

**Updates to Ambulance Vehicle Licensing Requirements
OAR chapter 333, division 255**

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 333-255-0000 - Definitions

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

Agent	Employee
Ambulance service licensee	Governmental unit
Ambulance service plan	Procedure
Ambulance service plan administrator	These rules
Ambulance service provider	Transitional paramedic
County governing body	Volunteer
Electronic patient care report	

OAR 333-255-0010 – Application & Qualification for an Ambulance Vehicle License

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

- A copy of the DMV registration for the ambulance vehicle must accompany the application for licensure.
- A licensed ambulance service must continue to comply with all regulations while licensed and to be eligible for renewal.

OAR 333-255-0015 – Review of Ambulance Vehicle License Application

The rule was amended to clarify that the EMS program may deny an application for an ambulance vehicle license for failing to comply with specified rules and regulations.

OAR 333-255-0021 – Denial of Ambulance Vehicle License Application

Adds language that the EMS program will deny an application if the ambulance vehicle does not meet the construction requirements specified under OAR 333-255-0060. Currently licensed ambulance vehicles will not need to meet the new requirements unless the ambulance service does not timely renew a license (referred to as a legacy exception).

OAR 333-255-0022 – Expiration and Renewal of Ambulance Vehicle License

This rule clarifies that an ambulance service agency that fails to timely renew an ambulance vehicle license(s) is no longer eligible for license renewal, nor qualify under the legacy exception. The ambulance service would have to submit an initial ambulance vehicle application, and the vehicles would be subject to the new construction criteria under OAR 333-255-0060.

OAR 333-255-0060 – Ground Ambulance Vehicle Construction Criteria

Due to continued misinterpretation of this rule, the EMS program has made updates:

- Defines an ambulance vehicle as any ground ambulance vehicle that has not been remounted.
- Adds a legacy exception for currently licensed ambulance vehicles and remounts. As long as a licensed ambulance service timely renews the ambulance vehicle license, revised construction standards effective January 1, 2026 will not apply.
- To qualify for license renewal, an ambulance vehicle must continue to comply with construction standards in place at time of construction or remount.
- To be eligible for a license, an ambulance vehicle must meet one of the following criteria:
 - For ground ambulance vehicles constructed between June 1, 2002 and July 31, 2007, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), June 1, 2002, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKKA-1822E);
 - For ground ambulance vehicles constructed between August 1, 2007 and June 30, 2016, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), August 1, 2007, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKK-A-1822F);
 - For ground ambulance vehicles constructed between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2022:
 - The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), Ground Vehicle Standard (GVS) for Ambulances, v.1.0 Edition, July 1, 2016, or v.2.0 Edition, July 1, 2019; or
 - The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Standard for Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1917, 2016 Edition or 2019 Edition;

- For ground ambulance vehicles constructed on or after July 1, 2022:
 - The CAAS, GVS, v.2.0 Edition, July 1, 2019 or v. 3.0 Edition, July 1, 2022; or
 - The NFPA, Standard for Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1917, 2019 Edition, or the NFPA, Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1900, 2024 Edition.
- An Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) must provide documentation that a ground ambulance vehicle constructed between June 1, 2002 and July 31, 2007 under the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standard, KKK-1822E, is in good operating condition and meets minimum safety requirements.
- An ambulance service agency that remounts a ground ambulance vehicle must apply for a new ambulance vehicle license prior to operation.
 - A remount may be conducted by an ambulance manufacturer, a vehicle modifier, a remount center, or an ambulance service agency that is registered with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and must meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.
 - The EMS program may require these organizations doing a remount to submit a notarized statement confirming the patient compartment's structure wasn't damaged during the process and provide a Final Stage Vehicle Manufacturing Certificate of Compliance.
 - An ambulance service may establish an in-house remount program by obtaining the necessary training, equipment, facilities, and registration with the NHTSA. The in-house remount program must be registered with the CAAS.
 - The EMS program may only approve an application for a remounted ground ambulance if the remounted ambulance vehicle complies with:
 - CAAS, GVS, v.2.0 Edition, Section F, dated July 1, 2019;
 - CAAS, GVS, v.3.0 Edition, Section F, dated July 1, 2022;
 - NFPA 1917, 2019 Edition, Chapter 10; or
 - NFPA 1900, 2024 Edition, Chapter 34.
 - A remounted ground ambulance vehicle must display either a CAAS GVS remount standard sticker or an NFPA 1917 or NFPA 1900 certification and payload label. Alternatively, documentation proving compliance with NFPA 1917 or NFPA 1900 standards may be used instead of the certification and label.
 - The EMS program may approve a license for a remounted ambulance that doesn't meet the remount standards stated above if:
 - The ambulance vehicle was remounted between June 1, 2002, and June 30, 2022;
 - The patient compartment was originally built on or after November 1, 1994, and there is no documentation that supports this;

- A certified EVT has inspected it and confirmed it's safe and in good working condition.
- The EMS program may license a ground ambulance vehicle or ambulance vehicle that has been remounted under an exception to the standards if the EMS program determines that the exceptions to the standards do not affect patient or EMS provider safety.
- The EMS program may review exceptions to standards at each renewal cycle to ensure they do not impact the risk to EMS providers or patients.

OAR 333-255-0070 – Ground Ambulance Staffing and Response Requirements

This rule was amended to clarify who must be notified when a rural ambulance service intends to provide advanced life support with reduced staffing and requires an ambulance service to get written approval from the EMS Program before operating under an exemption.

OAR 333-255-0072, 0073 – Ground Ambulance Vehicle Equipment Requirements

The following equipment requirements have been modified:

- Replaces neonate size oxygen nasal cannula with tubing for infant size;
- Requires four commercially available soft restraints;
- Updates the version of the Emergency Response Guidebook from 2016 to 2024;
- Removes the requirement to carry a short backboard or equivalent; and
- Removes the requirement to carry commercially packaged or sterile burn sheets.

OAR 333-255-0081, 0082 – Air Ambulance Operating Requirements

These rules have been amended adding that one of the two medical personnel may be a transitional paramedic and makes the same changes to equipment requirements as noted above.

OAR 333-255-0095 – Infection Control

The EMS program has adopted a new rule on infection control including specific requirements for cleaning and decontaminating an ambulance vehicle after each patient transport. The rule further describes when equipment must be taken out of service and when equipment must be disinfected.

An ambulance service agency is required to provide the necessary personal protective equipment and supplies necessary for cleaning or disinfecting.

OAR 333-255-0125 – Formal Enforcement

This rule was amended clarifying that the EMS program may take a licensing action against an ambulance service for failing to comply with OAR chapter 333, division 255.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I ensure my vehicle exceptions will meet Oregon licensing requirements?

When contracting to build a new vehicle, check with the EMS Program if the exceptions the vehicle will have are likely to cause delays or be denied during the initial licensure process. While the EMS Program cannot make a final determination on whether a vehicle will be approved until application is made, we can advise whether any of the planned exceptions are disqualifying.

When does a vehicle need to be inspected by an EVT in order to obtain a license?

Ground ambulance vehicles that have not been remounted must be inspected by an EVT if they were constructed between June 1, 2002 and July 31, 2007 and meet the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), June 1, 2002, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKKA-1822E).

Remounted ground ambulances must be inspected by an EVT if they were constructed between June 1st, 2002 and June 30th 2022 and do not meet one of the following standards - NFPA 1917, 2019 Edition, Chapter 10; NFPA 1900, 2024 Edition, Chapter 34; CAAS, GVS, v.2.0 Edition, Section F, dated July 1, 2019; or CAAS, GVS, v.3.0 Edition, Section F, dated July 1, 2022.

Can a licensed vehicle be transferred from one service to another without undergoing initial licensure?

No. Anytime the ownership of an ambulance vehicle transfers from one service to another in Oregon, the vehicle must go through initial licensure again and must meet any applicable requirements in order to be licensed.