-B:C rating, pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1103(C).

k. Ambulance Inspections. An ambulance service licensee's vehicles are required to be inspected initially and annually thereafter by CHP personnel, pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1107.2. Random inspections by CHP personnel will be made to verify that the vehicles are maintained in compliance with applicable requirements. Ambulances found not in compliance when inspected may be removed from service and the CHP 301, Special Vehicle Identification Certificate/Permit, confiscated until discrepancies have been corrected. Ambulance drivers should verify that the ambulance they are scheduled to drive has been inspected by the CHP within the current period of validity. This information can be obtained from the CHP 301 or CHP 299, Ambulance Inspection Report, issued by the CHP and required to be maintained in the vehicle. Publicly owned and operated ambulances are subject to random inspections by the CHP to verify compliance with the CVC and 13 CCR requirements at the request of the public agency, or in conjunction with a complaint investigation.

l. Escorts for Transported Patients. The prohibition against unqualified personnel serving as the driver or attendant applies to required personnel and is not intended to preclude the transportation of the patient's family members or other persons directly concerned with the well-being of the patient.

m. Liability. Ambulance services personnel may be civilly liable, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1799.106, for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or omissions not performed in good faith. The existence of gross negligence is normally a question of fact to be determined by a judge or jury.

n. Regulatory Exemptions. The CHP cannot grant exemptions to statutory requirements. Exemptions from certain provisions of the ambulance regulations may only be granted pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1108. An exemption may be granted upon a showing of good cause by the requesting ambulance service. The Department may require concurrence by the county health officer, county board of supervisors, or the county emergency medical care committee where the ambulance service is provided, and may impose such conditions as deemed necessary. Drivers should be familiar with the terms of any exemptions under which their ambulance service is operating. "Exemptions shall be valid for a period of not more than two years, unless rescinded earlier for cause. Exemptions are not transferable and shall expire upon change of ownership of the ambulance service. Exemptions may be terminated for cause, upon request of the county board of supervisors, or when the need for the exemption no longer exists."

o. Grounds for Suspension or Revocation of License.

(1) Pursuant to Section 2542 CVC, an ambulance service license may be suspended, revoked, or have disciplinary action taken against a license if the licensee or any partner, officer, director, controlling shareholder, or manager thereof:

- (a) Violates any section of the CVC which relates to their licensed activities.
- (b) Is convicted of any felony.
- (c) Is convicted of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- (d) Violates any of the regulations promulgated by the Commissioner pursuant to this chapter.
- (e) Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is injured or any act involving moral turpitude.
- (f) Has misrepresented a material fact in obtaining a license.
- (g) Aids or abets an unlicensed person to evade the requirements of the CVC.
- (h) Fails to make and keep records showing transactions as a licensee, or fails to have these records available for inspection by the CHP for a period of not less than three years after completion of any record, or refuses to comply with a written request by the CHP to make such records available for inspection.
- (i) Violates or attempts to violate the CVC relating to the particular activity for which they are licensed.
- (j) Fails to equip or maintain their vehicles as required by the CVC or regulations.

(2) Per 13 CCR Section 1109, grounds for disciplinary action enumerated in Section 2542 CVC include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Violation of any provision of this article.
- (b) Unlawful use of sirens or warning lamps.
- (c) Frequent failure to respond, or an evidenced lack of ability or intention to provide 24-hour service.

(d) Failure to exercise reasonable care in handling patients, or a demonstrated lack of competence in caring for patients or using required equipment.

(e) Fraudulent billing practices or charging for services not provided and/or not necessary.

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CHAPTER 2

AMBULANCE DRIVER CERTIFICATION

1. AMBULANCE DRIVER CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT.

a. Regulatory Requirement. Every driver of an ambulance responding to an emergency call or transporting a patient shall be at least 18 years of age, hold a valid California Driver License, possess a valid ambulance driver certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and be trained and competent in ambulance operation and the use of safety and emergency care equipment pursuant to Section 12527 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC).

b. Purpose. The ambulance driver certificate is evidence that a person has demonstrated a required knowledge of laws pertaining to ambulance operations and has not been disqualified from such employment due to criminal activities, physical disabilities, or poor driving habits.

c. Ambulance Driver Certificate Exemption. Ambulance driver certificates are not required for the following:

(1) Persons driving ambulances in the line of duty as salaried, regular, full-time police officers, deputy sheriffs, or members of a fire department of a public agency. This exemption does not include volunteers and part-time employees or members of a department whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative in nature. If persons described above drive ambulances other than in the performance of their official duties, they must possess a valid certificate pursuant to Section 12527(f) CVC.

(2) Persons driving ambulances, based out-of-state, into California to provide only interstate emergency service, if the drivers are appropriately licensed or certified by the state of origin. However, if the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has reason to believe an out-of-state driver would be denied an ambulance driver certificate if based in California, drivers may be prohibited from driving in California unless they obtain a California ambulance driver certificate pursuant to Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1100.3(a).

2. APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE.

a. Application. The application for an ambulance driver certificate may be made at any local DMV office. The initial certificate application fee (at time of handbook publishing) is \$57.00 (\$25.00 for certificate and \$32.00 for fingerprints). As fees for

fingerprinting are subject to change, contact your local DMV office for the current initial application fees. The renewal application fee is \$12.00.

b. Prerequisites. Every person submitting an application for an ambulance driver certificate is required to:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age.

(2) Possess a valid California Driver License.

(3) Pass a knowledge test pertaining to the operation, equipment, and driver certification requirements of emergency ambulances. Drivers are required to be familiar with ambulance regulations, traffic laws, and other laws related to emergency ambulance service.

(4) Submit a completed request for Live Scan Service (fingerprints) except on renewal.

(5) Submit a copy of the driver's medical certification allowing the driver to operate a commercial vehicle. The employer shall retain the certification as part of a driver qualification file pursuant to Section 14606(c) CVC.

3. AMBULANCE DRIVER CERTIFICATE TERM.

a. Temporary Certificate. When the application is properly completed, the knowledge test passed, satisfactory medical examination report completed, fingerprint information obtained, and there are no disqualifying conditions, the local DMV office may issue a temporary ambulance driver certificate. The temporary certificate becomes void 180 days from date of issuance.

b. Regular Certificate. The regular certificate is issued by the DMV only after a review of the physical examination report, driver record, and any criminal record for any disqualifying conditions. The certificate is issued for a term not to exceed five years and will expire on the same date as the applicant's driver license.

c. Conditional Validity. The ambulance driver certificate is valid only when accompanied by a valid California Driver License and a valid medical examination certificate which was issued within the preceding two years. Additionally, within one year of the initial issuance of the Ambulance Driver Certificate, the driver must also possess an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-1) certificate or other certificate or license evidencing compliance with the training standards established for ambulance attendants by the Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA) pursuant to Section 12527(d)(1) CVC.

4. AMBULANCE DRIVER CERTIFICATE RENEWAL. Renewal applications will be accepted during the six month period prior to the expiration of the previous certificate. Applications will be processed in the same manner as for the original certificate with two exceptions. Fingerprints are not required if the previous certificate has not been expired for more than one year. A renewal applicant must possess a valid EMT-1 certificate or an acceptable alternative certificate or license evidencing compliance with the medical training and educational requirements established for ambulance attendants by the EMSA in 22 CCR Section 100062.

5. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION.

a. Section 13372(a) CVC authorizes the DMV to deny, suspend, or revoke an ambulance driver certificate if any of the following apply to the applicant or certificate holder:

(1) "Is required to register as a sex offender under Section 290 of the Penal Code (PC) for any offense involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation."

(2) "Habitually or excessively uses or is addicted to narcotics or dangerous drugs."

(3) "Is on parole or probation for any felony, theft, or crime involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation."

b. The DMV may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend or revoke an ambulance driver certificate if any of the following apply to the applicant or certificate holder pursuant to Section 13372(b) CVC:

(1) "Has been convicted within seven years of any offense punishable as a felony or has been convicted during that period of any theft."

(2) "Has committed any act involving moral turpitude, including fraud or intentional dishonesty for personal gain, within seven years."

(3) "Habitually and excessively uses intoxicating beverages."

(4) "Has been convicted within seven years of any offense relating to the use, sale, possession, or transportation of narcotics or addictive or dangerous drugs, or of any misdemeanor involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation."

(5) "Is on probation from the DMV for a cause involving the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle."

- (6) Within the past three years has had their driver license suspended or revoked by the DMV for a cause involving the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle, or has been convicted of any of the following:
- (a) "Failing to stop and render aid in an accident involving injury or death."
 - (b) "Driving-under-the-influence of intoxicating liquor, any drug; or under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and any drug."
 - (c) "Reckless driving, or reckless driving involving bodily injury."
- (7) Has knowingly made a false statement or failed to disclose a material fact in their application.
- (8) "Has been involved as a driver in any motor vehicle accident causing death or bodily injury, or in three or more motor vehicle accidents within one year."
- (9) "Does not meet minimum medical standards specified in this code or in regulations adopted pursuant to this code."
- (10) "Has demonstrated irrational behavior or incurred a physical disability to the extent that a reasonable and prudent person would have reasonable cause to believe that the ability to perform the duties normally expected of an ambulance driver may be impaired."
- (11) Has violated any provision of this code or any rule or regulation adopted by the Commissioner of the CHP relating to the operation of emergency ambulances within one year.
- (12) Has committed any act that warrants dismissal, as provided in Section 13373 CVC (see below).
- (a) Reapplication following refusal or revocation under Sections 13372(a) or 13372(b) CVC may be made after a period of not less than one year after the effective date of the refusal or revocation, except in cases where a longer period of refusal, suspension, or revocation is required by law.
 - (b) Reapplication following refusal or revocation under Sections 13372(a) or 13372(b) CVC may be made if a felony or misdemeanor conviction supporting the refusal or revocation is reversed or dismissed. A termination of probation and dismissal of charges under Section 1203.4 PC is not a dismissal for purposes of this section.

6. GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OF AMBULANCE DRIVER OR ATTENDANT, CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE SECTION 13373. The receipt of satisfactory evidence of any violation of Article 1 (commencing with Section 1100) of Subchapter 5, Chapter 2, 13 CCR, the CVC; or any other applicable law that would provide grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of an ambulance driver certificate; or evidence of an act committed involving intentional dishonesty for personal gain or conduct contrary to justice, honesty, modesty, or good morals; may be sufficient cause for the dismissal of any ambulance driver or attendant. Dismissal of a driver or attendant under this section shall be reported by the employer to the DMV in Sacramento within ten days.

7. HEARINGS. Any ambulance driver or applicant who has had a certificate denied, suspended, or revoked by DMV for any cause may, within ten days after receiving notification of the action, submit a written request for a hearing pursuant to Section 13374(a) CVC.

a. An applicant or holder of an ambulance driver certificate who has received a notice of refusal, suspension, or revocation may submit, within 15 days after the notice has been mailed by the DMV, a written request for a hearing. Upon receipt of the request, the DMV shall appoint a referee who shall conduct an informal hearing in accordance with Section 14104 CVC. Failure to request a hearing within 15 days after the notice has been mailed by the DMV is a waiver of right to a hearing. A request for a hearing shall not stay the action for which notice was given (Section 13374[a] CVC).

8. HEARING REVIEW COMMITTEE. Following an informal hearing conducted by a DMV referee, a committee of three members representing the DMV, EMSA, and CHP reviews the records, findings, and recommendations, and renders a final decision on the action taken pursuant to Section 13374(b) CVC.

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CHAPTER 3

AMBULANCE PERSONNEL TRAINING

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

a. Management's Responsibility. Every ambulance service owner, operator, manager, or supervisor is responsible for the operation of the service in compliance with pertinent statutes and regulations.

(1) Ambulance Driver Proficiency. In addition to possessing a valid ambulance driver certificate, and maintaining the required certificates, an ambulance driver shall demonstrate their driving proficiency to the ambulance service owner. Each ambulance driver shall demonstrate they are capable of safely operating the type of ambulance to which they are assigned before driving such vehicle on a highway unsupervised or in emergency service pursuant to Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1106(a). The ambulance service owner shall participate in the Department of Motor Vehicle Pull Notice System pursuant to Section 1808.1 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). The ambulance service owner is responsible for maintaining a personnel file for each ambulance driver which shall contain the driver's effective date of employment; facsimiles of driver license, ambulance driver certificate, and current medical examination certificate; facsimile of their current certificate/license evidencing compliance with emergency medical training and education standards for ambulance personnel established by the Emergency Medical Service Authority; an affidavit by the driver declaring under penalty of perjury, they are not subject to any driver prohibitions contained in 13 CCR Section 1101(b) or Section 13372 CVC; and a summary of the driver's work experience for the five years preceding the effective date of their current employment (pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1100.8). The ambulance driver shall be trained to assist the ambulance attendant in the care and handling of the ill and injured pursuant to Section 12527(d)(1) CVC. The ambulance driver must obtain an Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-I) certificate within one year of initial issuance of an ambulance driver certificate pursuant to Section 12527(d)(1) CVC.

(2) Ambulance Attendant Competence. The California Health and Safety Code and regulations in 13 CCR and 22 CCR, in effect, require that any ambulance attendant possess, as a minimum, a valid EMT-I certificate. The certificate is evidence of initial competence and compliance with the required medical training standards. Valid California certificates or licenses as an Advanced EMT-II, EMT-Paramedic, Physician's Assistant, Registered Nurse, or Physician are also evidence of compliance.

- b. Driver and Attendant. Owners are encouraged to test employees initially and periodically, by means of written and performance tests, to evaluate their knowledge and skill. Semiannual proficiency tests are recommended.
- c. Dispatcher. Owners should ensure that the service dispatcher is properly trained to obtain essential information to assess the nature, urgency, and location of the emergency and promptly dispatch the appropriate service.

2. AMBULANCE OPERATION.

a. Ambulance Driver's Responsibility. An ambulance driver "dispatched for an emergency service shall respond promptly or inform the dispatcher of their inability to respond" (13 CCR Section 1105[a]).

(1) "In no event shall an ambulance driver exceed a speed of 15 miles per hour while disobeying any official traffic control stop sign or stop signal" pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1105(b) (this section does not apply to publicly owned and operated dual purpose law enforcement vehicles during law enforcement work).

(2) "In the absence of decisive factors to the contrary, an ambulance driver shall transport emergency patients to the most accessible emergency medical facility equipped, staffed, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patients", (13 CCR Section 1105[c]).

(3) An ambulance driver "shall not use the siren and red warning light (Code 3 operation) when traffic is congested to a degree that increased ambulance speed and right-of-way cannot be gained thereby. Siren and red warning lights shall be used with due regard for safe roadway operation of ambulances and shall not be used except under the following circumstances" (13 CCR Section 1105[d]):

(a) "When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in emergency services as defined" in 13 CCR Section 1105(d).

(b) "When speed in transporting the patient to an emergency medical care facility appears essential to prevent loss of life, undue suffering, or to reduce or prevent disability."

(4) No person shall drive or be directed to drive an ambulance when their ability to operate the ambulance safely is adversely affected by fatigue, illness, or any other cause, nor when the vehicle/ambulance is unsafe to operate (13 CCR Section 1105[e]).

(5) Every ambulance driver shall inspect the ambulance prior to operation to ensure it is in safe condition, equipped as required, and all vehicle equipment and installed medical equipment is in good working order (13 CCR Section 1105[f]).

b. Exemption of Authorized Emergency Vehicles. Pursuant to Section 21055 CVC, a publicly owned and operated ambulance, as well as a privately owned and operated ambulance which has been licensed by the California Highway Patrol is defined in Section 165(a) CVC as an authorized emergency vehicle (AEV). A driver of an ambulance/AEV “is exempt from the traffic laws contained the CVC, Division 11, Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21350), Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21650), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 21800, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21950), Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 22100), Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 22348), Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 22450), Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 22500), Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 22650); and Division 16.5, Chapter 5, Article 3 (commencing with Section 38305) and Article 4 (commencing with Section 38312)” under the following conditions:

(1) “If the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call” (Section 21055[a] CVC).

(2) “If the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren as may be reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians” (Section 21055[b] CVC).

c. Section 21055 CVC **does not** relieve the driver of an ambulance from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor protect them from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges granted in that section (Section 21056 CVC).

(1) Due Regard - Black’s Law Dictionary defines due regard as consideration in a degree appropriate to the demands of a particular case. Essentially, due regard places a higher burden of responsibility on the driver of an ambulance to consider the safety and well-being of others.

d. An ambulance/AEV **shall** be equipped with at least one steady burning red warning lamp visible from at least 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle to be used. An ambulance/AEV may display revolving, flashing, or steady red warning lights to the front, sides, or rear of the vehicle (Section 25252 CVC).

e. An ambulance/AEV **may** be equipped with a system which flashes the upper-beam headlamps of the vehicle with the flashes occurring alternately from the front headlamp on one side of the vehicle to the front headlamp on the other side of the

vehicle. The flashing of the headlamps shall consist only of upper-beam flashing, and not the flashing of any other light beam (Section 25252.5[a] CVC).

f. The privileges provided by Section 21055 CVC do not include exemptions from such public offenses as reckless driving or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

g. Precautions. It should never be assumed that the use of the siren and red warning lamp will result in a clear path through traffic nor that a motorist in the vicinity will do what is expected after becoming aware of the ambulance. The ambulance driver must be attentive to the driving actions of other drivers to the siren and be prepared to maneuver accordingly.

(1) Particular hazards that must be anticipated by an ambulance during Code 3 operation include “blind” intersections and driveways, motorists with impaired hearing, and inattentive drivers.

(2) Ambulance drivers should:

(a) Presume that other drivers do not hear the siren at a safe distance under most conditions, and particularly at intersections.

(b) Be aware that other drivers often have difficulty in locating the source of siren sounds.

(c) Restrict the use of sirens to situations where they are most effective; i.e., warning pedestrians and those drivers traveling at reduced speed with low background noise.

(d) Avoid passing on the right, since other motorists are legally required to drive to the right and stop at the approach of an emergency vehicle.

h. Warning Lamp Usage. Warning lamps must be used in conformance with Sections 21055, 25250, 25252, 25259, 25268, and 25269 CVC.

(1) Excessive or indiscriminate use of warning lamps reduces public awareness and respect of their purpose and should be avoided.

(2) Protection of life and property is the primary factor in determining when warning lamps are to be used.

(3) Sections 25268 and 25269 CVC restrict the display of warning lights to conditions of “extreme hazard” and “unusual traffic hazard.” Proper occasions for display of warning lights may be determined as follows:

(a) The front steady burning red warning light shall be displayed when required by Section 21055 CVC or when an extreme hazard exists. Revolving, rotating, or flashing red lamps do not satisfy the requirement for a steady burning red warning lamp but may supplement the required lamp.

(b) The flashing red warning lights may be displayed only during extremely hazardous conditions. These may be described as any incident or situation that requires traffic to stop or proceed only as directed, any incident that requires the roadway to be blocked, or any situation in which an extreme hazard exists. When these hazards cease to exist, the flashing lights should be turned off.

(c) Flashing amber warning lights may be displayed only when an unusual traffic hazard exists. When the hazard ceases to exist, the flashing light must be turned off.

(4) Warning lamp effectiveness may be reduced by:

(a) Low sun or glare.

(b) Confusion with traffic signals or neon lights.

(c) Their position on the ambulance. If they are mounted high or low, they may be out of the range of vision of the driver of the vehicle ahead.

(5) Use of headlamps during daylight hours is effective in reducing collisions by making the vehicle more visible to other drivers.

i. Vehicle Inspections.

(1) Purpose. Vehicle inspections are intended to prevent collisions or breakdowns caused by vehicle and/or equipment malfunctions that could be detected by routine physical and visual inspections of the ambulance at the beginning of every shift.

(2) Responsibility. Responsibility for determining the mechanical safety of the ambulance rests primarily with the driver (13 CCR 1105[f]) and responsibility for equipping and maintaining the vehicle, the owner (13 CCR 1106[c]).

(a) The driver should:

1 Inspect the ambulance at the beginning of shift.

2 Ensure that scheduled vehicle maintenance has been performed at established intervals.

3 Ensure that any previously noted deficiencies have been corrected.

4 Determine if the ambulance is unsafe (or potentially unsafe) for emergency operation, or not equipped or maintained as required.

(b) It is unlawful for an owner to cause or permit the operation of any vehicle which is not equipped as required by the CVC or 13 CCR. According to Section 40001(c) CVC, "any employer who violates an out-of-service order, that complies with Section 396.9 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or who knowingly requires or permits a driver to violate or fail to comply with that out-of service order, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

(3) Carbon Monoxide. In addition to the inspection of specific vehicle equipment items, particular attention should be directed to those areas of the ambulance where exhaust gases from the ambulance and/or other motor vehicles may exist.

CHAPTER 4
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
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CHAPTER 4

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

1. INTRODUCTION. The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) has prepared the following recommendations for emergency ambulance service operators and their personnel. The recommendations should also be of interest to the wide variety of agencies, personnel, and community groups associated with or responsible for improving emergency medical services.

2. MEDICAL TRAINING STANDARDS.

a. Authority. The California Health and Safety Code (H&S) Division 2.5, delegates to the EMSA, as part of its mandate, the responsibility for the coordination and integration of all emergency medical services systems in California which includes establishing training, certification, and scope of practice standards for ambulance and all prehospital emergency care personnel (Sections 1797 and 1797.1 H&S).

b. Training Standards for Basic Life Support. Regulations adopted by the EMSA in Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 100056 through 100083, establish requirements for the training, retraining and scope of practice standards for Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-I). The regulations also include the course content, training program approval process, course completion challenge process, and use of optional and advanced skills.

(1) Title 22 CCR, Section 100062, requires the attendant on an ambulance operating in emergency service, or the driver if there is no attendant, to possess, as a minimum, a valid and current California EMT-I certificate. The certificate is waived for personnel who are more medically qualified and properly certified or licensed.

(2) Pursuant to Section 1797.160 H&S, no owner of a publicly or privately owned ambulance shall permit the operation of the ambulance in emergency service unless the attendant on duty therein (or, if there is no attendant on duty therein, the operator) “possesses evidence of that specialized training as is reasonably necessary to ensure that the attendant or operator is competent to care for sick or injured persons who may be transported by the ambulance, as set forth in the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the authority pursuant to this article. This section shall not be applicable in any state of emergency declared pursuant to the California Emergencies Services Act” (Chapter 7 [commencing with Section 8550] of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code), “when it is

necessary to fully utilize all available ambulances in an area and it is not possible to have the ambulance operated or attended by persons with the qualifications required by this section.”

(3) These regulations apply to personnel operating emergency ambulances operating in California, whether operated by a private, public, volunteer, subscription, or industrial service.

(4) Though certain exemptions may be granted by the California Highway Patrol from provisions of 13 CCR, exemptions are not permissible from the training and educational standards established by the EMSA for ambulance personnel.

(5) Training for all prehospital personnel should include prevention of infectious diseases and precautions to be taken in a hazardous materials incident, especially by the first arriving responders. (See Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910; and 8, CCR Sections 3202, 3220, 5141, 5155, 5192, and 5194.)

c. Training Standards for Advanced Life Support. The EMSA has adopted regulations in 22 CCR, Sections 100149-100161, defining requirements for the course content, scope of practice, approval of training programs, and certification as Advanced Emergency Medical Technician II (AEMT-II) and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P).

3. MEDICAL CONTROL FOR BASIC LIFE SUPPORT EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. Pursuant to Section 1797.220 H&S, the local EMSA, using state minimum standards, shall establish policies and procedures approved by the medical director of the local EMSA to assure medical control of the emergency medical services systems. The policies and procedures approved by the medical director may require basic life support emergency medical transportation services to meet any medical control requirements including dispatch, patient destination policies, patient care guidelines, and quality assurance requirements.

4. STATUTE AND REGULATION INFORMATION. Information about Health and Safety Code provisions and related training standards contained in 22 CCR may be obtained from: EMSA, 10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400, Rancho Cordova, CA 95676 at (916) 322-4336

5. AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT.

a. Emergency Care Equipment and Supplies. The following essential equipment and supplies shall be carried on an ambulance pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1103.2:

- (1) One ambulance cot and one collapsible stretcher; or two stretchers, one of which is collapsible.
- (2) "Straps to secure the patient to the stretcher or ambulance cot, and means of securing the stretcher or ambulance cot in the vehicle."
- (3) "Ankle and wrist restraints. Soft ties are acceptable."
- (4) "Sheets, pillow cases, blankets, and towels for each stretcher or ambulance cot, and two pillows for each ambulance."
- (5) "Three oropharyngeal airways, one each of a size for adults, children and infants."
- (6) "At least four pneumatic or rigid splints capable of splinting all extremities."
- (7) A resuscitator that meets the requirements of Section 2418.5 California Vehicle Code (CVC). "A hand operated bag-valve-mask unit with clear masks in adult, child, and infant sizes capable of use with oxygen will meet this requirement."
- (8) "Oxygen (USP), regulator, and means for administering oxygen, including adequate tubing and semiopen, valveless, transparent masks in adult, child, and infant sizes. Oxygen may be administered by resuscitator, bag mask unit, or inhalator. (Portability required). Oxygen supply must be sufficient to provide a patient with not less than 10 liters per minute for 20 minutes."
- (9) Clean bandages and bandaging supplies:
 - (a) Twelve sterile bandage compresses or equivalent.
 - (b) Four 3 by 3 inch sterile gauze pads.
 - (c) Six 2, 3, 4, or 6 inch roller bandages.
 - (d) Two rolls of 1, 2, or 3 inch adhesive tape.
 - (e) Bandage shears.
 - (f) Two 10 by 30 inch or larger universal dressings.

- (10) "An emesis basin, or disposable bags and covered waste container."
- (11) "Portable suction equipment. Squeeze syringes alone are not sufficient."
- (12) "Two sandbags, loosely filled, or equivalent material to restrict movement."
- (13) Two spinal immobilization devices, one at least 30 inches in length and the other at least 60 inches in length with straps for adequately securing patients to the devices. Combination short-long boards are acceptable.
- (14) "Half-ring traction splint for lower extremity with limb support slings, padded ankle hitch traction strap, and heel rest or an equivalent device."
- (15) "Blood pressure manometer, cuff, and stethoscope."
- (16) "Sterile obstetrical supplies including as a minimum: gloves, umbilical cord tape or clamps, dressings, towels, bulb syringe, and clean plastic bags."
- (17) A gallon or more of potable water, or two liters of saline solution in covered, secured plastic container.
- (18) "One bedpan or fracture pan."
- (19) "One urinal."

b. Exception. Ambulances, while in use for infant transportation or when staffed and equipped for use in conjunction with newborn intensive care nursery services as specified in 22 CCR, need not concurrently carry items of emergency care equipment or supplies that would interfere with the specialized care and transportation of an infant in an incubator or isolette.

c. Safety Equipment. Pursuant to 13 CCR, Section 1103, all safety equipment carried or installed shall be maintained in good working order and shall include but is not limited to:

- (1) A siren and steady burning red warning lamp that meets requirements established by the Department.
- (2) Seat belts or equivalent restraints for the driver and any front seat passenger.
- (3) "A fire extinguisher of the dry chemical or carbon dioxide type with a minimum 4-B:C rating maintained as prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. The use of vaporizing liquid extinguishers is prohibited."

- (4) "A portable, battery-operated light."
- (5) "A spare wheel with inflated tire of appropriate load rating."
- (6) "A jack and tools for wheel changes."
- (7) A GPS or map covering the areas in which the ambulance provides services.
- (8) "Patient compartment door latches operable from inside and outside the vehicle on all emergency ambulances manufactured and first registered after January 1, 1980."

6. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Driver Prerequisites. Prior to employment, the driver should have completed advanced first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation training. As stated in Section 12527(d) CVC, the driver of a California-based ambulance shall, within one year of initial issuance of the ambulance driver certificate, possess a certificate or license evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards established for ambulance attendance by the EMSA.

b. Equipment Usage. In order to assure effective use of various supplies and equipment, orientation, and practice sessions should be held to familiarize emergency ambulance personnel with the required and optional equipment carried. Pursuant to 13 CCR Section 1103.2, "any equipment or supplies carried for use in providing emergency medical care must be maintained in a clean condition and good working order."

c. Call Record. In 13 CCR, Section 1100.7, every ambulance service is required to maintain a current record of each emergency call either at the service address or the location where the responding ambulance is based. The record shall be retained for not less than three years and shall contain the following information.

- (1) Date and time of emergency call, location where service is needed, and identity of person receiving the call for ambulance service.
- (2) Identity of person or, when applicable, the name of the agency requesting an ambulance."
- (3) Explanation of any failure to dispatch an ambulance as requested.
- (4) Time of dispatch and times of arrival and departure from the scene of emergency.

- (5) Destination of patient and time of arrival at destination.
- (6) Name or other identification of patient (if name is unavailable) or description of item requiring emergency transportation.

d. References/Excerpts. The following references and excerpts can be found in their entirety on line at the Web sites listed. You will then have access to the most up-to-date version of each reference/excerpt. Use these for more in-depth references than are found throughout this handbook.

- (1) Excerpts from the California Vehicle Code.

www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

- (a) General Provisions, Sections 30 and 31.

- (b) Division 1. Words and Phrases Defined, Sections 165, 165.5, 260, and 465.

- (c) Division 2. Administration, Chapter 1. The Department of Motor Vehicles, Article 3, Section 1808.1.

- 1 Chapter 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol, Article 3, Sections 2416 and 2418.5.

- 2 Chapter 2.5. Licenses Issued by California Highway Patrol, Article 1, Sections 2501, 2502, 2503, and 2504; Article 2, Sections 510, 2511, and 2512; Article 5, Sections 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, and 2549.

- 3 Chapter 4. Administration and Enforcement, Article 1, Section 2800.

- (d) Division 6. Drivers' Licenses, Chapter 1. Issuance of Licenses, Expiration, and Renewal, Article 1, Section 12527.

- 1 Chapter 2. Suspension or Revocation of Licenses. Article 3, Sections 13372, 13373, 13374, and 13375.

- (e) Division 7. Financial Responsibility Laws. Chapter 1. Compulsory Financial Responsibility, Article 2, Section 16021.

- 1 Chapter 4. Commercial Vehicles, Sections 16500, 16501, and 16502.

(f) Division 9. Civil Liability, Chapter 1. Civil Liability of Owners and Operators of Vehicles, Article 1, Sections 17001, 17002, 17004, and 17004.5; Article 2, Section 17150.

(g) Division 10. Accidents and Accident Reports, Chapter 1. Accidents and Accident Reports, Section 20016.

(h) Division 11. Rules of The Road, Chapter 1. Obedience to and Effect of Traffic Laws, Article 2, Sections 21055 and 21056.

1 Chapter 2. Traffic Signs, Signals, and Markings, Article 3, Sections 21453, 21457, 21460, and 21461.

2 Chapter 3. Driving, Overtaking, and Passing, Article 1, Sections 21650, 21651, 21657, 21658, 21659; Article 2, Sections 21706 and 21707; Article 3, Sections 21750, 21751, 21752, 21754, and 21756.

3 Chapter 4. Right-of-Way, Sections 21800, 21801, 21802, 21803, 21804, 21806, and 21807.

4 Chapter 5. Pedestrians' Rights and Duties, Sections 21950, 21951, and 21952.

5 Chapter 6. Turning and Stopping and Turning Signals, Sections 22100, 22102, 22103, 22105, and 22108.

6 Chapter 7. Speed Laws, Article 1, Sections 22349, 22350, 22352, and 22356.

7 Chapter 8. Special Stops Required, Sections 22450, 22451, and 22452.

8 Chapter 9. Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Sections 22500, 22504, 22517, and 22520.5.

9 Chapter 12. Public Offenses, Article 1, Sections 23103, 23104 and 23105; Article 2, Sections 23152, and 23153.

(i) Division 12. Equipment of Vehicles, Chapter 1. General Provisions, Sections 24002, 24003, 24004, 24005, and 24012

1 Chapter 2. Lighting Equipment, Article 6, Sections 25100.1 and 25110; Article 7, Sections 25250, 25251, 25252, 25252.5, 25258,

25259, 25268, and 25269; Article 9, Sections 25350 and 25351; Article 16, Sections 26100 and 26104.

2 Chapter 5. Other Equipment, Article 1, Section 27002.

(j) Division 17. Offenses and Prosecution, Chapter 1. Offenses, Article 1, Section 40001; Chapter 5. Defenses, Section 41401.

(2) Excerpts from Title 13, California Code of Regulations.

www.ccr.oal.ca.gov/linkedslice/default

(a) Division 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol, Chapter 2. Lighting Equipment, Article 5, Section 671; Article 7, Sections 685 and 700; Article 22, Sections 811, 812, and 818.

1 Chapter 4. Special Equipment, Article 8, Sections 1021, 1023, 1028, and 1029.

2 Chapter 5. Special Vehicles, Article 1, Sections 1100, 1100.2, 1100.3, 1100.4, 1100.5, 1100.6, 1100.7, 1100.8, 1101, 1103, 1103.2, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1106.2, 1107, 1107.2, 1107.4, 1108, and 1109.

(3) Excerpts from Title 22, California Code of Regulations.

www.ccr.oal.ca.gov/linkedslice/default

(a) Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 2. Emergency Medical Technician, Article 1, Section 100060; Article 2, Sections 100062, 100063, 100064, and 100064.1

(4) Excerpts from The California Health and Safety Code.

www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

(a) Division 2.5. Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 2. Definitions, Sections 1797.52, 1797.54, 1797.56, 1797.60, 1797.62, 1797.67, 1797.70, 1797.72, 1797.80, and 1797.82, 1797.84, and 1797.92.

1 Chapter 3. State Administration, Article 5, Sections 1797.160, 1797.170, 1797.171, 1797.172, 1797.177, 1797.178, 1797.180, and 1797.181.

2 Chapter 4. Local Administration, Article 1, Section 1797.210.

3 Chapter 5. Medical Control, Sections 1798 and 1798.6.

- 4 Chapter 6. Facilities, Article 3, Section 1798.170.
- 5 Chapter 7. Penalties, Sections 1798.200 and 1798.206.
- 6 Chapter 9. Liability Limitation, Sections 1799.102, 1799.104, 1799.106, and 1799.108.