

**Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol**

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**SUBJECT:** Ground Ambulance  
Vehicle Requirements

**POLICY NO:** S-833  
**PAGE:** 1 of 2  
**DATE:** July 1, 2016

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**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.204; and California Vehicle Code, Section 2512(c).

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## **I. 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.

## **II. 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-1822E that applies to the date of manufacturer as promulgated by the U.S. General Services Administration with the following exceptions:
1. Critical Care Units and Specialty Vehicles may be exempt 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 shall 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 shall comply with California law.
  4. Emblems and Markings – Ambulances permitted to operate in San Diego County shall comply with California law and regulations.
  5. Standard Equipment – Ambulances permitted to operate in San Diego County shall comply with California regulations and local policy.

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6. Exemptions – The Permit Officer is authorized to grant additional exemptions from Federal KKK-A-1822 specifications in the following situations:
- Declared disaster and disaster recovery periods.
  - Specialty Vehicles, such as neonatal transfer units, multiple casualty units, and special terrain vehicles, may be exempted from specific sections Federal KKK-A-1822 provided that the exemptions are shown to be in the interest of patient care and do not necessarily compromise safety. Such vehicles may not be placed in service until a permit is issued.

**B. Required Documentation**

- A current and valid San Diego County ambulance license (or facsimile) in the driver compartment
- A current and valid San Diego County ambulance license decal affixed to the lower portion right rear of the ambulance
- Proof of passage of the annual inspection performed by the CHP within the preceding 12 months
- 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:

- Essential equipment and supplies as required by the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1103.2(a) 1-19 (Attachment A).
- Equipment necessary to comply with California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CAL-OSHA) standards for exposure to blood borne pathogens and Aerosol Transmissible Disease (ATD).
- Communication Items – minimum of 1 each:
  - Agency Dispatch Device
  - Regional Communication System (RCS) 800 MHz programmed with appropriate EMS fleet map