

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
POLICY/PROCEDURE/PROTOCOL

No. B-833

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SUBJECT: GROUND AMBULANCE VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

Date: 07/01/03

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- I. Authority:** California Vehicle Code, Section 2512(c); Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.204.
- II. Purpose:** To define the minimum requirements for ambulance vehicles in San Diego County in the areas of vehicle design, safety equipment, and emergency equipment and supplies.
- III. Policy:** Every ambulance intended for operation in San Diego County shall meet the following minimum requirements:
- A. All ambulances permitted for use in San Diego County shall conform to Federal Specification KKK-A-1822-C as promulgated by the U.S. General Services Administration with the following exceptions:
1. Critical Care Units and Specialty Vehicles may be exempt from Section 3.4.11 Vehicle Physical Dimension Requirements and Section 3.5 Vehicle Weight Ratings and Payload and Section 3.10.8 Doors, provided that it can be demonstrated to the Permit Officer that such exemption does not compromise safety.
  2. Emergency Lighting. Ambulances permitted for use in San Diego County are exempted from Section 3.8.2.1 Emergency Lighting Configuration and Section 3.8.2.3 Switching Arrangements. They will, however, comply with minimum requirements of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and Regulations promulgated by the State of California and administered by the California Highway Patrol (CHP).
  3. Color, Paint and Finish. Ambulances permitted to operate in San Diego County are exempt from Section 3.16.2 Color, Paint and Finish and Section 3.16.2.1 Color Standards and Tolerances, provided, however, they must comply with California law.
  4. Emblems and Markings. Ambulances permitted to operate in San Diego County are exempt from Section 3.16.4 Emblems and Markings, provided, however, they comply with California law and regulations.
  5. Standard Equipment. Ambulances permitted to operate in San Diego County are exempt from Section 3.15.2 Standard Mandatory Miscellaneous Equipment, Section 3.15.3 Optional Equipment, and Section 3.15.4 Medical Surgical, and Biomedical Equipment, provided they comply with California regulation and local policy.

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Approved:



Administration



EMS Medical Director

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6. Exemptions. The Permit Officer is authorized to grant additional exemptions from Federal KKK-A-1822-C specifications in the following situations:

- a. Declared disaster and disaster recovery periods.
- b. Ambulances in service prior to the effective date of this policy will be granted an exemption for the service life of the ambulance upon submission of documentation that the manufacturer of the ambulance carries at least \$1,000,000 product liability insurance.
- c. Specialty Vehicles such as neonatal transfer units, multiple casualty units and special terrain vehicles may be exempted from specific Sections KKK-A-1822-C provided that the exemptions are shown to be in the interest of patient care and do not unnecessarily compromise safety. Such vehicles may not be placed in service until a permit is issued.

B. Required Documentation:

1. A current and valid San Diego County ambulance license (or facsimile) in the driver compartment.
2. A current and valid San Diego County ambulance license decal affixed to the lower portion right rear of the ambulance.
3. Proof of passage of the annual inspection performed by the CHP within the preceding twelve (12) months.
4. Vehicle registration and proof of insurance as required by law.

C. Emergency Care Equipment and Supplies: The following items shall be carried on all Ground ambulances as a minimum:

1. Essential equipment and supplies as required by the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1103.2(a) 1-19 (Attachment A).
2. Equipment necessary to comply with California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CAL-OSHA) standards for exposure to blood borne pathogens.

3. Communication Items:

Minimum

Agency Dispatch Device	1 each
Regional Communication System (RCS) 800 MHz programmed with appropriate EMS fleet map.	1 each

Approved:



Administration



EMS Medical Director