

Regulation 61-7

Emergency Medical Services

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Statutory Authority:

S.C. Code Sections 44-61-30 and 44-78-65

Regulation History as Published in State Register

Date	Document Number	Volume	Issue
May 22, 1981	-	5	11
June 27, 1986	624	10	6
February 26, 1988	812	12	2
July 28, 1995	1848	19	7
June 27, 1997	2161	21	6, Part 2
June 23, 2006	3000	30	6
June 24, 2016	4610	40	6

Table of Contents

SECTION 100.	SCOPE AND PURPOSE	1
	101. Scope of Act 1118 of 1974 as Amended	1
SECTION 200.	DEFINITIONS	1
SECTION 300.	ENFORCING REGULATIONS	6
	301. General	6
	302. Inspections and Investigations	6
	303. Enforcement Actions	6
	304. Violation Classifications	6
SECTION 400.	LICENSING PROCEDURES	7
	401. Application	7
	402. Medical Control Physician	9
	403. Non-Credentialed Ambulance Operator or Driver	10
	404. Criteria for License Category – Basic Life Support (Ambulance)	10
	405. Criteria for License Category – Intermediate Life Support (Ambulance)	11
	406. Criteria for License Category – Advance Life Support (Ambulance)	12
	407. Criteria for License Category – Special Purpose Ambulance Provider (Ambulance)	12
	408. Advanced Life Support Information	12
	409. Advertising Level of Care	13
	410. Criteria for License Category – EMT Rapid Responder	13
	411. Special Exemptions for Volunteer EMS Providers	13

SECTION 500.	PERMITS, AMBULANCE	14
	501. Vehicle and Equipment	14
	502. Temporary Assets	15
SECTION 600.	STANDARDS FOR AMBULANCE PERMIT	15
	601. Ambulance Design and Equipment	15
SECTION 700.	EQUIPMENT	20
	701. Minimum Ambulance Medical Equipment	20
	702. Intermediate and Advance Equipment	23
	703. EMT Rapid Responder Equipment	25
	704. Special Purpose Ambulance Equipment	26
SECTION 800.	SANITATION FOR LICENSED PROVIDERS	26
	801. Exterior Surfaces	26
	802. Interior Surfaces Patient Compartment – Ambulance	27
	803. Linen	27
	804. Oxygen Administration Apparatus	28
	805. Resuscitation Equipment	28
	806. Suction Unit	28
	807. Splints	29
	808. Stretchers and Spine Boards	29
	809. Bandages and Dressings	29
	810. Obstetrical (OB) Kits	30
	811. Oropharyngeal Appliances	30
	812. Communicable Diseases	30
	813. Miscellaneous Equipment	30
	814. Equipment and Materials Storage Areas	30
	815. Personnel	30
SECTION 900.	EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS	31
	901. General	31
	902. Initial EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic Certification	31
	903. Recertification of EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic Certification	32
	904. Special Purpose EMT	33
	905. Reciprocity	33
	906. Certification Examinations	35
	907. Emergency Medical Technician Training Programs	35
	908. Endorsement of Credentials	39
	909. Certification Patches	40

SECTION 1000.	PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS	40
SECTION 1100.	REVOCAION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATES OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS	41
SECTION 1200.	AIR AMBULANCES	42
	1201. Licensing	42
	1202. Medical Supplies and Equipment	48
	1203. Special Purpose Air Ambulances	54
	1204. Medication and Fluids for Advanced Life Support Air Ambulances	54
	1205. Rescue Exemption	55
SECTION 1300.	PATIENT CARE REPORTS	55
	1301. Patient Care Reports	55
	1302. Data Manager	56
	1303. Content	56
	1304. Report Maintenance	56
SECTION 1400.	DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER	57
	1401. Purpose and Authority of Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Order	57
	1402. Definitions	57
	1403. General Provisions	58
	1404. Revocation of EMS DNR Order	59
	1405. Patient's Assessment and Intervention	59
	1406. Resuscitative Measures to be Withheld or Withdrawn	59
	1407. Procedures to Provide Palliative Treatment	60
	1408. DNR Information for the Patient, the Patient's Family, the Health Care Provider and EMS Personnel	60
SECTION 1500.	FINES AND MONETARY PENALTIES	61
	1501. Fines and Monetary Penalties	61
SECTION 1600.	SEVERABILITY	62
SECTION 1700.	GENERAL	62

SECTION 100.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Section 101. Scope of Act 1118 of 1974 as amended.

- A. Establishment of EMS program.
- B. General licensing, certification, inspection and training procedures.
- C. Establishment of an Emergency Medical Service Council and duties of the Council.
- D. Establishment of the Department of Health and Environmental Control authority for enforcement of these rules and regulations.

SECTION 200. DEFINITIONS

A. **Advanced Life Support (ALS):** An advanced level of prehospital, interhospital, and emergency service care which includes but is not limited to the treatment of life-threatening medical emergencies through the use of techniques such as endotracheal intubation, administration of medications or intravenous fluids, cardiac monitoring, and electrical therapy by a qualified person pursuant to these regulations.

B. **Advanced Life Support Service:** A service provider that in addition to basic life support minimum standard, provides at least two (2) EMTs, one of which is a Paramedic and demonstrates the capability to provide IV therapy, advanced airway care, approved medication therapy, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation capability.

C. **Air ambulance:** Any aircraft that is intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for transportation of persons who are sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated.

1. **Fixed Wing:** Any aircraft that uses fixed wings to allow it to take off and fly.

2. **Rotorcraft:** A helicopter or other aircraft that uses a rotary blade to allow vertical and horizontal flight without the use of wings.

D. **Basic Life Support Service:** A service provider that meets all criteria for basic life support minimum standard and is able to provide one EMT to one hundred percent (100%) of all calls and the ability to provide blind insertion airway devices (BIADs) and defibrillation capability.

E. **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP):** A programmatic accreditor in the health sciences field. In collaboration with its Committees on Accreditation, CAAHEP reviews and accredits educational programs in health science occupations.

F. **Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Service Professionals (CoAEMSP):** The national accreditation organization specific to Paramedic education programs. Paramedic education programs must have CoAEMSP accreditation or a letter of review from CoAEMSP in order for their students to qualify for the National Registry examination.

G. Condition Requiring an Emergency Response: The sudden onset of a medical condition manifested by symptoms of such sufficient severity, including severe pain, which a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect without medical attention, to result in:

1. Serious illness or disability;
2. Impairment of a bodily function;
3. Dysfunction of the body; or
4. Prolonged pain, psychiatric disturbance, or symptoms of withdrawal.

H. Continuing Education: An educational program designed to update the knowledge and skills of its participants by attending conventions, seminars, workshops, educational classes, labs, symposiums, and the like. Points toward recertification may be awarded for successful completion of approved activities.

I. Credentialing Information System (CIS): Database managed by EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMSPIC) which tracks EMS information and data such as certifications, licenses, permits, and inspections.

J. Driver: In the EMS context, the vehicle operator of an ambulance. This person may be a certified EMT of any level or an uncertified individual who meets the minimum requirements as a driver by this regulation in Section 403.

K. Electronic Patient Care Reports (ePCR): Patient care reports authored and submitted electronically into PreMIS which is compliant with the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).

L. Emergency: For the purposes of this regulation, an emergency is an acute situation in which a prudent layperson has identified a potential medical threat to life or limb such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in placing the individual's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment of bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of bodily organs.

M. Emergency Transport: Services and transportation provided after the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of such severity, including severe pain, that the absence of medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in the following:

1. Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
2. Causing serious impairment of bodily functions or serious dysfunction of bodily organ or part; or
3. A situation resulting from an accident, injury, acute illness, unconsciousness, or shock, for example, requiring oxygen or other emergency treatment, or requiring the patient to remain immobile.

N. EMT: Emergency Medical Technician. When used in general terms for emergency medical personnel, an individual possessing a valid EMT, Advanced EMT (AEMT), or Paramedic certificate issued by the State of South Carolina pursuant to the provisions of this regulation and applicable governing statute.

1. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): Formerly called an “EMT-Basic,” this nationally credentialed level of prehospital emergency medical providers is a person who is specially trained and certified to administer basic emergency services to victims of trauma or acute illness before and during transportation to a hospital or other healthcare facility.

2. Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate (EMT-I): A nationally credentialed mid-level of prehospital emergency medical providers. The EMT-I is intended to deliver augmented prehospital critical care and provide rapid on-scene treatment, working in conjunction with EMTs and Paramedics. The EMT-I is authorized to provide more advanced medical treatment than the EMT. According to the NREMT, after March 31, 2017, EMT-I certifications are being replaced by the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) credential with a greater scope of practice than the EMT-I.

3. Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT): A nationally credentialed mid-level of prehospital emergency medical providers. The AEMT is intended to deliver augmented prehospital critical care and provide rapid on-scene treatment, working in conjunction with EMTs and Paramedics. The AEMT is authorized to provide more advanced medical treatment than the EMT.

4. Paramedic: The highest nationally credentialed level of prehospital emergency medical providers. The Paramedic is intended to provide leadership and to deliver prehospital emergency care and provide rapid on-scene treatment. The Paramedic is authorized to provide the highest level of prehospital care in accordance with standards set by the Department.

O. EMT Rapid Responder Agency: Formerly known as “EMT First Responder Service,” a licensed agency providing medical care at the EMT level or above as a nontransporting rapid responder.

P. FAA: Federal Aviation Administration. The agency of the federal government that governs aircraft design, operations, and personnel requirements.

Q. Flight Nurse: A licensed registered nurse who is trained in all aspects of emergency care who has been so designated by the Department.

R. Ground Ambulance: A vehicle maintained or operated by a licensed provider who has obtained the necessary permits and licenses for the transportation of persons who are sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated. Ambulances provide both emergent and non-emergent transport.

1. Special purpose ambulance: An ambulance equipped and designated to transport by medical necessity only patients in need of specific specialized types of care and staffed by appropriate specialty care attendant(s). Examples may include special purpose ambulances such as neonatal units, and critical care ambulances.

S. HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

T. Intermediate Life Support Service: A service provider that, in addition to basic life support minimum standard, provides at least two (2) EMTs, one of which is an EMT-I, AEMT or Paramedic and demonstrates the capability to provide IV therapy, blind insertion airway devices (BIADs), and defibrillation capability.

U. Joint Policy Statement on Equipment for Ground Ambulances (JPS): National document drafted and published on January 1, 2014, by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, Emergency Medical Services for Children, Emergency Nurses Association, National Association of EMS Physicians, and the National Association of State EMS Officials to serve as a referenced standard for equipment needs of emergency ground ambulance services in the United States.

V. Medical Control: Medical Control is usually provided by a licensed agency's physician who is responsible for the care of the patient by the provider's medical attendants. Actual medical control may be direct by two-way voice communications (on-line) or indirect by standing orders or protocols (off-line) control.

1. Off-Line Medical Control Physician: A provider's Medical Control Physician who actually takes responsibility for treatment of patients in the prehospital setting by standing orders, protocols, or patient care guidelines.

2. On-Line Medical Control Physician: The physician who directly communicates with EMTs regarding appropriate patient care procedures en-route or on-scene. An on-line Medical Control Physician must be available for all EMTs performing procedures designated by the Department.

W. Moral Turpitude: Behavior that is not in conformity with and is considered deviant by societal standards.

X. National Emergency Services Information System (NEMSIS): NEMSIS is the national repository of EMS data that is collected from across the United States. The data is used to define EMS and prehospital care, improve patient care, determine the national standard of care, and help design EMS curriculum.

Y. National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT): A national certification agency which establishes uniform standards for training and examination of personnel active in the delivery of prehospital emergency care. Individuals possessing a valid NREMT certification have successfully demonstrated competencies in their level of prehospital provider.

Z. Nonemergency Transport: Services and transportation provided to a patient whose condition is considered stable. A stable patient is one whose condition by caregiver consensus can reasonably be expected to remain the same throughout the transport and for whom none of the criteria for emergency transport has been met. Prearranged transports scheduled at the convenience of the service, the patient, or medical facility will be classified as a nonemergency transport.

AA. Patient: A patient is defined as any person who meets any of the following criteria:

1. Receives basic or advanced medical or trauma treatment;
2. Is physically examined;
3. Has visible signs of injury or illness or has a medical complaint;

4. Requires EMS specific assistance to change locations and/or position;
5. Identified by any party as a possible patient because of some known, or reasonably suspected illness or injury;
6. Has a personal medical device evaluated or manipulated by EMS; or
7. Requests EMS assistance with the administration of personal medications or treatments.

BB. Prehospital Care: Assessment, stabilization, and care of a patient, including, but not limited to the transportation to an appropriate receiving facility.

CC. Prehospital Medical Information System (PreMIS): A state mandated internet based EMS information system that collects data on each EMS call report made within South Carolina.

DD. Revocation: The Department has permanently voided a license, permit, or certificate and the holder no longer may perform the function associated with the license, permit, or certificate. The Department will not reissue the license, permit, or certificate for a period of two (2) years for a license or permit and four (4) years for a certificate. At the end of this period, the holder may petition the Department for reinstatement.

EE. Special Purpose EMT: A state credentialed prehospital emergency medical provider. This person is a South Carolina licensed registered nurse (RN) or a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) State RN who works in a critical care hospital setting such as neonatology, pediatrics, or cardiac care. These Special Purpose EMTs provide a continuance of critical care during transport while aboard special purpose ambulances permitted by the State and equipped for their specialty area.

FF. Specialty Care: Advanced care skills provided by an appropriately credentialed attendant in their specific specialty area. These may include but are not limited to Paramedics, Special Purpose EMTs in their area of specialty, RNs, and respiratory therapists.

GG. "Star of Life": A six (6) barred blue cross outlined with a white border of which all angles are sixty (60) degrees and upon which is superimposed the staff of Aesculapius in white. This is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

HH. Suspension: The Department has temporarily voided a license, permit, or certificate and the holder may not perform the function associated with the license, permit, or certificate until the holder has complied with the statutory requirements and other conditions imposed by the Department.

II. The Department: The administrative agency known as the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

JJ. Vocational School: Also called a trade school, is a higher-level learning institution that specializes in providing students with the vocational education and technical skills they need in order to perform the tasks of a particular job.

KK. Volunteer EMS Provider: A not-for-profit EMS provider which serves its local community with emergency medical service coverage at any level and is staffed by at least ninety percent (90%)

non-paid staff. For the purpose of this regulation, token stipends received by volunteer EMS providers are not considered paid remuneration or a primary wage.

SECTION 300.

ENFORCING REGULATIONS

Section 301. General.

A. The Department shall utilize inspections, investigations, consultations, and other pertinent documentation regarding an EMT, training facility, instructor, Medical Control Physician, or provider in order to enforce these regulations.

B. The Department reserves the right to make exceptions to these regulations where it is determined that the health and welfare of those being served would be compromised.

Section 302. Inspections and Investigations.

A. An inspection shall be conducted prior to initial licensing of a provider and subsequent inspections conducted as deemed appropriate by the Department.

B. All providers, permitted vehicles, equipment used for rapid response by licensed agencies, EMTs, training facilities, and instructors are subject to inspection or investigation at any time without prior notice by individuals authorized by the Department.

C. Individuals authorized by the Department shall be granted access to all properties and areas, objects, equipment, and records, and have the authority to require that entity to make photo and/or electronic copies of those documents required in the course of inspections or investigations. These copies shall be used for purposes of enforcement of regulations and confidentiality shall be maintained except to verify the identity of individuals in enforcement action proceedings.

Section 303. Enforcement Actions.

When the Department determines that an EMT, provider, instructor, or training facility is in violation of any statutory provision, rule, or regulation relating to the duties therein, the Department may, upon proper notice to that entity, impose a monetary penalty and/or deny, suspend, and/or revoke its certification, license, or authorization or take other actions deemed appropriate by the Department. The schedule of fines and monetary penalties is noted in Section 1501.

Section 304. Violation Classifications.

Violations of standards in this regulation are classified as follows:

A. Class I violations are those that the Department determines to present an imminent danger to the health, safety, or well-being of the persons being served, other employees, or the general public; or a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result therefrom. A physical condition or one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or lack thereof may constitute such a violation. Each day such violation exists may be considered a subsequent violation.

B. Class II violations are those other than Class I violations the Department determines to have a negative impact on the health, safety or well-being of those being served, other employees, or the

general public. A physical condition or one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or lack thereof may constitute such a violation. Each day such violation exists may be considered a subsequent violation.

C. Class III violations are those that are not classified as Class I or II in these regulations or those that are against the best practices as interpreted by the Department. A physical condition or one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or lack thereof may constitute such a violation. Each day such violation exists may be considered a subsequent violation.

D. Class IV violations are those that are specific to vehicle reinspection failures. These violations can escalate based on frequency and point value accrued per deficiency identified in the vehicle inspections conducted by the Department.

E. The notations “(I)” or “(II)”, placed within sections of this regulation, indicate that those standards are considered Class I or II violations, if they are not met, respectively. Standards not so annotated are considered Class III violations. Class IV violations are specific to vehicle reinspections which may escalate to Class III violations.

F. In arriving at a decision to take enforcement actions, the Department shall consider the following factors: specific conditions and their impact or potential impact on the health, safety, or well-being of those being served, other employees and the general public, efforts by the EMT, provider, training facility or instructor to correct cited violations; behavior of the entity in violation that reflects negatively on that entity’s character, such as illegal or illicit activities; overall conditions; history of compliance; and any other pertinent factors that may be applicable to current statutes and regulations.

G. A schedule of all monetary penalties is delineated in Section 1501.

H. Any enforcement action taken by the Department may be appealed pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act beginning with S.C. Code Section 1-23-310.

SECTION 400.

LICENSING PROCEDURES

Section 401. Application.

A. Application for license shall be made to the Department by private firms, public entities, volunteer groups or non-federal governmental agencies. The application shall be made upon forms in accordance with procedures established by the Department and shall contain the following:

1. The name and address of the owner of the licensed provider or proposed licensed provider;
2. The name under which the applicant is doing business or proposes to do business;
3. A copy of the licensed provider or proposed licensed provider’s business license (if applicable) for the location of the service;
4. A description of each ambulance, and/or rapid response vehicle, including the make, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), model, year of manufacture or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate applicant's vehicle;

5. The location and description of the place or places from which the licensed provider is intended to operate. The Department shall be notified within five (5) working days of any expansion or contraction of the service, level of care (upgrade or downgrade), or if the headquarters, director or any substation locations are changed;

6. Personnel roster representing all employees, volunteers, and affiliates associated with the service including but not limited to EMTs, non-certified drivers (if applicable), pilots, RNs, certification numbers and expiration dates of their South Carolina and NREMT credentials (if applicable);

7. Type of license applied for;

8. Name, email address, and phone number of Medical Control Physician;

9. Name, email address, and phone number of the following, if applicable;

a. EMS Director;

b. EMS Assistant Director;

c. Training Officer;

d. Data Manager; and

e. Infection Control Officer.

10. Number of vehicles and level of service provided from each fixed station location;

11. Insurance information, to include name of insurance company, agent, phone number and type of coverage. A copy of insurance policy(ies) shall be furnished to the Department upon request. The minimum limits of coverage shall be six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) liability and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) malpractice per occurrence.

12. A copy of the EMS Non-dispensing Drug Permit from the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy. If out-of-state provider, the respective home state equivalent;

13. A copy of the agency's current Drug Enforcement Agency license (both South Carolina and federal), when applicable. If out-of-state provider, the respective home state equivalent;

14. A copy of the agency's Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) waiver from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) if agency is providing field laboratory testing such as blood glucose readings or cardiac markers; and

15. Such other information as the Department shall deem reasonable and necessary to make a determination of compliance with this regulation.

B. The Department shall issue a license valid for a period of two (2) years when it is determined that all the requirements of this regulation have been met. If disapproved, the applicant may appeal in a manner pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act beginning with S.C. Code Section 1-23-310.

C. Subsequent to issuance of any license, the Department shall cause to be inspected each licensed provider (vehicles, equipment, personnel, records, premises, and operational procedures) whenever that service is initially licensed. Thereafter, services will be inspected by the Department on a random basis. These random inspections may be conducted dependent upon past compliance history. The schedule of fines and monetary penalties is noted in Section 1501.

D. The Department is herein authorized pursuant to S.C. Code Section 44-61-70, to suspend or revoke a license so issued at any time it determines that the holder no longer meets the requirements prescribed for operating as a licensed provider.

E. Renewal of any license issued under the provision of this Act shall require conformance with all the requirements of this Act as upon original licensing.

F. The Department shall be notified within five (5) working days when changes of ownership of a licensed provider are impending or occur so that a new license may be issued.

G. Conditions which have not been covered in these regulations shall be handled in accordance with the standard practices as interpreted by the Department.

Section 402. Medical Control Physician. (I)

Each licensed provider that provides patient care shall retain a Medical Control Physician to maintain quality control of the care provided, whose functions include the following:

A. Quality assurance (QA) of patient care including development of protocols, standing orders, training, policies, and procedures; and approval of medications and techniques permitted for field use by direct observation, field instruction, in-service training (IST) or other means including, but not limited to:

1. Patient care report review;
2. Review of field communications recordings;
3. Post-run interviews and case conferences; and
4. Investigation of complaints or incident reports.

B. The Medical Control Physician shall serve as medical authority for the licensed provider, to perform in liaison with the medical community, medical facilities, and governmental entities.

C. The Medical Control Physician shall have independent authority sufficient to oversee the quality of patient care for the agency.

D. Providers shall register their Medical Control Physician with the Department and provide a copy of their current standing orders and authorized medication list signed and dated by Medical Control Physician.

E. The Department must be notified of any change in Medical Control Physician, drug list, or standing orders within ten (10) days of the change.

F. The Medical Control Physician may withdraw at his or her discretion, the authorization for personnel to perform any or all patient care procedure(s) or responsibilities.

G. All initial Medical Control Physicians must attend a Medical Control Physician Workshop conducted by the Department within twelve (12) months of being designated Medical Control Physician. Failure to attend the above mentioned workshop will result in immediate dismissal from that position.

H. Medical Control Physicians shall complete Department mandated continuing education updates to maintain their status.

I. Medical Control Physicians may respond to scene calls to render care, function as medical providers, provide medical direction, and/or exercise their medical oversight authority.

J. Providers may have multiple Medical Control Physicians especially if they have multiple regional locations.

Section 403. Non-Credentialed Ambulance Operator or Driver. (II)

A. An ambulance driver shall:

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years old;

2. Be physically able to drive;

3. Possess a valid (non-disqualified) driver's license from South Carolina or home state of provider. In the event of suspension or revocation of the driver's license, the individual shall notify their agency and the agency must notify the Department;

4. Have a criminal background check required on initial hire and thereafter every four (4) years which meets the same requirements as certified EMS personnel as noted in Section 902.B; and

5. Display a picture ID in a manner visible to the public all times while on duty.

B. An ambulance driver shall complete a nationally accredited safety driving course, such as Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO), specific to emergency vehicles within the first six (6) months of hire.

C. In emergencies that may require a third crew member, such as multiple casualty incidents (MCIs), disasters, or where immediate local EMS resources are taxed, an ambulance may, out of necessity, be driven to the hospital by a member of a fire department, law enforcement agency, or rescue squad. These out-of-necessity drivers are exempt from Section 403.A and B in this limited context.

D. Each EMS agency shall maintain its EMS drivers' records and submit those credentials upon its initial agency license application and bi-annual agency license renewal.

Section 404. Criteria for License Category Basic Life Support (Ambulance). (II) (Minimum Standard):

A. Shall have ambulances that are permitted pursuant to these regulations.

B. Shall have no less than five (5) currently credentialed South Carolina EMTs associated with the provider.

C. Shall have staffing patterns, policy and procedure, and if necessary, mutual aid agreements to ensure that an ambulance is en route with at least one (1) EMT and one (1) driver onboard to all emergent responses within five (5) minutes or the next closest staffed ambulance must be dispatched, excluding prearranged transports. Volunteer Services (services not utilizing paid personnel) without onsite personnel must have staffing patterns, policy and procedures, and if necessary, mutual aid agreements to ensure that an ambulance is en route with at least one (1) EMT and one (1) driver onboard to all emergent calls within ten (10) minutes or have the closest staffed ambulance dispatched.

D. Vehicle operators or attendants shall not utilize emergency lights and sirens unless the service is responding to a patient with a condition requiring emergency response, as defined in Section 200.G. Vehicle operators or attendants shall not utilize emergency lights and sirens from a call unless the service is conducting an emergency transport, as defined in Section 200.L.

E. The provider must demonstrate sufficient equipping and staffing capability to ensure that basic life support consisting of at least automatic defibrillation (AED), basic airway management, obstetrical care, and basic trauma care are onboard the ambulance.

F. The Department will, upon request, be furnished with staffing patterns, policy and procedure, and mutual aid agreements that ensures compliance with the en route times noted in Section 404.C.

G. Industries that provide ambulance service or rapid medical response for their employees may exempt the minimum number of EMTs noted in Section 404.B, as long as they meet en route times and staffing requirements of the regulations.

H. The provider maintains accurate records that include, but are not limited to, approved patient care reports, employee / member rosters, time sheets, CIS rosters, call rosters, training records and dispatch logs that show at least the time call was received, the type of call, and the time the unit was en route. Such records shall be available for inspection by the Department with copies furnished upon request.

Section 405. Criteria for License Category – Intermediate Life Support: (Ambulance). (II)

A. To be categorized as an intermediate life support (ILS) provider, the provider must meet all criteria established for basic life support (BLS), minimum standard. Additionally, the provider must demonstrate sufficient equipping to ensure that life support consisting of at least IV therapy, blind insertion airway devices (BIADs), and defibrillation capability (either manual or by AED) are onboard the ambulance. The minimum staffing of an ILS ambulance shall consist of two (2) EMTs, one (1) of which must be an EMT-I, AEMT or Paramedic, at least ninety-five percent (95%) of the time. B. An ILS licensed provider may elect to participate in a tiered response system. The provider must have a process in place to identify the acuity of the incoming EMS request in order to properly triage the response and dispatch the appropriate level unit(s). Triage calls may take place with assets such as Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) or other means that identifies whether the request is classified as an “ILS” or “BLS” level of response. BLS personnel may operate on an ILS equipped ambulance in the case where an ILS credentialed responder may intercept the unit. In the case where an ILS responder intercepts a BLS unit with a Quick Response

Vehicle (QRV), all equipment needed to raise the level of permitting to ILS must be transferred to the BLS unit prior to commencing patient transport.

Section 406. Criteria for License Category - Advanced Life Support: (Ambulance). (II)

A. To be categorized as an advanced life support (ALS) provider, the provider must meet all criteria established for basic life support, minimum standard. Additionally, the provider must demonstrate sufficient equipping to ensure that life support consisting of IV therapy, advanced airway care, cardiac monitoring, defibrillation capability and drug therapy, approved by the Department and the unit Medical Control Physician, are onboard the ambulance. The minimum staffing of an ALS ambulance shall consist of a minimum of two (2) EMTs, one (1) of which must be a Paramedic at least ninety-five percent (95%) of the time. B. An ALS licensed provider may elect to participate in a tiered response system. The provider must have a process in place to identify the acuity of the incoming EMS request in order to properly triage the response and dispatch the appropriate level unit(s). Triage calls may take place with assets such as Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) or other means that identifies whether the request is classified as an “ALS” or “BLS” level of response. BLS personnel may operate on an ALS equipped ambulance in the case where an ALS credentialed responder may intercept the unit. In the case where an ALS responder intercepts a BLS unit with a QRV, all equipment needed to raise the level of permitting to ALS must be transferred to the BLS unit prior to commencing patient transport.

Section 407. Criteria for License Category - Special Purpose Ambulance Provider: (Ambulance). (II)

A. Have an approved vehicle that is in compliance with Section 200.R.1 and meets minimum equipment requirements, as delineated in Section 704.

B. Have a Medical Control Physician as delineated in Section 402.

C. Provide the Department with copies of policy and procedures for the operation of the special purpose ambulance.

D. Provide a list, approved by the Medical Control Physician, of special purpose equipment carried on the special purpose ambulance for review and approval by the Department.

E. Provide other license information delineated in Section 401.

F. Except during extenuating circumstances, special purpose ambulances shall be used for interfacility transports only.

Section 408. Advanced Life Support Information. (II)

A. Ambulance service providers professing to provide ALS level of care, whether licensed at the ALS level or not, must at all times transport an ALS patient in an ambulance which is fully equipped as an ALS unit, per these regulations, with a Paramedic, physician or RN, as delineated in these regulations, in the patient compartment.

B. The minimum staffing for any transport above the BLS level (for BLS licensed providers), shall be two (2) certified EMTs, one (1) of which must be an EMT-I, an AEMT, or a Paramedic one hundred percent (100%) of the time. A BLS licensed agency may only deviate from this staffing pattern when responding to a mutual aid call for service. At that time, the units must be staffed with

two (2) EMTs, one (1) of which must be a Paramedic ninety-five percent (95%) of the time for ALS responses.

Section 409. Advertising Level of Care. (II)

Ambulance service providers may not advertise that they provide a level of life support above the category for which they are licensed.

Section 410. Criteria for License Category - EMT Rapid Responder. (II)

A. Personnel assigned to Rapid Responder duty must be currently certified EMTs with no less than five (5) EMTs associated with the provider. The certification level of the responder must coincide with the agency's level of licensure. If the Rapid Responder agency is requested to respond, an EMT must respond on calls for an EMT licensed agency and a Paramedic must respond on calls for a Paramedic licensed agency eighty percent (80%) of the time.

B. Must have staffing patterns, policy and procedures, to ensure that a Rapid Responder unit is en route with at least one (1) EMT to all emergent calls within five (5) minutes. Volunteer units (services not utilizing paid personnel) without onsite personnel must have staffing patterns, policy and procedures to ensure that a Rapid Responder unit is en route with at least one (1) EMT to all emergent calls within ten (10) minutes.

C. The Department will, upon request, be furnished with staffing patterns, policy and procedures to ensure compliance with the en route times noted in Section 410.B.

D. The provider maintains records that include, but are not limited to, approved patient care report forms, employee/member rosters, time sheets, call rosters, training records and dispatch logs that show at least time call received, type call and time unit is en route. Such records are to be available for inspection by the Department with copies furnished upon request.

Section 411. Special Exemptions for Volunteer EMS Providers Squads.

A. A volunteer EMS provider must have an EMT or higher, attending to the patient at the scene and in the ambulance while transporting the patient to the hospital.

B. If a volunteer EMS provider has a written response policy in place in which an EMT is allowed to respond directly to the scene from home or work, the ambulance may respond to the scene of the emergency even if an EMT is not on board. If the EMT does not arrive at the scene and another service is immediately available with appropriate staffing, the patient shall be transported by that service. If no other service is immediately available, the patient shall not be transported without at least one (1) EMT on board. Continual and repeated failure of a service to ensure an EMT arrives at the scene to provide care and transport may result in the Department taking disciplinary action against the agency.

C. If only one (1) EMT is available to staff the ambulance crew, that EMT must be the patient care provider and/or supervise the patient care being provided. The EMT may not be the driver of the ambulance when a patient is being transported.

D. An ambulance shall not respond to the scene of an emergency if it is known in advance that an EMT is not available. All ambulance services shall preplan for the lack of staffing by written mutual aid agreements with neighboring agencies and by alerting the local Public Safety Answering

Point (PSAP) as early as possible when you know that EMT level staffing is not available. Careful preplanning, mutual aid agreements, and continual recruitment programs are necessary to ensure sufficient EMT staffing.

E. In all cases where the level of care is either EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic, the transporting unit shall be fully equipped to perform at that level of care.

SECTION 500.

PERMITS, AMBULANCE (I)

Section 501. Vehicle and Equipment.

A. Before a permit may be issued for a vehicle to be operated as an ambulance, its registered owner must apply to the Department for an ambulance permit. Prior to issuing an original or renewal permit for an ambulance, the Department shall determine that the vehicle for which the permit is issued meets all requirements as to design, medical equipment, supplies and sanitation as set forth in these regulations of the Department. Prior to issuance of the original permit, if the ambulance does not meet all minimum requirements and loses points during the inspection, no permit will be issued.

B. Permits will be issued for specific ambulances and will be displayed on the upper left-hand interior corner of the windshield of the ambulance or in the aircraft portfolio, whichever is applicable.

C. No official entry made upon a permit may be defaced, altered, removed or obliterated.

D. Permits may be issued or suspended by the Department.

E. Permits must be returned to the Department within ten (10) business days when the ambulance or chassis is sold, removed from service, or when the windshield is replaced due to damage.

F. The Department must be notified within seventy-two (72) hours of any collision (including pedestrians) involving any licensed provider's vehicle or aircraft used to provide emergency medical services including rapid response, that results in any degree of injury to personnel, patients, passengers, observers, students, or other persons. The licensed agency must submit to the Department the vehicle's issued permit (if applicable) if the damage renders the permitted vehicle out of service for more than two (2) weeks. The investigating law enforcement agency's accident report shall also be forwarded to the Department when received by the agency when the above situations occur and the incident is reportable to the Department.

G. Licensed transport agencies may utilize Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) which are non-permitted, first-response type vehicles. A QRV will be staffed with a minimum of one (1) provider that is credentialed at a level determined by the local Medical Control Physician (BLS, ILS, ALS) and equipped with locally adopted and Medical Control Physician authorized equipment, also in accordance with the level of credentialing as determined by the Medical Control Physician. For the purpose of this regulation, associated special event vehicles such as motorcycles, watercraft, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and bicycles fall under the QRV umbrella.

H. The Department shall not issue a vehicle or aircraft permit to an EMS provider that is unlicensed in South Carolina.

Section 502. Temporary Assets.

A. In cases where a short-term solution to an ambulance resource is needed (temporary rentals or loaner ground or air transport units), the Department may issue a temporary permit to a short-term asset. These temporary assets shall meet all initial equipment requirements for classification as specified in this regulation for the level of intended service.

B. Temporary permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days and may only be renewed for extraordinary circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

C. Minimum exterior markings.

1. Illumination devices shall meet Section 601.F.1 and F.2.

2. Emblems and markings shall meet or exceed Section 601.B.1 and B.2 and may be affixed on vehicle with temporary markings.

3. The name of the service as stated in the provider's license shall be of lettering not less than three (3) inches in height and may be affixed with temporary markings.

4. Temporary permitted air transport units are exempt from the minimal exterior markings requirements.

SECTION 600.

STANDARDS FOR AMBULANCE PERMIT

Section 601. Ambulance Design and Equipment.

The following designs are hereby established as the minimum criteria for ambulances utilized in South Carolina and are effective with the publication of these regulations. Any ambulance purchased after publication of these requirements must meet the following minimum criteria.

A. Based Unit: Chassis shall not be less than three quarter ton. In the case of modular or other type body units, the chassis shall be proportionate to the body unit, weight and size; power train shall be compatible and matched to meet the performance criteria listed in the Federal KKK-A-1822 Specification, NFPA 1917, or similar specification standards accepted by the Department; maximum effective sized tires; power steering; power brakes; heavy duty cooling system; heavy duty brakes; mirrors; heavy duty front and rear shock absorbers; seventy (70) amp battery; one hundred (100) amp alternator; front end stabilizer; driver and passenger seat belts; padded dash; collapsible steering wheel; door locks for all doors; inside mirror; inside control handles on rear and side doors; all applicable safety-related upgrades on timetables to be determined by the Department after release by the appropriate federal authority.

B. Emblems and Markings: All items in this section shall be of reflective quality and in contrasting color to the exterior painted surface of the ambulance.

1. There shall be a continuous stripe, of not less than three (3) inches on cab and six (6) inches on patient compartment, to encircle the entire ambulance with the exclusion of the hood panel.

2. Emblems and markings shall be of the type, size and location as follows:

a. Side: Each side of the patient compartment shall have the “Star of Life” not less than twelve (12) inches in height. The word “AMBULANCE”, not less than six (6) inches in height, shall be under or beside each star. The name of the licensee as stated on their provider’s license shall be of lettering not less than three (3) inches in height.

b. Rear: The word “AMBULANCE”, not less than six (6) inches in height, and two (2) “Star of Life” emblems of not less than twelve (12) inches in height.

c. Out-of-state licensed ground transport units shall meet the same markings and standards as in-state licensed units, unless specifically forbidden by the unit’s home state of licensure.

3. Prior to private sale of ambulance vehicles to the public, all emblems and markings in Section 601.B must be removed.

C. Interior Patient Compartment Dimensions:

1. Length: The compartment length shall provide a minimum of twenty-five (25) inches clear space at the head and fifteen (15) inches at the foot of a seventy-six (76) inch cot. Minimum inside length will be one hundred sixteen (116) inches.

2. Width: Minimum inside width is sixty-nine (69) inches.

3. Height: Inside height of patient compartment shall be a minimum dimension of sixty (60) inches from floor to ceiling.

D. Access to Vehicle:

1. Driver Compartment.

a. Driver's seat will have an adjustment to accommodate the 5th percentile to 95th percentile adult male.*

*Note: This means that the driver's area will accommodate the male drivers who are ninety percent (90%) of the smallest and largest in stature, which includes weight and size.

b. There shall be a door on each side of the vehicle in the driver's compartment.

c. Separation from the patient area is essential to afford privacy for radio communication and to protect the driver from an unruly patient. Provision for both verbal and visual communication between driver and attendant will be provided by a sliding shatterproof material partition or door. The bulkhead must be strong enough to support an attendant's seat in the patient area at the top of the patient's head and to withstand deceleration forces of the attendant in case of accident.

2. Patient Compartment:

a. There shall be a door on the right side of the patient compartment near the patient's head area of the compartment. The side door must permit a technician to position himself at the patient's head and quickly remove him from the side of the vehicle should the rear door become jammed.

b. Rear doors shall swing clear of the opening to permit full access to the patient's compartment.

c. All patient compartment doors shall incorporate a holding device to prevent the door closing unintentionally from wind or vibration. When doors are open the holding device shall not protrude into the access area. Special purpose ambulances are exempt as long as access/egress is not obstructed due to wheelchair ramps or other specialized equipment.

d. Spare tire, if carried, shall be positioned such that the tire can be removed without disturbing the patient.

E. Interior Lighting:

1. Driver Compartment: Lighting must be available for both the driver and an attendant, if riding in the driving compartment, to read maps, records, or other. There must be shielding of the driver's area from the lights in the patient compartment.

2. Patient Compartment: Illumination must be adequate throughout the compartment and provide an intensity of forty-foot (40-foot) candles at the level of the patient for adequate observation of vital signs, such as skin color and pupillary reflex, and for care in transit. Lights shall be controllable from the entrance door, the head of the patient, and the driver's compartment. Reduced lighting level may be provided by rheostat control of the compartment lighting or by a second system of low intensity lights.

F. Illumination Devices:

1. Illumination Devices: Flood and load lights. There shall be at least one (1) flood light mounted not less than seventy-five (75) inches above the ground and unobstructed by open doors located on each side of the vehicle. A minimum of one (1) flood light, with a minimum of fifteen (15) foot candles, shall be mounted above the rear doors of the vehicle.

2. Warning lights. At a minimum alternating flashing red lights must be on the corners of the ambulance so as to provide three hundred sixty (360)degrees conspicuity.

G. Seats:

1. A seat for both driver and attendant will be provided in the driver's compartment. Each seat shall have armrests on each side of driver's compartment.

2. Technician (Patient Compartment): Two (2) fixed seats, padded, eighteen (18) inches wide by eighteen (18) inches high; to head of patient behind the driver, the other one may be square bench type located on curb (right) side of the vehicle. Space under the seats may be designed as storage compartments.

H. Safety Factors for Patient Compartment:

1. Cot Fasteners: Crash-stable fasteners must be provided to secure a primary cot and secondary stretcher.

2. Cot Restraint: If the cot is floor supported on its own support wheels, a means shall be provided to secure it in position under all conditions. These restraints shall permit quick attachment

and detachment for quick transfer of patient. All newly-manufactured ambulances purchased for use in South Carolina after July 1, 2017, shall meet all seating and cot restraint mandates outlined in the Federal KKK-A-1822F, all change notices included.

3. Patient Restraint: A restraining device shall be provided to prevent longitudinal or transverse dislodgement of the patient during transit, or to restrain an unruly patient to prevent further injury or aggravation to the existing injury.

4. Safety Belts for Drivers and Attendants:

a. Quick-release safety belts will be provided for the driver, the attendants, and all seated patients (squad bench). These safety belts will be retractable and self-adjustable.

5. Mirrors:

a. There shall be two (2) exterior rear view mirrors, one mounted on the left side of the vehicle and one (1) mounted on the right side. Location of mounting must be such as to provide maximum rear vision from the driver's seated position.

b. There shall be an interior rear view mirror or rear view camera to provide the driver with a view of occurrences in the patient compartment.

6. Windshield Wipers and Washers:

a. Vehicle is to be equipped with two (2) electrical windshield wipers and washers in addition to defrosting and defogging systems.

7. Sun Visors:

a. There shall be a sun visor for both driver and attendant.

I. Environmental Equipment: Driver/Patient Compartment.

1. Heating: Shall be capable of heating the compartment to a temperature of seventy-five (75) degrees Fahrenheit within a reasonable period while driving in an ambient temperature of zero degrees Fahrenheit. It must be designed to recirculate inside air, also be capable of introducing twenty percent (20%) of outside air with minimum effect on inside temperature. Fresh air intake shall be located in the most practical contaminant-free air space on the vehicle.

2. Heating Control: Heating shall be thermostatically or manually controlled. The heater blower motors must be at least a three (3) speed design. Separate switches will be installed in patient compartment.

3. Air Conditioning: Air Conditioning shall have a capacity sufficient to lower the temperature in the driver's and patient's compartment to seventy-five (75) degrees Fahrenheit within a reasonable period and maintain that temperature while operating in an ambient temperature of ninety-five (95) degrees Fahrenheit. The unit must be designed to deliver twenty percent (20%) of fresh outside air of ninety-five (95) degrees Fahrenheit ambient temperature while holding the inside temperature specified. All parts, equipment, workmanship, shall be in keeping with accepted air conditioning practices.

4. Air Conditioning Controls: The unit air delivery control may be manual or thermostatic. The reheat type system is not required in the driver's compartment unit. Switches or other controls must be within easy reach of the driver in his normal driving position. Air delivery fan motor shall be at least a three (3) speed design. Switches and other control components must exceed in capacity the amperage and resistance requirements of the motors.

5. Environmental Control and Medications: The temperature in the patient compartment or anywhere medications are stored (QRVs, fire apparatus, rapid response vehicles, carry-in bags, and other) shall be monitored for temperature extremes to prevent drug adulteration. Medications (excluding oxygen) and IV fluids will be removed and discarded if the temperatures reach or exceed one hundred (100) degrees Fahrenheit (thirty-eight (38) degrees Celsius). Medications and IV fluids shall also be removed and discarded if temperatures in the drug storage area drop below twenty (20) degrees Fahrenheit (negative seven (-7) degrees Celsius).

6. Insulation: The entire body, side, ends, roof, floor, and patient compartment doors shall be insulated to minimize conduction of heat, cold, or external noise entering the vehicle interior. The insulation shall be vermin and mildew-proof, fireproof, non-hygroscopic, non-setting type. Plywood floor when undercoated will be considered sufficient insulation for the floor area.

J. Storage Cabinets: All cabinets must meet the criteria as stated in the most current edition of the Federal KKK-A-1822 Specification, NFPA 1917, or similar specification standards accepted by the Department as to types of surfaces, design and storage. Cabinets must be of sufficient size and configuration to store all necessary equipment. All equipment in interior cabinets must be accessible to attendant at all times.

K. Two-Way Radio Mobile: Two-way radio mobile equipment shall be included which will provide a reliable system operating range of at least a twenty (20) mile radius from the base station antenna. The mobile installation shall provide microphones for transmitting to at least medical control and receiving agencies, at both the driver's position and in the patient's compartment. Selectable speaker outputs, singly and in combination, shall be provided at the driver's position, in the patient's compartment, and through the PA system.

1. All radio frequencies utilized by a licensed service will be provided to the Department.

2. In the event technological advancements render the above components obsolete, the Department shall make determinations as to the efficacy of proposed technology on an individual basis prior to allowing their use.

L. Siren-Public Address: Siren and public address systems shall be provided. If a combined electronic siren and public address system is provided, in siren operation, the power output shall be minimum one hundred (100) watts. In voice operation the power output shall be at least forty-five (45) watts through two (2) exterior mounted speakers. The public address amplifier shall be independent of the mobile radio unit.

M. Antenna: Mounted with coaxial or other appropriate cable.

N. Glass Windows: All windows, windshield and door glass must be shatterproof.

O. Smoking Policy: Use of tobacco products or tobacco-like products (such as electronic cigarettes) is prohibited in the patient compartment and in the operator compartment of ambulances by all occupants.

P. The EMS provider shall establish a means to immediately identify that a vehicle is out of service for any operator who might have reason to use the vehicle. Any vehicle that is “out of service” whether for mechanical or staffing issues must be readily identifiable to the public and the Department. Out of service apparatus shall be identified by one (1) of the following means:

1. Sign on outside of the driver’s door near the door handle, minimum eight and one half inches by eleven inches (8.5” x 11”) and red in color;

2. Special bag that covers the steering wheel, red in color, and labeled “Out of Service;”

3. Large sign on the driver’s window, red in color, reading “Out of Service,” laminated, or a permanent, commercially manufactured type, minimum eight and one half inches by eleven inches (8.5” x 11”). If the unit is being driven and is out of service, the sign may be placed in the far right hand corner of the front window so as to not obstruct the driver’s vision but so as to be visible from the exterior of the vehicle; or

4. Highly visible mechanism at the driver’s position on the vehicle that all members of the EMS provider recognize as an out of service indicator and is identified by a provider policy or standard operating procedure.

SECTION 700. EQUIPMENT (II)

Section 701. Minimum Ambulance Medical Equipment.

The Joint Policy Statement on Equipment for Ground Ambulances (JPS) provides a recommended core list of supplies and equipment that shall be stocked on all ambulances to provide the accepted standards of patient care. For the purposes of this regulation, the following definitions from the JPS have been used:

Neonate: zero to twenty-eight (0-28) days of age;

Infant: twenty-nine (29) days to one (1) year; and

Child one (1) year old to eighteen (18), with delineations as follows:

Toddlers: one to two (1-2) years old;

Preschoolers: three to five (3-5) years old;

Middle childhood: six to eleven (6-11) years old; and

Adolescents: twelve to eighteen (12-18) years old.

Starting July 1, 2016, all ambulances shall be equipped with, but not limited to, all of the following:

A. Minimum of two (2) stretchers;

1. One (1) multilevel, elevating, wheeled cot with elevating back. Two (2) patient restraining straps (chest and thigh) minimum, at least two (2) inches wide shall be provided.

2. One (1) secondary patient transport stretcher, with a minimum of two (2) patient restraining straps. Minimum acceptable stretcher is vinyl covered, aluminum frame, folding stretcher.

B. Suction Devices;

1. An engine vacuum operated or electrically powered, complete suction aspiration system, shall be installed permanently on board to provide for the primary patient. It shall have wide bore tubing.

2. Portable suction device with regulator with at least a six (6) ounce reservoir.

3. Wide-bore tubing, rigid pharyngeal curved suction tip; tonsil and flexible suction catheters, 6 Fr–16 Fr, are commercially available must have two (2) between 6F and 10F and two (2) between 12 Fr and 16 Fr.

C. Oxygen Equipment;

1. Portable Oxygen Equipment: Minimum “D” size (360 Liter) cylinder, two (2) required (one (1) in service and one (1) full and sealed). Liter flow gauges shall be non-gravity, dependent type. Additionally, when the vehicle is in motion, all oxygen cylinders shall be readily accessible and securely stored.

2. Permanent On-Board Oxygen Equipment: The ambulance shall have a hospital grade piped oxygen system, capable of storing and supplying a minimum of 2400 liters of humidified medical oxygen.

3. Single-use, individually wrapped, non-rebreather masks and cannulas in adult and pediatric sizes shall be provided (three (3) each).

4. A “No Smoking” sign shall be prominently displayed in the patient compartment.

5. Pulse oximeter with adult and pediatric capabilities. Special Purpose Ambulances shall also maintain infant pulse oximetry capabilities.

D. Bag Mask Ventilation (BVM) Units;

1. One (1) adult, one (1) pediatric, one (1) infant: hand-operated. Valves must operate in all weather, and unit must be equipped to be capable of delivering ninety to one hundred percent (90-100%) oxygen to the patient. BVMs must include safety pop-off mechanism with override capability. Three (3) additional masks sizes small adult, toddler, and neonate shall be carried.

E. Nonmetallic Oropharyngeal (OPA) (Berman type) and Nasopharyngeal Airways (NPA);

1. All airways shall be clean and individually wrapped.

2. “S” tube-type airways may not be substituted for Berman type airways.

3. One each of the following sizes: NPA: 14 Fr-34 Fr and OPA sizes to accommodate neonate through large adult.

F. Bite sticks commercially made (clean and individually wrapped);

G. Eight (8) sterile dressings (minimum size five (5) inches by nine (9) inches);

H. Twenty-four (24) sterile gauze pads four (4) inches by four (4) inches;

I. Ten (10) bandages, self-adhering type, minimum three (3) inches by five (5) yards. Bandages must be individually wrapped or in clean containers;

J. A minimum of two (2) commercial sterile occlusive dressings, four (4) inches by four (4) inches;

K. Adhesive Tape, hypoallergenic, one (1) inch, two (2) inch, and three (3) inches wide;

L. Burn sheets, two (2), sterile;

M. Splints;

1. Traction type, lower extremity, overall length of splint minimum of forty-three (43) inches, with limb support slings, padded ankle hitch, traction device and heel stand. Either the Bi-polar or Uni-polar type is acceptable.

2. Padded type, two (2) each, three (3) feet long, of material comparable to four-ply wood for coadaptation splinting of the lower extremities.

3. Padded wooden type, two (2) each, fifteen (15) inches by three (3) inches, for fractures of the upper extremity. Commercially available arm or leg splints may be substituted for items in Section 701.M.2 above, such as cardboard, metal, pneumatic, vacuum, or plastic.

N. Spinal immobilization devices;

1. Commercially available vest type KED, XP1 or other equivalent is acceptable.

2. Child backboard or pediatric board or any type commercially available spinal immobilization device sized for the pediatric patient.

3. Long spine board, at least sixteen (16) inches by seventy-two (72) inches constructed of three-quarter (3/4) inch impervious material and having at least three-quarter (3/4) inch runners on each side for lifting with appropriate straps. If not equipped with runners, board must be designed so handholds are accessible with work gloves.

4. Cervical collars to accommodate the infant, child, adolescent, and adult sizes. Collars must be manufactured of semi-rigid or rigid material. Commercially available adjustable collars may be substituted, must carry two (2) of each child adjustable and adult adjustable.

5. Six (6) patient restraint straps or commercially available disposable straps to accommodate patients from large adult to child sizes.

6. Head immobilization device, commercially available or towel or blanket rolls.

O. Three (3) each triangular bandages;

P. Two (2) blankets;

Q. Bandage shears, large size or trauma shears;

R. Obstetrical kit, sterile. The kit shall contain gloves, scissors or surgical blades, umbilical cord clamps or tapes, dressings, towels, perinatal pad, bulb syringe and a receiving blanket for delivery of infant;

S. Blood pressure manometer, cuff and stethoscope;

1. Blood pressure set, portable, both pediatric and adult.

2. Stethoscopes (adult and pediatric capable).

T. Emesis basin or commercially available emesis container;

U. Bedpan and urinal;

V. Two (2) functional battery operated, hand-carried flashlights or electric lanterns, suitable for illuminating both a localized work area or a walkway. Penlights do not meet this requirement;

W. Minimum of one (1) fire extinguisher, CO₂ or dry chemical, five (5) pound capacity, type ABC;

X. Working gloves, two (2) pair with leather palms and reflective vests that meet American National Standard (ANSI 201) for High Visibility Public Safety Vests for each crew member;

Y. Minimum of 1000 cc of sterile water or normal saline solution for irrigation;

Z. Protective head gear and eye protection devices (minimum two (2) each) must be carried on each ambulance. Standard fire helmet face shield is not acceptable;

AA. Latex-free personal protective equipment including gloves, masks, gowns and eye shields;

BB. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unless staffed by ALS personnel who are utilizing a manual monitor or defibrillator. Monitor may be utilized by BLS personnel if “AED Mode” is an available setting. The AED shall have pediatric capabilities, including child sized pads or a dose attenuator with adult pads;

CC. Flameless Flares: Three (3) red reflectorized (such as reflective triangles) or chemically induced illumination devices may be substituted for flares. Combustible type flares are not acceptable;

DD. One (1) set battery jumper cables, minimum 04 gauge copper, 600 amp rating; EE.

Glucometer with a minimum of five (5) test strips (Medical Control Option); FF. One

(1) commercially available arterial tourniquet device; and

GG. Five (5) adhesive bandages.

Section 702. Intermediate and Advanced Equipment.

Ambulances providing intermediate and advanced life support must, in addition to meeting all other requirements of Section 701 must have the following equipment:

A. Butterfly or scalp vein needles between nineteen (19) and twenty-five (25) gauge, a total of four (4) (Medical Control Option);

B. Four (4) each fourteen (14), sixteen (16), eighteen (18), twenty (20), twenty-two (22), and twenty-four (24) gauge IV cannulae;

C. Two (2) macro drip sets;

D. Two (2) micro drip sets;

E. Three (3) twenty-one (21) or twenty-three (23) and three (3) twenty-five (25) gauge needles, total six (6) as an MCO;

F. Three (3) intravenous (IV) tourniquets;

G. Laryngoscope handle with batteries;

H. Laryngoscope blades, adult, child, and infant sizes;

1. 0-4 Miller.

2. 1-4 Macintosh.

I. One (1) each disposable endotracheal tubes sizes as well as intubation stylettes sized for each tube;

1. 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 mm cuffed or uncuffed.

2. 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0 mm.

J. Equipment for drawing blood samples as an MCO;

K. Syringes, two (2) each 1 ml, 3 ml, 10 ml, 20 ml, and one (1) greater than or equal to 50 ml;

L. Twelve (12) alcohol and iodine preps for preparing IV injection sites;

M. A minimum of four (4) liters of normal saline or other appropriate IV solution;

N. Intraosseous devices;

1. Pediatric – minimum of two (2) sizes.

2. Adult – Minimum of one (1) size as an MCO.

O. Ambulances providing advanced cardiac life support must be equipped with a battery powered (DC) portable monitor-defibrillator unit, appropriate for both adult and pediatric patients with ECG printout and capable of transcutaneous pacing. The monitor-defibrillator equipment utilized by the service must have the capability of producing hard copy of patient's ECG, a 12-lead ECG, and performing continuous monitoring of end tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO₂) output. Portable EtCO₂ devices that meet the same criteria as above may be substituted;

P. Such medications or fluids as may be approved by the Department for possession and administration by EMTs trained and certified in their use and authorized by the provider's Medical Control Physician, as documented to the Department;

Q. Magill Forceps;

1. Adult.

2. Pediatric.

R. Blind Insertion Airway Devices (BIADs) such as dual lumen or LMA airways, age and weight appropriate;

S. Portable sharps container; and

T. Pediatric length-based, weight-based, or age-based medication dose chart or tape.

Section 703. EMT Rapid Responder Equipment.

A. All licensed Rapid Responder agencies operating within the state shall carry equipment required in the following sections. Protocols submitted must indicate areas where Medical Control Option (MCO) equipment is being authorized.

B. The Rapid Responder agency's vehicle must be properly marked as to identify the vehicle as an emergency vehicle.

C. The Rapid Responder agency shall follow the exact equipment cleanliness guidelines as outlined for transporting providers in Section 800.

D. All Rapid Responder vehicles will be equipped with at least the following items from Section 701: B.2, B.3, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, BB.

E. Age and weight appropriate BIADs (Section 702.R) are an MCO for all Rapid Responder licenses.

F. Equipment in addition to Section 703.E to be carried by EMT-I or AEMT Rapid Responders:

1. Four (4) each, fourteen (14), sixteen (16), eighteen (18), twenty (20), and twenty-two (22) gauge IV cannulae;

2. Two (2) macro drip sets;

3. Two (2) micro drip sets;

4. One (1) sharps container;

5. A minimum of four (4) liters of normal saline or other appropriate IV solution;

6. Three (3) IV tourniquets;

7. Twelve (12) each, alcohol and iodine preps for preparing IV injection sites;

8. Five (5) adhesive bandages; and

9. Such medications or fluids as may be approved by the Department for possession and administration by EMTs trained and certified in their use and authorized by the provider's Medical Control Physician, as documented to the Department.

G. Equipment in addition to Section 703.F to be carried by Paramedic Rapid Responders:

1. Rapid Responders providing ALS must be equipped with a battery powered (DC) portable monitor-defibrillator unit, appropriate for both adult and pediatric patients with ECG printout and capable of transcutaneous pacing. The monitor-defibrillator equipment utilized by the service must have the capability of producing a hard copy of the patient's ECG and performing continuous monitoring of end tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO₂) output;

2. Such medications or fluids as may be approved by the Department for possession and administration by EMTs trained and certified in their use and authorized by the provider's Medical Control Physician, as documented to the Department;

3. As an MCO, ALS Rapid Responders may carry the following equipment from Section 702: G, H, I, P, S; and

4. ALS Rapid Responder agencies not providing laryngoscopic intubation must carry age and weight appropriate BIADs for airway management.

H. Any ALS agency not performing laryngoscopic intubations, and only providing BIADs for airway management, is not required to provide continuous monitoring of end tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO₂) output.

Section 704. Special Purpose Ambulance Equipment.

A. All special purpose ambulances shall be equipped with at least the following items from Section 701: A.1, B, C, D (appropriate size), E, F, T, U, V, W, X, AA, BB, CC in addition to the special purpose equipment that is documented to the Department as enumerated in Section 407. Section 407.A.1 can be replaced by a specialized patient transfer device so long as there is a provision to safely secure the device in the special purpose ambulance.

B. Special purpose equipment as documented to the Department as enumerated in Section 407 must be on the special purpose ambulance when it is in use and is subject to inventory and inspection by the Department as provided for in Section 407.

SECTION 800.

SANITATION STANDARDS FOR LICENSED PROVIDERS

Section 801. Exterior Surfaces.

A. The exterior of the vehicle shall have a reasonably clean appearance.

B. All exterior lighting shall be kept clear of foreign matter (insects, road grime, or other) to ensure adequate visibility.

Section 802. Interior Surfaces Patient Compartment-Ambulance.

A. Interior surfaces shall be of a nonporous material to allow ease of cleaning. Carpet-type materials shall not be used on any surface of the patient compartment.

B. Floors shall be free from sand, dirt and other residue that may have been tracked into the compartment.

C. Wall, cabinet, and bench surfaces shall be kept free of dust, sand, grease, or any other accumulated surface matter.

D. Interiors of cabinets and compartments shall be kept free from dust, moisture or other accumulated foreign matter.

E. Bloodstains, vomitus, feces, urine and other similar matter must be cleaned from the unit and all equipment after each call, using an agent or sodium hypochlorite solution described in Section 802.H.

F. Window glass and cabinet doors shall be clean and free from foreign matter.

G. A receptacle shall be provided for the deposit of trash, litter, and all used items.

H. An EPA recommended germicidal/virucidal agent or a hypochlorite solution of ninety-nine (99) parts water and one (1) part bleach must be used to clean patient contact areas. For surfaces where such an EPA solution is not recommended, alcohol or sodium hypochlorite solution can be used.

I. A container specifically for the deposit of contaminated needles or syringes and a second container for contaminated or infectious waste shall be provided and will be easily accessible from the patient compartment.

J. All licensed providers must carry sufficient, appropriate cleaning supplies in their vehicles so that the crews are able to clean their unit between calls and be in compliance with Sections 802.A through G.

Section 803. Linen.

A. Storage area for clean linens shall be provided in such configuration so that linens remain dry and clean. (Ambulance)

B. Freshly laundered or disposable linens (minimum of six (6) sets) shall be used on cots and pillows, and shall be changed after each patient is transported. (Ambulance)

C. Soiled linen is to be transported in a closed plastic bag or container and removed from the ambulance as soon as possible.

D. Blankets and towels shall be clean and stored in such a manner to ensure cleanliness.

1. Towels and sheets shall not be used more than once between laundering.
2. Blankets shall be laundered or cleaned as they become soiled. Blankets shall preferably be of a hypoallergenic material designed for easy maintenance.

Section 804. Oxygen Administration Apparatus. (II)

- A. Oxygen administration devices such as masks, cannulas, and delivery tubing shall be disposable and once used shall be disposed of and not reused.
- B. All masks and cannulas and tubing shall be individually wrapped and not opened until used on a patient.
- C. Oxygen humidifiers shall be filled with distilled or sterile water upon use only. Reusable humidifiers must be cleaned after each use. Disposable, single-use humidifiers are acceptable in lieu of multiuse types.
- D. All units that carry portable oxygen must have a non-sparking oxygen wrench for use with the oxygen tanks on that unit.

Section 805. Resuscitation Equipment. (II)

- A. Bag mask assemblies and masks shall be free from dust, moisture, and other foreign matter and stored in the original container, jump kit, or a closed compartment to promote sanitation of the unit. Additional equipment needed to facilitate the use of a bag valve mask, such as a syringe, shall be stored with the bag mask assembly. Masks, valves, reservoirs, and other items or attachments for bag mask assemblies shall be clean. Manufacturer's recommendations on single-use equipment shall be followed where indicated.
- B. An EPA recommended germicidal/virucidal agent or a sodium hypochlorite solution of ninety-nine (99) parts water and one (1) part bleach must be used to clean equipment not specifically addressed as single-use. For surfaces where such an EPA solution is not recommended, alcohol or sodium hypochlorite solution shall be used.

Section 806. Suction Unit.

- A. Suction hoses shall be clean and free from foreign matter. Manufacturer's recommendations on single-use equipment must be followed where indicated.
- B. Suction reservoir shall be clean and dry.
- C. Suction units shall be clean and free from dust, dirt or other foreign matter.
- D. Tonsil tips and suction catheters shall be of the single-use, disposable type, stored in sealed, sterile packaging until used.
- E. Suction units with attachments shall be cleaned and sanitized after each use. (See Section 805.B).

Section 807. Splints.

- A. Padded splints shall be neatly covered with a non-permeable material and clean. When the outside cover of the splint becomes soiled, they shall be thoroughly cleaned or replaced.
- B. Pneumatic trousers, if used, shall be clean and free from dust, dirt or other foreign matter.
- C. Commercial splints shall be free of dust, dirt or other foreign matter.
- D. Traction splints with commercial supports shall be clean and free from accumulated material.
- E. All splinting materials must be stored in such a manner as to promote and maintain cleanliness.
- F. All splints must be in functional working order with the recommended manufacturer's attachments.
- G. Manufacturer's recommendations on single-use equipment must be followed where indicated.

Section 808. Stretchers and Spine Boards.

- A. Pillows, mattresses and head immobilization devices (HIDs) shall be covered with a non-permeable material and in good repair. (Single-use items are exempt.)
- B. Stretchers, cots, pillows, HIDs and spine boards shall be clean and free from foreign material.
- C. Canvas or neoprene covers on portable type stretchers shall be in good repair.
- D. All restraint straps and/or devices shall be kept clean and shall be washed immediately if soiled.
- E. Spinal immobilization boards shall be manufactured from an appropriate material to facilitate cleaning.
- F. All spinal immobilization boards shall be free from rough edges or areas that may cause injury.

Section 809. Bandages and Dressings. (II)

- A. Bandages need not be sterile, but they must be clean. They shall be individually wrapped or stored in a closed container or cabinet to ensure cleanliness.
- B. Dressings must be sterile, individually packaged and sealed, and stored in a closed container or compartment. If the seal is broken or wrap is torn, the dressing is to be discarded.
- C. Dressings or burn sheets must be sterile and single-use only.
- D. Triangular bandages must be single-use disposable type.
- E. All bandages or dressings that have been exposed to moisture or otherwise have become soiled must be replaced.

Section 810. Obstetrical (OB) Kits. (II)

A. All OB kits must be sterile and wrapped with cellophane or plastic. If the wrapper is torn or the kit is opened but not used, the items in the kit that are not individually wrapped must be resterilized or discarded and replaced.

B. OB kits must be single-use only.

C. Items that have an expiration date in OB kits may be replaced individually if other items are individually sealed and sterile.

Section 811. Oropharyngeal Appliances. (II)

Instruments inserted into a patient's mouth or nose that are single-use only shall be individually wrapped and stored properly. All instruments inserted into a patient's mouth (such as laryngoscope blades) that are not intended for single-use only must be cleaned and decontaminated following manufacturer's guidelines.

Section 812. Communicable Diseases. (II)

A. When an ambulance or transport vehicle has been contaminated in the transport of a patient known to have a blood-borne or respiratory droplet-borne pathogen, the vehicle must be taken out of service until cleaning and decontamination is completed.

B. Linen must be removed from the cot and properly disposed of, or immediately placed in a plastic bag or container and sealed until properly cleaned.

C. Patient contact areas, equipment and any surface soiled during the call, must be cleaned in accordance with Section 802.H of these guidelines.

Section 813. Miscellaneous Equipment.

Miscellaneous equipment such as scissors, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs and/or other items used for direct patient care shall be cleansed as they become soiled. Items shall be kept clean and free from foreign matter.

Section 814. Equipment and Materials Storage Areas.

Equipment not used in direct patient care shall be in storage spaces that prevent contamination or damage to direct patient care equipment or materials.

Section 815. Personnel.

A. All personnel functioning on the vehicle shall present themselves in a clean appearance at all times. This includes both the certified EMS attendants and the non-certified drivers if applicable.

B. Hands and forearms shall be thoroughly washed according to Standard 1910.1030 set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

C. Uniforms and clothing shall be clean or changed if they become soiled, contaminated, or exposed to vomitus, blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM).

SECTION 900.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Section 901. General.

A. All ambulance attendants shall have a valid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic) certificate. No person shall provide patient care within the scope of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic) without having proper South Carolina certification from the Department. (I)

B. EMTs (EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic) shall only engage in those practices for which they have been trained and are within the scope of their Department-issued certification. Students currently enrolled in a Department-approved EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic program under the supervision of an appropriately credentialed preceptor may practice advanced skills for which they have been authorized in their respective training program. (I)

C. EMTs (EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic) shall perform procedures under the supervision of a physician licensed in South Carolina. The means of supervision shall be direct, by standing orders or by electronic or voice communications. (I)

D. All Department-certified EMTs (EMT, EMT-I, Special Purpose EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic) shall maintain an up-to-date profile in the South Carolina Credentialing Information System (CIS). (III)

E. A pocket ID card shall be issued along with the South Carolina certificate. The original pocket card must be in the possession of the EMT (EMT, EMT-I, Special Purpose EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic) at all times that the EMT is on-duty or patient care is being rendered. (III)

F. Except in cases of a disaster or catastrophe, when licensed services in the locality are insufficient to render the required services and/or mutual aid is requested, a South Carolina EMT certification (all levels) is limited in its scope of practice to South Carolina. (III)

Section 902. Initial EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic Certification. (I)

A. Any person seeking certification as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic shall complete the appropriate Department-approved training program, pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination for the level of certification desired, possess a current NREMT credential, and meet the requirements established by the Department as provided by S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(C).

B. A person seeking certification as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic must undergo a state criminal history background check, supported by fingerprints by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and a national criminal history background check, supported by fingerprints by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

1. The results of these criminal history background checks are reported to the Department. SLED is authorized to retain the fingerprints for certification purposes and for notification to the Department regarding criminal charges.

2. The cost of the state criminal history background check is delineated in S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(D).

3. The state and national criminal history background checks are required for all EMTs when the EMT applies for certification or recertification. The results of these criminal history background checks are only valid for forty-five (45) days from the date the results are received by the Department from SLED and the FBI.

4. Applications for certification of individuals convicted of or under indictment for the following crimes shall be denied in all cases:

a. Felonies involving criminal sexual conduct;

b. Felonies involving the physical or sexual abuse of children, the elderly, or the infirm including, but not limited to, criminal sexual conduct with a minor, making or distributing child pornography or using a child in a sexual display, incest involving a child, or assault on a vulnerable adult; or

c. Crimes against vulnerable populations (such as, but not limited to, children, patients, or residents of a healthcare facility) including abuse, neglect, theft from, or financial exploitation of a person entrusted to the care or protection of the applicant.

C. Applications from individuals convicted of, or under indictment for, other offenses not listed above will be reviewed by the Department on a case by case basis.

D. All Certifications are valid for a period not exceeding four (4) years from the date of issuance as provided in S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(E).

Section 903. Recertification of EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic Certification.

A. EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics shall recertify their Department-issued certification by submitting the following to the Department a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to expiration of their certificate:

1. A properly completed and signed application for recertification;

2. Documentation of current NREMT credentials for the appropriate level of certification; and

3. Other credential(s) as required by the Department (state-approved CPR credential and/or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) credential).

4. An individual who was certified in this state before October 1, 2006, and has continuously maintained a South Carolina state EMT certification at any level without lapse, may continue to renew that certification without a NREMT credential.

5. An individual who has gained a NREMT credential on or after October 1, 2006, must maintain their NREMT credential to be certified, recertified, and maintain their South Carolina certification.

B. EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics seeking recertification shall undergo a state and national criminal history background check as provided for in S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(D).

Section 904. Special Purpose EMT.

A. A person seeking a South Carolina Special Purpose EMT credential shall meet all requirements established by the Department.

B. All South Carolina certified individuals shall maintain an up-to-date profile in the South Carolina Credentialing Information System (CIS).

C. A person seeking a certification or recertification as a Special Purpose EMT must undergo a state criminal history background check as provided in S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(D).

D. In order to be issued a valid Special Purpose EMT certificate, an individual must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The Special Purpose EMT must be a South Carolina licensed registered nurse (RN) or a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) State RN who works in a critical care hospital setting such as neonatology, pediatrics, or cardiac care;

2. The Special Purpose EMT must have completed an acceptable training program for delivery of the special area or possess experience in that special care area satisfactory to the Department;

3. The Special Purpose EMT must be employed by the medical service which utilizes the special purpose ambulance and recommended by the director of the medical service which utilizes the special purpose ambulance;

4. The medical service by which the Special Purpose EMT is employed must have operational procedures and medical protocols directing the daily operations of the Special Purpose EMT and special purpose ambulance. These medical protocols must be in written or electronic form, approved, and signed by the Medical Control Physician of the licensed EMS agency which operates the special purpose ambulance in order for the Special Purpose EMT to administer the special medical treatment required by these protocols;

5. A South Carolina Special Purpose EMT certificate shall be in force no more than four (4) years;

6. A pocket ID card shall be issued along with the South Carolina certificate. The original pocket card must be in the possession of that Special Purpose EMT individual all times that the person is on-duty or patient care is being rendered; and

7. Special Purpose EMTs shall only engage in those practices for which they have been trained and have been approved by the Department.

E. Special purpose EMTs may be assisted by other healthcare professionals who are determined qualified and approved by the Department to assist in attendance of the patient during transportation in a special purpose ambulance.

Section 905. Reciprocity.

A. Candidates seeking reciprocity in South Carolina must hold either a NREMT credential or a current certification from another state for the level for which they are applying.

B. Candidates seeking reciprocity as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic must undergo the required criminal history background check in accordance with S.C. Code Section 44-61-80(D). The results of these criminal history background checks are only valid for forty-five (45) days from the date the results are received by the Department from SLED and FBI.

C. Candidates not certified in South Carolina who hold a current and valid NREMT certification may apply for direct reciprocity at the level of the NREMT credential they hold by creating (and maintaining) an up-to-date profile in the South Carolina Credentialing Information System (CIS) and submitting the following:

1. A properly completed and signed reciprocity application;

2. A copy of their current NREMT certification for the level of reciprocity for which they are making application; and

3. All other requirements as established by the Department.

D. South Carolina EMT certificates for all levels of direct reciprocity shall expire four (4) years from the date the Department approves the candidate's application.

E. A pocket ID card shall be issued along with the South Carolina certificate. The original pocket card must be in the possession of that individual at all times that the EMT is on-duty or patient care is being rendered.

F. EMT certifications (EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic) must maintain a NREMT credential to be certified, recertified, and maintain their current South Carolina certification.

G. Candidates not certified in South Carolina who hold a current and valid EMT certification from other states may apply for a one (1) year provisional reciprocity at the level of the certification they hold by creating (and maintaining) an up-to-date profile in the South Carolina Credentialing Information System (CIS) and submitting the following:

1. A properly completed and signed reciprocity application;

2. A properly completed out-of-state certification verification form;

3. A copy of their current state certification pocket card for the level of provisional reciprocity for which they are making application. The pocket card must show their out-of-state certification expiration date. All provisional reciprocity candidates must have a minimum of six (6) months remaining on their out-of-state certification by the time the Department receives all required documentation necessary for certification. Exceptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis; and

4. All other requirements as established by the Department.

H. South Carolina EMT certificates for all levels of provisional reciprocity will expire on the fifteenth (15th) of the month one (1) year from the date of issue. Provisional certifications are non-renewable and extensions are not permitted.

I. A pocket ID card will be issued along with the South Carolina certificate. The original pocket card must be in the possession of that individual all times that patient care is being rendered.

J. To convert a provisional certification to a regular South Carolina certification a reciprocity candidate must complete all requirements necessary to obtain a NREMT certification. All recertification requirements must meet all conditions stated in Section 903.

K. EMT certifications (EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic) must maintain a current NREMT credential to be certified, recertified, and maintain their current South Carolina certification.

Section 906. Certification Examinations.

A. Any candidate desiring EMT certification in South Carolina must successfully pass the NREMT examinations and obtain a NREMT certification.

B. The Department is responsible for the approval and location of all EMT psychomotor examination sites in South Carolina.

C. In accordance with NREMT guidelines, the psychomotor portion of the NREMT examinations for the EMT may be delegated to the approved training institutions to be conducted as part of the EMT course or may be conducted as a separate psychomotor examination approved by the Department. This psychomotor examination must be monitored by either a NREMT testing representative or a Department representative. The ability of a training institution to conduct an NREMT psychomotor examination may be revoked at any time should the Department discover such examinations are not being held in accordance with NREMT guidelines.

D. The AEMT and Paramedic psychomotor portion of the NREMT examination shall be conducted in accordance to the NREMT guidelines.

Section 907. Emergency Medical Technician Training Programs. (II)

A. These programs, which include initial and refresher EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic, are established by the Department and offered in approved technical colleges, other colleges and universities, vocational schools, and State Regional EMS training offices. The curricula for these training programs are the most current National EMS Education Standards (“Standards”) or any other curricula approved by the Department. Paramedic programs must be CAAHEP accredited or hold a CoAEMSP Letter of Review.

1. An application must be filed with the Department for a training institution to receive approval. No EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic training program may be conducted without approval by the Department.

2. All approved training institutions must designate one (1) person as the EMT program coordinator. This person shall be responsible to the Department for compliance with all applicable requirements pertaining to the training program.

3. Upon recommendation of the South Carolina EMS Training Committee and approval of the South Carolina EMS Advisory Council, a list of required equipment for the training programs will be maintained by the Department and updated as necessary.

4. Training institutions will be granted approval for no more than four (4) years at which time a re-approval may be granted to training institutions which have been compliant with all

requirements and have actively conducted initial EMT training programs. An institution shall not conduct courses with expired institution credentials.

5. Department-approved Training Centers in existence prior to the effective date of these regulations shall continue to provide EMT training in accordance with the provisions of this article.

6. All EMS training institutions must be granted approval by the Department prior to advertising or beginning any EMT course.

7. Any EMT course offered through an approved institution shall be an open course, with the exception of classes which are closed due to associated security concerns and/or requirements. Regardless of the location of the course, any candidate who satisfies the eligibility requirements shall be granted a seat in the course on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats have been filled.

8. EMT teaching institutions that instruct ALS shall retain a Medical Control Physician to provide medical oversight over their program.

B. Continuing Education Program or CE (formerly In-Service Training (IST) Program) – This program is established by the Department and is granted to approved South Carolina licensed EMS agencies for the sole purpose of recertification of South Carolina credentialed EMTs on their roster.

1. EMS agencies seeking approval for a CE program must file an application with the Department.

2. Upon recommendation of the South Carolina EMS Training Committee and approval of the South Carolina EMS Advisory Council, a list of required equipment for the CE programs will be maintained by the Department and updated as necessary.

3. CE programs will be granted approval for no more than four (4) years at which time reapproval may be granted to IST programs which have been compliant with all requirements.

4. All CE programs must meet or exceed all requirements established by the NREMT for recertification.

5. No South Carolina licensed EMS provider may begin a CE program prior to receiving approval by the Department.

6. CE programs may verify skills for currently credentialed state and NREMT personnel on their CIS roster. Provisional credentialed EMTs must have their NREMT skills verified at a Department approved NREMT testing site.

C. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) – The Department may approve additional CEUs on a case-by-case basis from medical schools, hospitals, simulation centers, Department credentialed teaching institutions, formal conventions, seminars, workshops, educational classes, and symposiums. All Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) approved courses are accepted by the Department for CE credit in accordance with NREMT standards.

1. Requests for state approved CEUs are made through the Department and must be received by the Department in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled event.

2. Requests for state approved CEUs must include the following:

- a. Date, times, and agenda of the event;
- b. Topics covered;
- c. List of speakers and their credentials; and
- d. Any additional information which may be requested by the Department.

D. Pilot Programs – The Department may authorize providers to initiate pilot programs which provide training in new and innovative procedures that have potential for lifesaving care.

1. Under no circumstances shall pilot programs be initiated without prior approval by the Department.

2. Those who wish to initiate a pilot program must provide in writing to the Department a detailed proposal of the program and any supporting materials. Upon recommendation by the South Carolina Medical Control Committee and with approval by the South Carolina EMS Advisory Council, the Department may authorize the program.

3. The EMTs who participate in these programs are allowed to perform the pilot procedures, under Medical Control Physician oversight, during the period of the pilot program.

4. At the conclusion of the pilot program, a study must be submitted to the Department describing the outcome or results of the program. Research gained from the pilot programs may be used to revise and upgrade existing EMT programs and scope of practice.

E. All training programs shall be taught by Department-certified instructors. Instructors that meet all requirements and satisfactorily complete the Department's instructor orientation of the EMT Course Administration and Policy Guidelines shall be certified by the Department. Instructor certifications shall expire on the last day of the month in which their State EMT certification expires.

F. To be certified as an EMT instructor, all new candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. Be twenty-one (21) years of age or older;
2. Possess high school diploma or GED;
3. Possess a current State and NREMT Paramedic credential;

4. Successfully completed a forty (40) hour state, National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE), International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), ProBoard or Department of Defense (DOD) fire instructor, or South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy instructor methodology course;

5. Possess a current and valid CPR instructor credential;

6. Must submit a properly completed and signed instructor application; and

7. Meet all other requirements for their level of instructor certification as required by the Department.

G. Instructor certificates may be renewed by submission of the following:

1. A properly completed and signed instructor recertification application;

2. A copy of a current South Carolina and NREMT Paramedic certification;

3. A copy of a current and valid CPR instructor credential;

4. Satisfaction of all teaching requirements as determined by the Department; and

5. Satisfaction of all other requirements as determined by the Department.

H. An EMT Instructor authorization may be suspended or revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Any act of misconduct as outlined in Section 1100;

2. Suspension or revocation of the holder's South Carolina or NREMT certification;

3. Failure to maintain required credentials necessary for instructor designation;

4. Any act of proven sexual harassment toward another instructor or candidate;

5. Use of profane, obscene or vulgar language while in the presence of candidates or the EMT program coordinator during the context of class or related functions;

6. Conducting class without the minimum required equipment available and in working condition;

7. The use of any curricula not approved by the Department;

8. Gross or repeated violations of policy pertaining to the EMT training program;

9. Multiple instructor reprimands within a given period of time as established by the Department; or

10. Any other actions determined by the Department that compromises the integrity of the program. Those actions may include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Unprofessional behavior in the classroom;

b. Failure to notify the EMT program coordinator when classes must be cancelled or rescheduled;

c. Consistently starting class late or dismissing class early;

- d. Conducting classes while under the influence of alcohol;
- e. Conducting classes while under the influence of drugs that negatively impair the ability to instruct (prescribed, non-prescribed, or illegal);
- f. Falsification of any documents pertaining to the course (such as attendance logs, equipment checklist); or
- g. Repeated class results on the written and/or practical portion(s) of candidate examinations reflecting a class pass rate on the NREMT cognitive or psychomotor examinations of less than fifty percent (50%) (first-time pass rate) for two (2) consecutive same level classes or two (2) classes of the same level in three (3) years.

Section 908. Endorsement of Credentials.

A. The Department is tasked by S.C. Code Section 44-61-30(A) with developing standards and promulgating regulations for the improvement of emergency medical services.

B. There are areas of specialized practice in EMS which require further education, training, and clinical experience to receive credentials in those specialized areas of care and practice. The Department has an obligation to the public to recognize, endorse, and regulate these specialized practices to ensure a uniform scope of practice across the state.

C. The Department shall establish minimum educational and clinical guidelines for these endorsed credentials beyond a Paramedic certification.

D. The Department-endorsed credential shall include, but is not limited to, the following areas of specialized training:

1. Community Paramedic;
2. Critical Care Paramedic; and
3. Tactical Paramedic.

E. Endorsement of South Carolina credentials shall only be granted by the Department to Paramedics that are currently certified by the Department and hold an unencumbered current South Carolina certification. If a Paramedic's South Carolina certification is expired, suspended, or revoked by the Department, the endorsement follows the same status as their certification.

F. The specially endorsed South Carolina Paramedics shall only practice their skills within the scope of practice of their Department-approved agency, under a South Carolina licensed Medical Control Physician. Specially endorsed Paramedics are not independent healthcare practitioners.

G. The specially endorsed South Carolina Paramedics shall require additional specialty continuing education as determined by the Department.

H. The types of care rendered by the specially endorsed Paramedics shall include, but are not limited to, critical care interfacility services, prehospital services, preventative care, social service referrals, chronic care support, follow-up care and maintenance, and tactical medical support of law enforcement.

I. Licensed agencies using these specialized services shall have specific protocols by their Medical Control Physician and approved by the Department.

Section 909. Certification Patches.

A. An individual initially certified in South Carolina at any level shall receive a complimentary patch for the level which he or she received his or her certification.

B. Additional patches may be purchased for individuals for services which meet the following criteria:

1. The individual holds a current South Carolina certification; or

2. The individual is an EMS agency director, logistics officer, or training officer and is purchasing patches in bulk for his or her service.

SECTION 1000.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS (I)

A. During the transportation of patients, there shall be an EMT, EMT-I, AEMT or Paramedic in the patient compartment at all times. The crew member with the highest level of certification shall determine which crew member will attend the patient during transport. If advanced life support procedures are in use, the responsible EMT-I, AEMT or Paramedic shall attend the patient in the patient compartment during transport.

B. Exception: Transferring or receiving medical facilities' registered nurses and physicians are authorized as ground ambulance attendants when assisting EMTs in the performance of their duties when all of the following requirements are met:

1. The required medical care of the patient is beyond the scope of practice for the certification level of the EMT.

2. When the ambulance transport is between medical facilities or from medical facility to the patient's residence.

3. When the responsible physician, transferring or receiving, assumes responsibility of the patient and provides appropriate orders, written preferred, to the registered nurse for patient care.

4. The registered nurse is on duty with the appropriate medical facility during the ambulance transport.

C. No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall operate any emergency vehicle owned or operated by the licensed provider.

D. No person shall act or serve in the capacity of attending a patient while under felony indictment or with certain past felony convictions as listed in Section 902.B.4.

E. All licensed providers must notify the Department immediately should they become aware of a felony indictment or conviction of any person on their roster.

SECTION 1100.

REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATES OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (I)

A. The Department shall, upon receiving a complaint of misconduct as herein defined, initiate an investigation to determine whether or not suitable cause exists to take action against the holder of an emergency medical technician certificate.

1. The initial complaint shall be in the form of a brief statement, dated and signed by the person making the complaint, which shall identify the person or service that is the subject of the complaint and contain a summary as to the nature of the complaint. The Department is also authorized to initiate an investigation based upon information acquired from other sources.

2. Information received by the Department through inspection, complaint or otherwise authorized under S.C. Code Sections 44-61-10 et seq. shall not be disclosed publicly except in a proceeding involving the question of licensing, certification or revocation of a license or certificate.

B. "Misconduct" constituting grounds for a revocation or suspension or other restriction of a certificate means while holding a certificate, the holder:

1. Used a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document or practiced a fraudulent, deceitful, or dishonest act in connection with any of the certification requirements or official documents required by the Department;

2. Was convicted of a felony or another crime involving moral turpitude, drugs, or gross immorality;

3. Was addicted to alcohol or drugs to such a degree as to render the holder unfit to perform as an EMT;

4. Sustained a physical or mental disability that renders further practice by him dangerous to the public;

5. Obtained fees or assisted in the obtaining of such fees under dishonorable, false or fraudulent circumstances;

6. Disregarded an appropriate order by a physician concerning emergency treatment and transportation;

7. At the scene of an accident or illness, refused to administer emergency care on the grounds of age, sex, race, religion, creed or national origin of the patient;

8. After initiating care of a patient at the scene of an accident or illness, discontinued such care or abandoned the patient without the patient's consent or without providing for the further administration of care by an equal or higher medical authority;

9. Revealed confidences entrusted to him in the course of medical attendance, unless such revelation is required by law or is necessary in order to protect the welfare of the individual or the community;

10. By action or omission and without mitigating circumstance, contributed to or furthered the injury or illness of a patient under his care;

11. Was careless, or reckless, or irresponsible in the operation of an emergency vehicle;

12. Performed skills above the level for which he was certified or performed skills that he was not trained to do;

13. Observed the administration of sub-standard care by another EMT or other medical provider without documenting the event and notifying a supervisor;

14. By his actions, or inactions created a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm could result;

15. Did not take or complete remedial training or other courses of action as directed by the Department;

16. Was found guilty of the falsification of any documentation as required by the Department;

17. Breached a section of the Emergency Medical Services Act of South Carolina or a subsequent amendment of the Act or any rules or regulations published pursuant to the Act.

18. Failed to provide a patient emergency medical treatment of a quality deemed acceptable by the Department.

C. The Department may take enforcement action, including suspending or revoking certifications or assessing a monetary penalty against the holder of a certificate at any time it is determined that the holder no longer meets the prescribed qualifications for being a certified EMT as provided in this regulation and the EMS Act.

D. The suspension or revocation of the emergency medical technician certificate shall include all levels of certification.

E. Any adverse action or event related to credentialed personnel shall be reported as required to the National Practitioner Data Bank, in accordance with federal law.

SECTION 1200.

AIR AMBULANCES

Section 1201. Licensing. (I)

It shall be unlawful for any ambulance service provider, agent or broker to secure or arrange for air ambulance service originating in the State of South Carolina unless such ambulance service meets the provisions of South Carolina Emergency Medical Services Act and regulations.

A. Air Ambulance Licensing and Insurance Requirements:

1. Air ambulance licensing procedures must meet the requirements in Section 400. Air ambulance permit procedures are contained in Section 500. A Department issued permit is required for each aircraft;

2. As part of the licensing procedure, every air ambulance operator shall carry an air ambulance insurance policy. The coverage amounts shall ensure that;

a. Each aircraft shall be insured for the minimum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for injuries to, or death of, any one (1) person arising out of any one (1) incident or accident;

b. The minimum amount of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for injuries to, or death of, more than one (1) person in any one (1) accident;

c. The minimum amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for damage to property from any one (1) accident;

d. Submit proof that the provider carries professional liability coverage in the minimum amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per occurrence, with a company license to do business in the aircraft's home assigned state; and

e. All listed insurance shall provide a thirty (30) day cancellation notice to the Department. In accordance with Section 303, an agency is subject to enforcement action including but not limited to revocation or fines for laps of coverage for any period of time. A schedule of fines is listed in Section 1501.

3. Submit a copy of current FAA operational certificate and include designation for air ambulance operations, Administration Air Taxi and Commercial Operator Certification, ACTO;

4. Submit a letter of agreement that all aircraft shall meet the specifications of all applicable subsections of Section 501, if the aircraft is leased from a pool;

5. Proof that the Medical Control Physician meets the qualifications of Section 402;

6. The operator or firm must conform to all Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs), which are rules prescribed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 135; and

7. Each aircraft must be inspected and issued a permit by the Department prior to use.

B. Out-of-State Air Ambulances.

1. Out-of-state air ambulances transporting patients from locations originating in South Carolina must obtain a license in South Carolina prior to engaging in operations and must have a current and valid license in their home state, if applicable, except where exempt pursuant S.C. Code Section 44-61-100(D).

2. Out-of-state air ambulances operating in a state where no license is available must obtain a license in South Carolina and meet all requirements in Section 1200.

3. Out-of-state air ambulances transporting patients initiating in South Carolina must have the patient care report submitted into the South Carolina PreMIS system within seventy-two (72) hours of completing the transport.

C. Air Ambulance Categories:

1. Prehospital Transport Air Ambulance. Air ambulance services that transport patients in the prehospital setting will be permitted as either an advanced or basic life support service. In addition each prehospital service shall be required to meet the requirements and be licensed accordingly. Each such service shall contract with a Medical Control Physician.

2. Special Purpose Air Ambulance. The interfacility transportation of a critically injured or ill patient by an air ambulance (fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft) that includes the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the normal scope of practice of a Paramedic. The Special Purpose air unit is necessary when a patient's condition requires ongoing care that must be furnished by one (1) or more healthcare professionals in an appropriate specialty area (such as neonate, critical care nursing, respiratory care, cardiovascular care), or a Paramedic with additional training approved by the Department. It is the responsibility of the provider's Medical Control Physician to ensure that the level of patient care required in any given transport is adequate for that patient's medical needs.

D. Air Ambulance Aircraft Requirements. The aircraft operator shall, in all operations, comply with all federal aviation regulations which are adopted by reference, FAA Part 135. The aircraft shall meet the following specifications:

1. Be configured in such a way that the medical attendants have adequate access for the provision of patient care within the cabin to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation and maintain patient's life support;

a. The aircraft or ambulance must have an entry that allows loading and unloading without excessive maneuvering (no more than forty-five (45) degrees about the lateral axis and thirty (30) degrees about the longitudinal axis) of the patient.

b. The configuration does not compromise functioning of monitoring systems, intravenous lines, and manual or mechanical ventilation.

2. A minimum of one (1) stretcher or cot must be provided that can be carried to the patient and allow loading of a supine patient by two (2) attendants;

a. The maximum gross weight allowed on the stretcher or cot (inclusive of patient and equipment) as consistent with manufacturer's guidelines.

b. Aircraft stretchers, cots, and the means of securing it in-flight must be consistent with national aviation regulations.

c. The stretcher or cot must be sturdy and rigid enough that it can support cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

d. The head of the cot is capable of being elevated at least thirty (30) degrees for patient care and comfort.

e. The patient placement must allow for safe medical personnel egress.

3. Have appropriate communication equipment to ensure both internal crew and air to ground exchange of information between individuals and agencies appropriate to the mission, including at least medical control, air traffic control, emergency services (EMS, law enforcement agencies, and fire), and navigational aids;

4. Be equipped with radio headsets that ensure internal crew communications and transmission to appropriate agencies;

5. Pilot is able to control and override radio transmissions from the cockpit in the event of an emergency situation;

6. Lighting. Supplemental lighting system shall be installed in the aircraft or ambulance in which standard lighting is insufficient for patient care;

a. A self-contained lighting system powered by a battery pack or a portable light with a battery source must be available.

b. There must be adequate lighting for patient care. Use of red lighting or low intensity lighting in the patient care area is acceptable if not able to isolate the patient care area from effects on the cockpit or on a pilot.

c. For those flights meeting the definition of “long range,” additional policies must be in place to address how adequate cabin lighting will be provided during fueling and or technical stops to ensure proper patient assessment can be performed and adequate patient care provided.

7. Have hooks and/or appropriate devices for hanging intravenous fluid bags;

8. Helicopters must have an external landing light and tail-rotor position light;

9. Design must not compromise patient stability in loading, unloading, or in-flight operations;

10. Temperature; and

a. The interior of the aircraft must be climate controlled to avoid adverse effects on patients and personnel on board.

b. Thermometer is to be mounted inside the cabin.

c. Cabin temperatures must be measured and documented every fifteen (15) minutes during a patient transport until temperatures are maintained within the range of fifty to ninety-five (50 to 95) degrees Fahrenheit (ten to thirty-five (10 to 35) degrees Celsius) for aircraft.

11. Electric power outlet. Must be provided with an inverter or appropriate power source of sufficient output to meet the requirements of the complete specialized equipment package without compromising the operation of any electrical aircraft or ambulance equipment. Extra batteries are required for critical patient care equipment.

E. Aircraft Flight Crew Manning Requirements. The aircraft operator shall, in all operations, comply with all federal aviation regulations which are adopted by reference, FAA Part 135.

1. Rotorcraft Pilot:

a. The pilot must possess at least a commercial rotorcraft-helicopter and instrument helicopter rating 05.07.02.

b. The pilot in command must possess two thousand (2000) total flight hours (or total flight hours of at least fifteen hundred (1500) hours and recent experience that exceeds the operator's pre-hire qualifications such as current air medical and/or search and rescue experience or Airline Transport Pilot, ATP, rated) prior to an assignment with a medical service with the following stipulations:

i. A minimum of twelve hundred (1200) helicopter flight hours;

ii. At least one thousand (1000) of those hours must be as Pilot-in-Charge (PIC) in rotorcraft;

iii. One hundred (100) hours unaided (if pilot is not assigned to a Night Vision Goggles (NVG) base or aircraft);

iv. One hundred (100) hours unaided or fifty (50) hours unaided as long as the pilot has one hundred (100) hours aided (if assigned to an NVG base or aircraft); and

v. A minimum of five hundred (500) hours of turbine time.

c. The pilot must be readily available within a defined call-up time to ensure an expeditious and timely response.

2. Rotorcraft mechanic:

a. The helicopter mechanic is vital to mission readiness and, as such, shall possess at least two (2) years of experience and must be a certified air frame and power plant mechanic.

b. The mechanic must be properly trained and FAA certified to maintain the aircraft designed by the flight service for its aeromedical program.

3. Fixed-Wing Pilot:

a. A fixed-wing pilot must possess two thousand (2000) airplane flight hours prior to assignment with a medical service with the following stipulations:

i. At least one thousand (1000) of those hours must be as Pilot-in-Charge (PIC) in an airplane;

ii. At least five hundred (500) of those hours must be multi-engine airplane time as PIC. (Not required of single-engine turbine aircraft);

iii. At least one hundred (100) of those hours must be night flight time as PIC; and

iv. Both pilots in a two-pilot aircraft must be ATP rated.

b. In aircraft that require two (2) pilots, both pilots must be type rated for that make and model, and both pilots must hold first class medical certificates if the certificate holder operates

internationally. Both pilots must have training on Crew Resource Management (CRM), or Multi-pilot Crew Coordination (MCC).

4. Fixed-Wing Mechanic:

a. The mechanic is vital to mission readiness and must be a certified air frame and power plant mechanic.

b. The mechanic must be properly trained and FAA certified to maintain the aircraft designated by the flight service for its aeromedical program.

c. The mechanic must obtain and maintain a current Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certificate.

F. Off-Line Medical Control Physician (Medical Director). The off-line Medical Control Physician of air ambulance services shall be responsible for:

1. Being knowledgeable of the capabilities and limitations of the aircraft used by his service;

2. Being knowledgeable of the medical staff's capability relative to the patient's needs;

3. Being knowledgeable of the routine and special medical equipment available to the service;

4. Ensuring that each patient is evaluated prior to a flight for the purpose of determining that appropriate aircraft, flight and medical crew and equipment are provided to meet the patient's needs;

5. Ensuring that all medical crew members are adequately trained to perform in-flight duties prior to functioning in an in-flight capacity; and

6. Must meet all requirements, duties and responsibilities listed in Section 402.

G. Aircraft Medical Crew Requirements:

1. Each basic life support air ambulance must be staffed with at least one (1) currently certified South Carolina EMT.

2. Each advanced life support air ambulance must be staffed with at least one (1) currently certified South Carolina Paramedic or South Carolina flight nurse as may be required by the patient's condition.

3. Each special purpose air ambulance must be staffed with at least one (1) Special Purpose EMT, Paramedic or RN with specialty training, as approved by the Department.

4. Each crew member must wear a flame retardant uniform with reflective striping.

5. Each crew member must display a legible photo identification with first name and certification level (for example, pilot, RN, or other) while patient care is anticipated to be rendered.

H. Orientation Program:

1. All medical flight crew members must complete a base level flight orientation program approved by the Department and supervised by the service's Medical Control Physician.

2. The flight orientation program shall be of sufficient duration and substance to cover all patient care procedures, including altitude physiology, and flight crew requirements.

Section 1202. Medical Supplies and Equipment. (II)

A. Local Medical Control Option (MCO) items are required equipment, unless the Medical Control Physician declines to carry suggested equipment. The MCO items must be stated in writing (such as incorporated into SOPs or Standing Orders) and submitted to the Department within ten (10) days of change.

B. Delivering Oxygen. Oxygen shall be installed according to national aviation regulations (FAA Part 135.91). Medical transport personnel can determine how oxygen is functioning by pressure gauges mounted in the patient care area.

1. Each gas outlet shall be clearly identified.

2. "No Smoking" sign shall be included.

3. Oxygen flow must be stoppable at or near the oxygen source from inside the aircraft or ambulance.

4. The following indicators shall be accessible to medical transport personnel while en route:

a. Quantity of oxygen remaining; and

b. Measurement of liter flow.

5. Adequate amounts of oxygen for anticipated liter flow and length of transport with an emergency reserve must be available for every mission.

6. When the vehicle is in motion, all oxygen cylinders shall be affixed to a wall or floor with crash stable, quick release fittings.

C. Sanitation. The floor, sides, ceiling and equipment in the patient cabin of the aircraft or ambulance must be a nonporous surface capable of being cleaned and disinfected by the standards listed in Section 800.

D. Basic Life Support (BLS) Equipment. BLS Air Ambulances shall have all the following equipment on board:

1. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED);

a. An AED shall be secured and positioned for easy access to the medical attendant(s).

b. Adult and Pediatric paddles, pads, and cables shall be available.

2. Suction Device. A portable suction device, age and weight appropriate, with wide bore tubing and at least a six (6) ounce reservoir;

- a. Wide-bore, rigid pharyngeal curved suction tip: Minimum, two (2) each.
- b. Sterile, single-use, flexible suction catheter between 6 Fr – 16 Fr: Minimum, two (2):
 - i. One (1) must be between 6 Fr – 10 Fr.
 - ii. One (1) must be between 12 Fr – 16 Fr.

3. Airway Equipment;

- a. Nasal Cannulas (NC): Adult and pediatric with adequate length tubing, two (2) each.
- b. Non-Rebreather Mask (NRB): Adult and pediatric with adequate length tubing, two (2) each.
- c. Nasopharyngeal airways (NPAs): 16 Fr-34 Fr adult and child sizes, one (1) each. All airways shall be stored in a manner to maintain cleanliness.
- d. Nonmetallic oropharyngeal airways (OPAs): sizes 0-5, one (1) each. All airways shall be stored in a manner to maintain cleanliness.
- e. Bag Valve Ventilation Units (BVMs):
 - i. One (1) adult, hand operated. Valves must operate in all weather, and unit must be equipped to be capable of delivering ninety to one hundred (90 to 100) percent oxygen to the patient.
 - ii. One (1) child, hand operated. Valves must operate in all weather and unit must be equipped to be capable of delivering ninety to one hundred (90 to 100) percent oxygen to the patient. The BVM must include safety pop-off mechanism with override capability.
 - iii. One (1) infant, hand operated. Valves must operate in all weather and unit must be equipped to be capable of delivering ninety to one hundred (90 to 100) percent oxygen to the patient. The BVM must include safety pop-off mechanism with override capability.
 - iv. In conjunction with the ventilation units above, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 masks will be carried (either the disposable or non-disposable types, local MCO).
- f. Adult and Pediatric Magill forceps, one (1) each (local MCO).
- g. Blind Insertion Airway Device (BIAD): meet all age and weight size categories as defined by Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Syringe(s) needed to inflate bulbs shall be included in packaging, if not appropriate size(s) must be carried by provider (local MCO).

4. Bandage Material;

- a. ABD pad five (5) inches by nine (9) inches, or larger, two (2) minimum.
- b. Individually wrapped, sterile four (4) inches by four (4) inches gauze pad, fifteen (15) minimum.

c. Gauze bandage rolls individually wrapped and sterile in three (3) varieties of sizes (for example, 4.5 inches x 4.1 yards, 3.4 inches x 3.6 yards), one (1) each.

d. Commercial sterile occlusive dressing, minimum size four (4) inches by four (4) inches, two (2) each.

e. Adhesive tape, hypoallergenic, one (1), two (2), and three (3) inches wide, one (1) each.

f. Sterile burn sheet, one (1) each (local MCO).

g. Triangular bandages, minimum two (2) each (local MCO).

h. Large trauma bandage shears, one (1) each.

i. Minimum of 250 mL of sterile water or normal saline for irrigation.

5. Splints;

a. Traction-type, lower extremity splint. Uni-polar or bi-polar type is acceptable (local MCO).

b. Padded, wooden-type splints, two (2) each, fifteen (15) inches by three (3) inches and thirty-six (36) inches by three (3) inches, or other approved commercially available splints for arm or leg fractures (local MCO).

6. Spine Boards;

a. One (1) Long Spine Board (at least sixteen (16) inches by seventy-two (72) inches). The use of folding backboards is acceptable as a substitute for the long spine board (local MCO).

b. Cervical collars for adult and pediatric adjustable or available in sizes of short, regular, or tall; minimum one (1) each. Each cervical collar shall be manufactured with rigid or semi-rigid material (local MCO).

c. Adult and Pediatric head immobilization device, commercially or premade: One (1) each (local MCO).

d. Nine (9) foot straps, minimum three (3) each, or one set of 10-point spider straps (local MCO).

7. Obstetrical kit: The kit shall be sterile, latex free and contain the following: gloves, scissors or surgical blades, umbilical cord clamps or tapes, dressing, towels, perinatal pad, bulb syringe and a receiving blanket for delivery of infant (local MCO);

8. Assessment tools; and

a. Adult and Pediatric blood pressure sphygmomanometer, cuff, bladder, and tubing must be clean and in good repair.

b. Stethoscope with membrane(s) and tubing in good repair.

c. Adult and Pediatric pulse oximeter with numeric reading.

d. Glucometer or blood glucose measuring device (local MCO).

9. Miscellaneous Equipment:

a. Eye protection or face shield, one (1) for each medical crew member (local MCO).

b. Non-sterile, latex free exam gloves in two (2) variations of size, labeled; minimum of five (5) pairs each.

c. Waterless hand cleanser, commercial antimicrobial.

d. EPA recommended germicidal/virucidal agent or a sodium hypochlorite solution of ninety-nine (99) parts water and one (1) part bleach used for cleaning equipment.

e. A clearly marked sharps container (may be fixed or portable) with locking mechanism.

f. Emesis basin, one (1) (local MCO).

g. Bedpan and urinal, one (1) each (local MCO).

h. Two (2) dependable flashlights or electric lanterns.

i. One (1) fire extinguisher approved for aircraft use. Each shall be fully charged with valid inspection certification and capable of extinguishing type A, B, or C fires. At least one (1) hand fire extinguisher must be provided and conveniently located on the flight deck for use by the flight crew.

j. Additional equipment. Equipment not found in this regulation is subject to inspection and must be stored and operate to the manufacturer's recommendations. If any fault is found, the equipment must be immediately removed for repair and/or replacement.

E. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Equipment. Air ambulances providing ALS in the Prehospital or Special Purpose category must have all the following equipment and supplies on board in addition to Section 1202.D:

1. Cardiac monitor;

a. Must be secured and positioned so that displays are visible to the medical attendant(s) and;

b. Must have printable four (4) lead waveform, twelve (12) lead/EKG, SpO2 waveform with numeric reading, and invasive pressure monitor port(s) for adult and pediatric (including neonate, if applicable) and;

c. One (1) extra roll of printer paper;

d. Have an internal rechargeable battery pack(s);

- e. Extra battery or AC adapter and cord available;
 - f. Defibrillator, which may be integrated into cardiac monitor modular to include:
 - i. Adult and Pediatric paddles and pads are available; and
 - ii. Appropriate size pads and settings must be available for neonatal transports (if neonatal transports are conducted); and
 - g. Adult and Pediatric capabilities to Transcutaneous Pace. Either stand-alone unit or integrated in to cardiac monitor modular.
2. Advanced airway and ventilatory support equipment;
- a. One (1) laryngoscope handle with extra set of batteries and bulbs, if applicable.
 - b. Laryngoscope blades, adult, child, and infant sizes.
 - i. 0-4 Miller.
 - ii. 1-4 Macintosh.
 - c. One (1) each disposable endotracheal tubes sizes as well as intubation stylettes sized for each tube.
 - i. 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 mm cuffed or uncuffed.
 - ii. 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0 mm.
 - i. Other sizes (local MCO).
 - d. Water soluble lubricating jelly, four (4) each.
 - e. Adult and Pediatric Magill forceps, one (1) each.
 - f. Blind Insertion Airway Device (BIAD) that meet all age and weight size categories as defined by FDA. Syringe(s) needed to inflate bulbs shall be included in packaging, if not appropriate size(s) must be carried by provider.
 - g. Age appropriate Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) valve (may be incorporated into BVMs).
 - h. A mechanical ventilator and circuit appropriate to age/weight, including neonate (if applicable) which must include measurement of:
 - i. Fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO₂);
 - ii. Tidal volume (V_t);
 - iii. Respiratory rate (RR) or frequency; and

iv. Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP).

i. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), able to be incorporated within the mechanical ventilator; appropriate settings and attachments (such as face masks) for adults and pediatric patients, and neonate patients (if applicable).

j. Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP), which may be incorporated within the mechanical ventilator; appropriate settings and attachments for adults and pediatric; neonate (if applicable).

k. Printable waveform End-tidal CO₂ continuous monitoring capabilities, which may be incorporated within cardiac monitor modular.

3. Venous Access;

a. Intravenous catheters 14g-20g, two (2) of each.

i. 22g-24g, two (2) each required if pediatric or neonate transports are conducted.

b. Intraosseous needles.

i. Adult and Pediatric needles.

ii. Neonate size required if applicable.

c. Minimum of two (2) macro drip sets, 10-20gtts/mL.

d. Minimum of two (2) independent multi-channel infusion pump that allows fluid and medications to be administered at different rates, sequentially. IV pump, at minimum, must:

i. Have an internal rechargeable battery pack;

ii. Have a AC adapter and cord; and

iii. Display the infusion rate, volume infused, and volume remaining.

e. Two (2) sets of IV pump tubing.

f. 18g-25g needles at least one and one-half inch length, minimum of four (4):

i. Two (2) must be 18g-20g.

ii. Two (2) must be 23g-25g.

g. Syringes.

i. 1mL, two (2) each.

ii. 3-5mL, two (2) each.

iii. 10-20mL, four (4) each.

- h. Minimum of three (3) IV start kits containing:
 - i. Latex free tourniquet.
 - ii. Antiseptic solution.
 - iii. Latex free IV catheter dressing.
 - iv. Intravenous arm boards for pediatric patients, two (2) each (local MCO).

4. Intravenous Fluids;

- a. A total of 2000mL of intravenous fluids onboard, may be a combination of:
 - i. Sizes (such as 100mL-1000mL).
 - ii. Variety (such as Lactated Ringers, Normal Saline, D5W).
 - iii. Must have the capability to administer warm fluids.

5. Miscellaneous Equipment; and

- a. A current color-coded Pediatric weight and length-based drug dose chart.
- b. Alcohol or iodine prep pads for preparing IM injections, minimum six (6).

6. Additional equipment: equipment not found in this regulation is subject to inspection and must be stored and operate to the manufacture recommendations. If any fault is found, the equipment must be immediately removed for repair and/or replacement.

Section 1203. Special Purpose Air Ambulances. (II)

All special purpose air ambulances must be equipped with at least the following items from Section 1202: A, B, C, D, and E.

Section 1204. Medication and Fluids for Advanced Life Support Air Ambulances. (II)

Such medications and fluids approved by the Board for possession and administration by EMTs, and specified by the Medical Control Physician, will be carried on the air ambulance. Medications not included on the approved medication list for Paramedics may be carried on board the air ambulance so long as there is a written protocol which is signed and dated by the Medical Control Physician, for the use of the medications, fluid, or blood product and delineates administration only by a registered nurse or physician.

A. Medications must be easily accessible.

B. Controlled substances are in a double locked system and kept in a manner consistent with state and federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulations.

C. Storage of medications allows for protection from extreme temperature changes within the U.S. Pharmacopeia guidelines as listed in Section 601.I.5, if environment deems it necessary.

D. If there is a refrigerator on the vehicle for medications, a temperature monitoring and tracking policy is required, and the refrigerator is used and labeled “for medication use only.”

Section 1205. Rescue Exception. (II)

An aircraft without a permit may be used for occasional non routine missions, such as the rescue and transportation of victim/patients, who may or may not be ill or injured, from structures, depressions, water, cliffs, swamps or isolated scenes, when in the opinion of the rescuers or EMS provider present at the scene, such is the preferred method of rescue and transportation incident thereto due to the nature of the entrapment, condition of the victim, existence of an immediate life- threatening condition, roughness of terrain, time element and other pertinent factors:

A. Provided that after the initial rescue, an EMT or higher level EMS technician accompanies the victim-patient en-route with the necessary and appropriate EMS supplies needed for the en-route care of the specific injuries or illness involved.

B. Provided the aircraft is of adequate size and configuration to effectively make the rescue and to accommodate the victim-patient, attendant(s) and equipment.

C. Provided reasonable space is available inside the aircraft for continued victim-patient comfort and care.

D. Provided a permitted aircraft is not available within a reasonable distance response time; and

E. Provided the victim-patient is transferred to a higher level of EMS ground transportation for stabilization and transport if such ground unit is available at a reasonably safe landing area.

SECTION 1300.

PATIENT CARE REPORTS (III)

Section 1301. Patient Care Reports.

A. Each licensed provider must create and submit an electronic patient care report (ePCR) for each patient contact regardless of patient transport decision.

B. The primary care attendant is responsible for documenting all patient contact, care, and transport decision within the ePCR. All required documentation must be completed within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of call.

C. Each licensed provider must submit its ePCRs into PreMIS within seventy-two (72) hours of the conclusion of call.

D. When transporting to an emergency room (ER), patient ePCR shall be submitted to the ER within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the call. In lieu of that, a paper pre-run information sheet may be substituted until the ePCR is sent. ePCR information shall be sent no later than twenty-four (24) hours from completion of the call.

Section 1302. Data Manager.

A. Each licensed provider that provides patient care shall appoint a Data Manager to ensure accuracy, HIPAA compliance, security, and provide timely submission of ePCRs into PreMIS.

B. The Department must be notified of any change in the Data Manager within ten (10) days.

C. The Data Manager shall ensure that each ePCR submitted reflects all the attendants on the incident including non-certified drivers (if applicable).

Section 1303. Content.

A. Patient care reports shall reflect services, treatment, and care provided directly to the patient by the provider including, but not limited to, information required to properly identify the patient, a narrative description of the call from time of first patient contact to final destination, all providers on the call, and other information as determined by the Department.

B. All patient care reports shall be coherently written, authenticated by the author, and time stamped.

C. Patient care reports involving refusals shall include, but not be limited to the following: details of any assessment performed; information regarding the patient's capacity to refuse; information regarding an informed refusal by the patient; information regarding provider's efforts to convince the patient to accept care; and any efforts by the provider to protect the patient after the refusal if the patient becomes incapacitated.

D. Data submissions from ePCR software shall maintain a quality score no higher than fifty percent (50%) of the average state data quality score, as provided by the Department's vendor. Licensed providers shall have ninety (90) calendar days from the Department's notification to successfully correct data quality. For example, if the average state data quality score is five (5), then the licensed providers must have a quality score of seven and one half (7.5) or lower to meet this requirement.

Section 1304. Report Maintenance.

A. South Carolina utilizes PreMIS, an electronic patient care reporting system that is compliant with the current version of the National EMS Information System (NEMIS). Data submissions from ePCR software into the state system must meet the Department's requirements as outlined in the South Carolina EMS Data Manager's program manual.

B. The licensed provider shall provide accommodations and equipment adequate for the protection, security, and storage of patient care reports.

C. The Department maintains an electronic data stream of the ePCR with the state-required data elements from the original report. Licensed providers must maintain their copy of the original data, all attachments and appended versions of each ePCR for no less than ten (10) years on all adult patients and thirteen (13) years for minor patients as stated in S.C. Code Section 44-115-120. Attachments to ePCRs include, but are not limited to, EKGs, waveform capnography records, code summaries, short reports, and other forms of recorded media.

D. Prior to closure of business, the licensed provider must arrange for preservation of ePCRs to ensure compliance with these regulations. The provider must notify the Department, in writing, describing these arrangements within ten (10) days of closure.

E. In the event of a change of ownership, all patient care reports shall be transferred to the new owner(s).

F. The patient care report is confidential. Reports containing protected or confidential health information shall be made available only to authorized individuals in accordance with state and federal laws.

G. When patient care is transferred, the receiving agency shall receive the copy of the patient care report within a reasonable amount of time, preferably at the time of transfer, to ensure continuity in quality care.

H. Pursuant to S.C. Code Section 44-61-160, a person who intentionally fails to comply with reporting, confidentiality, or disclosure of requirements in this section is subject to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for a violation of the first time a person fails to comply and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5000) for a subsequent violation.

SECTION 1400.

DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER

Section 1401. Purpose and Authority of Emergency Medical Services Do Not Resuscitate Order.

A. Title 44, Chapter 78 of the 1976 S.C. Code directs the Department to promulgate regulations necessary to provide directions to emergency medical personnel in identifying and honoring the wishes of patients who have executed a Do Not Resuscitate Order for Emergency Services. The Do Not Resuscitate Order for Emergency Services is commonly referred to as the EMS DNR law.

B. The EMS DNR law is applicable only to resuscitative attempts by EMS providers in the pre-hospital setting such as the declarant's home, a long-term care facility, during transport to or from a health care facility and in other locations outside of acute care hospitals.

C. Specific statutory authority is found in S.C. Code Section 44-78-65.

Section 1402. Definitions.

A. The definitions contained in S.C. Code Section 44-78-15 are hereby incorporated by reference.

B. Agent or Surrogate means a person appointed by the declarant under a Health Care Power of Attorney, executed or made in accordance with the provisions of S.C. Code Sections 62-5-504 and/or 44-77-10.

C. Cardiac Arrest means the cessation of a functional heartbeat.

D. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or CPR means the use of artificial respirations to support restoration of functional breathing combined with closed chest massage to support restoration of a functional heart beat following cardiac arrest.

E. Department means the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

F. Respiratory Arrest (Pulmonary Arrest) means cessation of functional breathing.

G. Do Not Resuscitate Order for Emergency Medical Services marker is a bracelet or necklace that is engraved with the patient's name, the health care provider's name and telephone number and the words "Do Not Resuscitate" or the letters DNR.

Section 1403. General Provisions.

A. The EMS DNR Form. The document which is to be a "Do Not Resuscitate Order" for EMS purposes must be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE TO EMS PERSONNEL

This notice is to inform all emergency medical personnel who may be called to render assistance to

(Name of patient)

that he/she has a terminal condition which has been diagnosed by me and has specifically requested that no resuscitative efforts including artificial stimulation of the cardiopulmonary system by electrical, mechanical, or manual means be made in the event of cardio-pulmonary arrest.

REVOCATION PROCEDURE

THIS FORM MAY BE REVOKED BY AN ORAL STATEMENT BY THE PATIENT TO EMS PERSONNEL, OR BY MUTILATING, OBLITERATING, OR DESTROYING THE DOCUMENT IN ANY MANNER.

Date:_____

Patient's Signature (or Surrogate or Agent)

Physician's Signature

Physician's Address

Physician's Telephone Number

B. Distribution of the EMS DNR Form. The EMS DNR form, along with instructions for execution and a patient information sheet shall be distributed by the Department to health care

providers. Informational pamphlets shall be prepared by the Department and made available to other interested parties upon request.

C. Location of the Executed EMS DNR Form. The executed EMS DNR Form shall be placed in a location where the document is easily observed and recognized by EMS personnel. The form shall be displayed in such a manner that it will be visible and protected at all times.

D. EMS DNR Marker. The DNR marker shall be a bracelet or necklace as approved by the Department. The marker may be worn upon the execution of the EMS DNR Document. Wearing of the marker shall not be mandatory but is encouraged. The marker will alert EMS personnel of the probable existence of the EMS DNR document. The marker shall be of metallic construction and shall be unique and easily recognizable. The marker shall contain the patient's name, the health care provider's name and telephone number and the words "Do Not Resuscitate" or the letters DNR.

E. No person under the age of eighteen (18) may request or receive a "Do Not Resuscitate Order for Emergency Medical Services" as noted in S.C. Code Section 44-78-50(B).

Section 1404. Revocation of EMS DNR Order.

The EMS DNR Order may be revoked at any time by the oral expression of the patient to EMS personnel or by the mutilation, obliteration or destruction of the document in any manner. If the order is revoked, EMS personnel shall perform full resuscitation and treatment of the patient.

Section 1405. Patient's Assessment and Intervention. (II)

When EMS Personnel report to a scene, they shall do a patient assessment. If an EMS DNR bracelet or necklace is found during the assessment, EMS personnel shall make a reasonable effort to determine that an EMS DNR form exists and to ensure that the EMS DNR form applies to the person on which the assessment is being made. If no DNR form is found, resuscitative measure will be initiated. If after starting resuscitative measures an EMS DNR form is later found, resuscitative measure must be stopped.

Section 1406. Resuscitative Measures to be Withheld or Withdrawn. (II)

In the event that the patient has a valid EMS DNR order, the following procedures shall be withheld or withdrawn:

- A. CPR;
- B. Endotracheal intubation and other advanced airway management;
- C. Artificial ventilation;
- D. Defibrillation;
- E. Cardiac resuscitation medication; and
- F. Cardiac diagnostic monitoring (ONLY withheld in the face of cardiac arrest).

Section 1407. Procedures to Provide Palliative Treatment. (II)

The following treatment may be provided as appropriate to patients who have executed a valid EMS DNR order:

- A. Suctioning;
- B. Oxygen;
- C. Pain medication;
- D. Non-cardiac resuscitation medications;
- E. Assistance in the maintenance of an open airway as long as such assistance does not include intubation or advanced airway management;
- F. Control of bleeding;
- G. Comfort care; and
- H. Support to patient and family.

Section 1408. DNR Information for the Patient, the Patient's Family, the Health Care Provider and EMS Personnel. (II)

- A. Responsibilities of the patient or his or her Surrogate or agent.

The patient and his or her surrogate or agent shall:

1. Make all care givers aware of the location of the EMS DNR Form and ensure that the form is displayed in such a manner that it will be visible and available to EMS personnel.
2. Be aware of the consequences of refusing resuscitative measures.
3. Be aware that if the form is altered in any manner resuscitative measures will be initiated.
4. Understand that in all cases, supportive care will be provided to the patient.

- B. Responsibilities of the Health Care Provider (Physician) The patient's physician:

1. Has determined that the patient has a terminal condition.
2. Has completed the patient's EMS DNR Form.
3. Has explained to the patient and family the consequences of withholding resuscitative care; the medical procedures that will be withheld and the palliative and supportive care that will be administered to the patient.

- C. Responsibilities of EMS Personnel.

EMS personnel:

1. Will confirm the presence of the EMS DNR Form and the identity of the patient.
2. Upon finding an unaltered EMS DNR Form, will withhold or withdraw resuscitative measures such as CPR, endotracheal intubation or other advanced airway management, artificial ventilation, defibrillation, cardiac resuscitation medication and related procedures.
3. Will provide palliative and supportive treatment such as suctioning the airway, administration of oxygen, control of bleeding, provision of pain and non-cardiac medications, provide comfort care and provide emotional support for the patient and the patient's family.
4. Must have in his possession either the original or a copy of the DNR Order during transport of the patient.

SECTION 1500.

FINES AND MONETARY PENALTIES

Section 1501. Fines and Monetary Penalties.

A. When a decision is made to impose monetary penalties, the following schedule shall be used as a guide to determine the dollar amount:

MONETARY PENALTY RANGES

FREQUENCY	CLASS I	CLASS II	CLASS III
1 st	\$300 - 500	\$100 - 300	\$50 - 100
2 nd	\$500 - 1,500	\$300 - 500	\$100 - 300
3 rd	\$1,000 - 3,000	\$500 - 1,500	\$300 - 800
4 th	\$2,000 - 5,000	\$1,000 - 3,000	\$500 - 1,500
5 th	\$5,000 - 7,500	\$2,000 - 5,000	\$1,000 - 3,000
6 th or more	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$2,000 - 5,000

B. When a licensed agency fails a vehicle reinspection, a Class IV penalty may be levied upon the agency. Pursuant to S.C. Code Section 44-61-70, the following Class IV fine schedule shall be used when a permitted ambulance or licensed rapid responder service loses points upon reinspection:

Frequency of violation of standard within a thirty-six (36) month period:

MONETARY PENALTY RANGES

FREQUENCY	CLASS IV Points/Penalty	
1 st	0-24	\$25-50
2 nd	25-50	\$50-100
3 rd	51-100	\$100-300
4 th	101-500	\$300-500
5 th	501-1000	\$500-1500
6 th or more	Over 1000	\$1000-3000

C. There may be multiple occurrences of a violation (Class I, II, and III) within a one (1) day period

that would constitute multiple fineable occurrences. (For example, in allowing uncertified personnel to render patient care, each patient treated is an “occurrence” and thus a separate fineable offense.)

SECTION 1600. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any portion of these regulations is construed by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, or otherwise unenforceable, such determination shall in no manner affect the remaining portions of these regulations, and they shall remain in effect, as if such invalid portions were not originally a part of these regulations.

SECTION 1700.

GENERAL

Conditions that have not been addressed in these regulations shall be managed in accordance with best practices as interpreted by the Department.