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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

PH 25-2021

CHAPTER 333
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Ambulance Vehicle Construction Criteria

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/28/2021 THROUGH 12/24/2021

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 06/28/2021

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

In March 2021, the Oregon Health Authority (Authority) permanently amended administrative rules relating to the construction standards for ambulance vehicles. At the request of stakeholders, the Authority delayed implementation of the new vehicle construction standards as well as the adoption of new remount standards until July 1, 2022. In doing so, the agency inadvertently removed the existing standards leaving no standards in place until July 1, 2022. This change reinstates previous standards until revised standards are implemented in 2022.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

The Authority finds that failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest; the Authority; EMS providers; and patients requiring transport by ambulance. Failing to adopt these rules may allow new construction and remounts to be performed that meet limited standards and potentially place EMS providers and patients at risk during transport. The purpose of this rule is to reinstate standards that were previously in place, until revised standards are implemented in July 2022.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

ORS chapter 682: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors682.html

AMEND: 333-255-0060

RULE SUMMARY: Amend OAR 333-255-0060: Adds back previous construction standards for new ambulance vehicles and ambulance vehicles that have been remounted until revised standards take effect in July 2022.

CHANGES TO RULE:

333-255-0060

Ground Ambulance Construction Criteria ¶

(1) As used in this rule, "previously operated ambulance" means a used or previously licensed ambulance that has been placed back into service; or gifted to, purchased by, or reassigned to a licensed ambulance service, and is subject to initial licensure in accordance with OAR 333-255-0010.¶

(2) An ambulance vehicle constructed on or before June 30, 2022 shall comply with one of the following standards:¶

(a) The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), November 1, 1994, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKK-A-1822D);¶

(b) The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), June 1, 2002, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKK-A-1822E);¶

(c) The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), August 1, 2007, Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance Certification standards (KKK-A-1822F);¶

(d) 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¶

(e) The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Standard for Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1917, 2016 Edition or 2019 Edition.¶

(3) An ambulance service agency that has a signed, dated contract with an ambulance manufacturer for the construction of a new ground ambulance, ~~or~~¶

(a) On or after June 28, 2021, shall ensure that the new vehicle is constructed to comply with either the CAAS, GVS, v.1.0 Edition, July 1, 2016 or the NFPA, Standard for Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1917, 2016 Edition, incorporated by reference.¶

(b) On or after July 1, 2022, shall ensure that the new vehicle is constructed to comply with either the CAAS, GVS, v.2.0 Edition, July 1, 2019 or the NFPA, Standard for Automotive Ambulances, NFPA 1917, 2019 Edition, incorporated by reference. ¶

(c) A newly constructed ambulance must have at a minimum either:¶

(a) A CAAS GVS certification sticker and verification document(s); or¶

(b) An NFPA certification sticker and verification document(s).¶

(4) Effective June 15, 2019:¶

(a) The construction criteria for a previously operated ambulance must meet the construction criteria specified in subsection (2)(c), (d) or (e) of this rule as of the date of vehicle construction.¶

(b) A previously operated ambulance that meets the construction standards specified in subsection (2)(a) or (b) of this rule, must be inspected by an Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certified by the EVT Certification Commission as an ambulance technician who provides documentation that the ambulance is in good operating condition and meets minimum safety requirements.¶

(5) A licensed ambulance service that remounts a licensed ambulance vehicle or previously operated ambulance shall apply for a new, initial ambulance vehicle license.¶

(6) Effective June 28, 2021, the construction criteria for remounting a Type I or Type III ambulance is: ¶

(a) The patient compartment must have been built after November 1, 1994; and ¶

(b) The remounting must be done by a:¶

(A) Recognized ambulance manufacturer; ¶

(B) Recognized vehicle modifier; ¶

(C) Remount center; or ¶

(D) Licensed ambulance service with an established in-house remount program and is inspected by a certified EVT in accordance with subsection (4)(b) of this rule. ¶

(c) The agency doing the remounting must utilize current nationally recognized vehicle modification techniques and industry standard parts and components. ¶

(7) An agency completing a remount shall provide a notarized statement that the structural integrity of the specific patient compartment was not compromised during the remounting and must provide a Final Stage Vehicle Manufacturing Certificate of compliance. ¶

(8) A licensed ambulance service may establish an in-house remount program by obtaining the necessary training.

appropriate equipment and facilities to remount a vehicle to the described standard

(9) Effective July 1, 2022, the construction criteria for remounting a Type I or Type III ambulance shall comply with either the CAAS, GVS, v.2.0 Edition, Section F, dated July 1, 2019, or the NFPA 1917, 2019 Edition, Chapter 10 incorporated by reference.

(a) The remounted vehicle shall show evidence of the CAAS GVS remount standard compliance sticker, or the NFPA 1917 certification and payload label.

(b) The licensed ambulance service shall maintain appropriate documentation confirming compliance with the remount standard.

(710) A new ambulance vehicle that is not fully compliant with the standards in section (3) or a licensed ambulance vehicle or previously operated ambulance that has been remounted and is not fully compliant with the standards in section (69) may not be licensed if the construction included exceptions to the standards that affect patient or EMS provider safety as determined by the Authority.

(811) The owner of an ambulance must select an exterior color, emblems, and markings for the ambulance that will ensure the prompt recognition of that vehicle as an ambulance. All ambulance vehicles shall be clearly identified by appropriate emblems and markings on the front, side, roof, and rear of the vehicle.

(912) Each licensed ambulance vehicle shall display the following emblems and terms in the location(s) specified:

(a) "Star-of-Life" emblem: Shall comply with the specifications adopted by the US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

(A) Sides - a 12 to 16-inch emblem must be located on the left and right side-panels; and

(B) Roof - a 32-inch emblem must be located on the roof.

(b) The word "AMBULANCE":

(A) Front - centered, in block letters, not less than four inches high, must be in mirror image and centered above the grille; and

(B) Rear - in block letters of not less than six inches in height and centered on the rear door panels or an approved alternative.

(C) Acceptable alternatives for the word "AMBULANCE" include generic terms that do not connote any particular level of service, limited to "MEDIC UNIT," "FIRE MEDIC UNIT," "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES," or "EMS UNIT".

(c) Service name or logo that matches the service name on the application must be visible on the vehicle exterior in a location that does not interfere with the term "AMBULANCE" or the "Star-of-Life" emblem;

(103) A licensed ambulance vehicle may not display on its exterior any level of service which is not provided at all times when that ambulance is in operation.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 682.017, 682.068

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 682.017 - 682.117, 682.991