

**Updates to Ambulance Service Licensing Requirements
OAR chapter 333, division 250**

Rules are effective January 1, 2026

The EMS Program has permanently amended administrative rules relating to ambulance service and ambulance vehicle licensing to improve the accuracy, structure and clarity of administrative rules; align language with current processes including simplifying some procedures; clarify licensing requirements; address concerns regarding ambulance service agencies responding to calls in accordance with an ambulance service plan; address enforcement issues for violation of ambulance service vehicle regulations; address confusion around ambulance vehicle construction requirements; and ensure that ambulance vehicles are properly cleaned and decontaminated or disinfected to ensure compliance with federal standards.

Summary of Changes

OAR 333-250-0205 - Definitions

Definitions have been updated to align with statutes and new terms added for clarity. New definitions include:

Ambulance service licensee	Governmental unit
Ambulance service plan	Physician associate
Ambulance service plan administrator	Primary ambulance service area provider
Ambulance service provider	Standing orders
County governing body	Transitional paramedic
Electronic patient care report	

OAR 333-250-0210 – Application & Qualification for an Ambulance Service License

Changes were made to this rule to clarify and add the following requirements:

- If an ambulance service wants to become a primary service in a new ambulance service area, it must apply for a new license for that area. However, an air ambulance that wants to offer ambulance services to support existing providers is not required to obtain an additional license.
- The types of documentation that must be submitted with a license application for a service that will be operated by any county, municipality or other political subdivision were clarified. The applicant must send a written notice to each county government that oversees ambulance services in the area where they want to operate. The notice must include:

- A statement that the applicant plans to apply for a license to operate in the service area;
 - A detailed description of the area where they plan to provide ambulance services; and
 - The date they plan to start operating, if the license is approved.
- An applicant must attest that if the service is not the primary provider for an area, it cannot respond to calls in that area if:
 - It wasn't properly dispatched through an official 911 or dispatch center;
 - It knows another ambulance has already been sent to the call;
 - It goes against the county's ambulance service plan;
 - It violates local regulations or procedures; or
 - It disrupts the safe and effective operation of the EMS system.

This rule does not stop a licensed ambulance service from providing interfacility transports if the county's plan allows it.

- A licensed ambulance service must continue to comply with all regulations while licensed.

OAR 333-250-0215 – Review of License Application

The rule was amended to clarify that the EMS Program may deny an application for an ambulance service license if the applicant cannot demonstrate specified criteria.

OAR 333-250-0235 – Return of License

The requirement that the license certificate be returned to the EMS program if the license is suspended, revoked or expired was removed. If an ambulance service loses its license, it must instead send a statement to the EMS program confirming that the license certificate and any related decals were removed and destroyed.

OAR 333-250-0240 – Surrender of License

This rule was amended to clarify that when an ambulance service sells or closes the service, it must:

- Notify the county governing body (not the county health department) and the ambulance service plan administrator; and
- Submit a statement to the EMS program that all applicable license certificates and decals will be removed and destroyed on the final day of operation.

The rule further states that an ambulance service may not stop operating if it would violate any rules or regulations.

Finally, the EMS program may refuse to let an ambulance service relinquish its license, if the service is under investigation or facing any legal action.

OAR 333-250-0250 - Operational Requirements

Language has been added clarifying that if a licensed ambulance service is not the primary provider for an ambulance service area, it cannot respond to calls in that area if:

- It wasn't properly dispatched through an official 911 or dispatch center;
- It knows another ambulance has already been sent to the call;
- It goes against the county's ambulance service plan;
- It violates local regulations or procedures; or
- It disrupts the safe and effective operation of the EMS system.

This rule does not stop a licensed ambulance service from providing interfacility transports if the county's plan allows it.

OAR 333-250-0255 – Facility

The EMS program understands that many ambulance service agencies have arrangements with hospitals where soiled linens may be dropped off. The rule was amended to clarify that IF soiled linens are kept at the ambulance service facility, a soiled linen receptacle must be kept in an area separate from clean linen.

Ambulance service agencies need to be familiar with rules and regulations adopted by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (<https://osha.oregon.gov/rules>).

OAR 333-250-0265 – Policies and Procedures

Specific rule references for rules under the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division have been removed. State agencies update rules frequently and the EMS program does not have enforcement authority for rules outside its jurisdiction. Rules and regulations for these agencies can be found at:

- Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (<https://osha.oregon.gov/rules>)
- Oregon Board of Pharmacy (<https://oregon.gov/pharmacy/pages/laws-rules.aspx>)
- U.S. Drug Administration (<https://dea.gov/drug-information>)

The policy for ambulance vehicle cleanliness standards has been updated. The policy must comply with new infection control requirements specified under OAR 333-255-0095.

OAR 333-250-0270 – Personnel

This rule was rewritten to provide clearer language on requirements for qualified drivers and training requirements for personnel. Other changes include:

- An ambulance service agency must include in its employee orientation program, an overview of the regulations pertaining to ambulance service agencies and ambulance vehicles and EMS providers, including but not limited to:
 - [ORS chapter 682](#)
 - [OAR chapter 333, division 250](#)

- [OAR chapter 333, division 255](#)
 - [OAR chapter 333, division 265](#)
 - [OAR chapter 847, division 035](#)
- Additional training that must be provided to personnel include:
 - How to use new equipment, procedures, or medications before they're used on ambulance vehicle; and
 - How to safely lift and move a patient.

OAR 333-250-0280 – Personnel File Documentation

Amendments to this rule include:

- An ambulance service must maintain a personnel file on any qualified driver which must include required documentation. Documentation required includes evidence of a criminal background check or certification by the Department of Public and Safety Standards Training that has been conducted within the last year.
- An ambulance service may use documentation of timely previous health screenings or completion of immunization series in lieu of conducting the screening or immunization.

333-250-0300 – EMS Medical Direction

This rule was amended to clarify that an EMS medical director may designate additional physicians (referred to as 'agents') to provide medical direction. The term 'treatment protocol' was replaced with 'standing order' and standing orders must be reviewed annually and signed and dated within one year.

333-250-0310 – Patient Care Report

Statutory authority for the EMS program to issue waivers for electronic patient care reporting expired on December 31, 2021; as such, the rule language has been removed. Additionally, the rule was updated to clarify that any non-electronic patient care reports must continue to be stored in a secure manner in accordance with state and federal privacy laws.

333-250-0320 – Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement

An ambulance service agency is now required to implement and document a defined quarterly reporting process for performance improvement activities.

333-250-0375 – Responsibility to Notify the OHA of Changes

This new rule prescribes that the following conditions must be reported by the ambulance service to the EMS program within 30 calendars of any change:

- Change of name;
- Mailing address;
- Street address of the principal place of business of the ambulance service;

- Street address of all fixed locations where an ambulance is parked when not in operation;
- Ambulance service administrator (name, electronic mail address, phone number);
- Main contact electronic mail address;
- Main contact phone number; and
- EMS provider affiliation.

333-250-0380 – Violations

An ambulance service agency that allows or permits a person without a healthcare license to provide emergency or non-emergency medical care for which a license is required in a new condition that is considered a violation for which an ambulance service may face a licensing action.

333-250-0390 and 0400 – Informal and Formal Enforcement

These rules were amended to clarify that the EMS program may issue a statement of deficiencies, or a licensing action, if it documents any violation of OAR chapter 333, divisions 250 or 255, OAR 847-035-0020 or 0025, ORS chapter 682, or ORS 820.300 through .380.