

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
(Amended at ARRS Committee)

202 KAR 7:550. Required equipment and ground vehicle standards.

RELATES TO: KRS 13B, 311A.030, 311A.180, 311A.190, 29 C.F.R. 1910.135

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 311A.020, 311A.025, 311A.030, 311A.190

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This is to certify that this administrative regulation complies with the requirements of 2025 RS HB 6, Section 8.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 311A.020 requires the Board of Emergency Medical Services to exercise all administrative functions in the regulation of the emergency medical services system and the licensing of ambulance services and medical first response agencies, except those regulated by the Board of Medical Licensure or the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. KRS 311A.030 requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations for the licensing, inspection, and regulation of ambulance providers and medical first response agencies. This administrative regulation establishes the required equipment to operate an ambulance service.

Section 1. General Requirements for All Agencies.

- (1) The provisions of this section shall apply to all classes of agencies established in 202 KAR 7:545, except Class VII.
- (2) All agencies shall maintain, in fully operational order, the supplies, equipment, and medications as established for each Class of agency in the Ground Agency Equipment List.
- (3) All agencies shall maintain, in fully operational order, the supplies and equipment required by the agency's protocols.
- (4) All agencies shall maintain evidence in the form of a letter that adult and pediatric medical protocols have been reviewed and approved by the board pursuant to KRS 311A.180. A hard copy or non-web based electronic equivalent of approved protocols shall be accessible to each provider throughout each call or patient interaction.
- (5) All agencies shall stock and maintain drugs and medications as required by the master drug list contained in the agency's board-approved protocols.
- (6) All agencies shall store controlled substances in a locked storage box. Controlled substances on a vehicle shall be stored in a locked storage box and in a locked compartment on the vehicle that is immediately accessible to personnel.
- (7) All drugs and other items with an expiration date shall not be expired.
- (8) Each agency shall carry up-to-date reference material or a guide that shall be assigned to the ambulance or first response equipment and may be in a non-web based electronic or physical format that provides appropriate guidance for pediatric drug dosing and equipment sizing based on age, length, or weight.
- (9) This administrative regulation shall not prevent any agency from maintaining other supplies or equipment that are required to carry out its board-approved medical protocols.

Section 2. Ground Ambulance Specifications.

- (1) Ground ambulances utilized by Class I, II, III, and IV agencies shall:
 - (a) Have the name of the provider permanently affixed by paint, decal, or wrap on both sides of the exterior surface of the vehicle.
 1. The name shall be the incorporated name or the name under which the provider does business and as it appears on the provider's license.
 2. This requirement shall not preclude a provider from adding additional names from another entity on the vehicle due to a joint venture, if the name as licensed by the board is larger, and visible and legible by the public.

3. A vehicle operated by an agency shall not be marked with the words "advanced life support", "paramedic," or similar words that convey essentially the same meaning on the vehicle's exterior surface visible to the public unless the:
 - a. Vehicle is always staffed at an Advanced Life Support level; or
 - b. Agency was licensed by the board prior to January 1, 2018;
- (b) Be maintained in good operating condition and in full repair without obvious apparent problems relating to tires, exhaust, body integrity, warning devices, or mechanical reliability, which would be recognized by the average lay person who is not an automotive mechanic;
- (c) Be designed to provide for the medical care or transportation of patients;
- (d) Stow all equipment weighing three (3) pounds or more in an enclosure, equipment mount, equipment retention device, or other appropriate securing device that restrains and secures loose equipment from movement utilizing vehicle manufactured anchor points or other permanently installed safety belts;
- (e) Have tires that meet the manufacturer's standards for the gross vehicle weight of the vehicle.
 1. A tire shall not display exposed tire cord or have tread depth less than 4/32 if measured in any two (2) adjacent grooves at three (3) locations spaced equally around the tire.
 2. Retread tires shall not be used on ground vehicles.
 3. Internal patches may be utilized for tire repairs if necessary.
 4. More than two (2) patches shall not be used on any one (1) defective tire.
 5. Plugs shall not be used for the repair of defective ambulance tires; and
- (f) Not have windshields with any cracks.
- (2) All Class I, II, III, and IV ground ambulances shall fully comply with at least one (1) of the following standards in effect at the time an ambulance is ordered:
 - (a) The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Ground Vehicle Standard (GVS);
 - (b) The U.S. General Services Administration Federal Specification for Star-of-Life Ambulance (GSA KKK-A-1822); or
 - (c) The NFPA 1917 Standard for Automotive Ambulances.
- (3) Exceptions to the standard may only be taken for:
 - (a) Equipment installed after delivery and certification of the work is completed by a qualified installer authorized by the equipment manufacturer, accompanied by the appropriate documentation, and the equipment shall not negatively affect the crash testing standards;
 - (b) Perishable or disposable items that are designed to be routinely replaced by attendants;
 - (c) Equipment required to be mounted under the chosen standard that weighs less than three (3) pounds; or
 - (d) Required drip rails around the top of the modular body.
- (4) The executive director may allow an exemption to the utilized standard if the equipment for a specific make or model chassis is not yet available and if the exception does not directly affect the safety of the occupants. The ambulance shall be equipped with the exempted equipment once available.
- (5) A decal or letter of verification from the ambulance manufacturer certifying that the vehicle meets a vehicle standard established in this section shall be made available upon inspection.
- (6) For any vehicle in which the chassis of an ambulance is later replaced, the agency shall require the conversion company to supply a letter to verify that no modification exists that was contained in the GSA KKK-A-1822, GVS, or NFPA ambulance standards at the time of original manufacture or compliance with the current GVS or NFPA

ambulance remount standards, except, if not already equipped with a cot holder that is attached to metal tapping plates or framing welded to the body structure, the conversion company shall upgrade the cot holder and verify compliance in the conversion letter.

(7) In addition to the GVS, GSA KKK-A-1822, or NFPA standards, additional requirements shall be met as established in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subsection.

(a) The air-conditioning system shall minimally deliver a temperature of sixty-five (65) degrees Fahrenheit or less from the vent or vents in the driver and patient compartments in warm weather conditions as determined by a standard automotive testing thermometer.

(b) The heating system shall minimally deliver a temperature of eighty-five (85) degrees Fahrenheit or more from the vent or vents in the driver and patient compartments in cool weather conditions as determined by a standard automotive testing thermometer.

(c) There shall not be more patients, personnel, and other persons than can be safely secured by means of permanently installed safety belts in the vehicle while the vehicle is in motion.

(d) The patient care area lighting shall be fully functional.

(8) A preventive maintenance program shall be maintained for each vehicle and its equipment to keep them in optimum working order to protect the health and safety of the patient and ambulance personnel.

(9) Documentation shall be maintained by the agency to support evidence of periodic inspections as recommended by the manufacturer, including calibrations required for maintenance and operation of the vehicle and its equipment.

(10) Unless precluded by emergency conditions, each vehicle and its equipment shall be checked after each use to ensure that it is in a clean and sanitary condition.

(11)

(a) Except as established in paragraph (b) of this subsection, all linen used for patient care including sheets, blankets, pillowcases, pillows, towels, and washcloths shall be stowed in a separate cabinet and secured from body fluids.

(b) One (1) pillow, one (1) pillow-case, one (1) fitted sheet, two (2) flat sheets, one (1) towel, and two (2) blankets may be utilized on the stretcher that is in-service and shall not require stowing.

(12) Each ambulance shall have two (2) currently certified, five (5) pound size or larger ABC multipurpose fire extinguishers secured in the ambulance, which shall be approved by Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual, or the United States Coast Guard.

(13) Each ambulance shall have three (3) reflective triangles, strobes, or equivalent roadside warning devices.

Section 3. Additional Ambulance Equipment and Supplies for Class I, II, III, and IV Agencies. In addition to the equipment and supplies required by Section 1 of this administrative regulation, each Class I, II, III, and IV agency shall carry on each vehicle and maintain, in fully operational order, the following equipment and supplies:

(1) A hard copy or non-web based electronic equivalent of the most recent version of the U.S. Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook;

(2) A multi-position stretcher with:

(a) Wheels;

(b) A minimum of three (3) cross-straps;

(c) One (1) set of shoulder straps; and

(d) A fixed mechanism to secure the stretcher while in transit;

(3) A pediatric transport device, or a combination of devices, with a minimum weight range of five (5) to ninety-nine (99) pounds;

- (4) A stair chair for the movement of patients in a seated position, which shall not be required for Class IIIb or IIIc agencies; and
- (5) Reflective safety wear for each crew member that meet current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard ANSI 107-2010 or ANSI 207-2011.

Section 4. Additional Class III Neonatal Specialty Care (III NSC) Transport Equipment. In addition to the equipment and supplies required by Section 1 of this administrative regulation, each Class IIIc Neonatal Specialty Care agency shall carry on each vehicle and maintain, in fully operational order:

- (1) Direct, verbal two-way communications with the designated neonatologist, attending physician, or receiving NICU;
- (2) A standby or backup power source other than the one (1) contained in the isolette;
- (3) A source of electrical power sufficient to operate the isolette and ancillary electrically powered equipment; and
- (4) An isolette with:
 - (a) Restraints as established in the GSA KKK-A-1822;
 - (b) A power source capable of providing all necessary elements for the duration of the transport;
 - (c) A heat source capable of maintaining a core temperature within the range of thirty-six and one-half (36.5) to thirty-seven (37) degrees Celsius via ambient air temperature reading; and
 - (d) A monitoring device capable of measuring a patient's temperature.

Section 5. Additional Class VI, Class VIII, and IX Agency Equipment.

- (1) Each Class VIII and IX agency shall have ready access to and maintain, in fully operational order, at least two (2) complete sets of equipment required by the agency's protocols and the Ground Agency Equipment List.
- (2) In addition to the equipment and supplies required by section 1 of this administrative regulation, each Class VI agency shall be required to maintain reflective safety wear for each crew member that meet current ANSI standard ANSI 107-2010 or ANSI 207-2011.
- (3) Each non-transport vehicle shall wrap, properly store, and handle all single-service implements to be inserted into the patient's nose or mouth.
- (4) Each Class VI, VIII, and IX agency shall properly store and keep multiuse items clean and sterile if indicated.

Section 6. Safety Equipment.

- (1) In addition to the equipment and supplies required by section 1 and other applicable provisions of this administrative regulation, each Class I and VI ground agency licensed to respond to emergency pre-hospital responses shall provide and maintain, in full operational order, the following minimum light access and extrication equipment on the ambulance for each staff member:
 - (a) Eye protection goggles or safety glasses;
 - (b) Heavy work gloves; and
 - (c) Hard hats that meet ANSI standards, as stated in 29 C.F.R. 1910.135.
- (2) A ground ambulance agency subject to emergency pre-hospital response not equipped to provide extrication and rescue services shall execute an agreement with an agency capable of providing extrication and rescue services to the primary geographic service area.
- (3) Each Class II, III, VIII, and IX agency shall be exempt from the requirements of this section unless emergency pre-hospital response is included in the agency's scope of care.

Section 7. Equipment Waiver.

- (1) The board, for good cause, may grant a waiver of any section of this administrative regulation upon request. An applicant for waiver shall submit:

- (a) An "EMS Equipment Waiver Request"; and
 - (b) A nonrefundable application fee of \$500 per waiver request.
- (2) The application request shall include:
- (a) Evidence of prior good faith efforts to comply with each section for which a waiver is requested;
 - (b) A written explanation of the agency's inability to comply with each section for which a waiver is requested, including any financial or other significant hardship resulting from the agency's efforts to comply;
 - (c) A written plan for providing adequate care to patients;
 - (d) The length of time for which the waiver is requested; and
 - (e) A plan for compliance with each section of this administrative regulation for which a waiver has been requested.
- (3) Requests for waivers shall be submitted to the board via the agency's KEMSIS account.
- (4) The administrator and medical director of the agency requesting a waiver shall appear before the board's executive committee and the full board at a regularly scheduled meeting to present evidence of hardship that compliance with this administrative regulation may cause.
- (5) Any waiver issued by the board shall expire on December 31 of the year of issue.
- (6) Within twenty (20) days of the board's decision, the executive director shall notify the applicant of the decision in writing.
- (7) The board shall deny the waiver request if, after reviewing the application, it is determined that if the waiver is granted the:
- (a) Agency is no longer able to meet the needs of the agency's patients or geographic service area; or
 - (b) Health or safety of the agency's patients or geographic service area may be jeopardized.
- (8) An applicant whose request for waiver is denied may file a written request for a hearing within thirty (30) days of the written notice of denial.
- (9) If timely requested, a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

Section 8. Public Notice of Negative Action. The board office shall cause to be published, on the KBEMS Web site or similar publication of the board, or otherwise disseminate, the name of any licensed agency that is fined, placed on probationary status, placed on restricted status, suspended, or had a license revoked.

Section 9. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:
- (a) "EMS Equipment Waiver Request", (5/2026), <http://kemsis.ky.gov/>;;
 - (b) "Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Ground Vehicle Standard for Ambulances (GVS)", (7/2025), www.groundvehiclestandard.org/caas-releases-gvs-4/;
 - (c) "Ground Agency Equipment List", (4/2026), <https://kbems.ky.gov/About/Pages/Forms.aspx>.
 - (d) "NFPA 1917 Standard for Automotive Ambulances", (1/2019), www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-1917-standard-development/1917;
 - (e) "U.S. Department of Transportation, Emergency Response Guidebook", (2024), www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2024-04/ERG2024-Eng-Web-a.pdf; and
 - (f) "U.S. General Services Administration Federal Specification for Star of Life Ambulance (GSA KKK-A-1822)", (8/2007), as amended (6/2025), <https://catalog.gsafleet.gov/public/fvs/vehicle-standards/preview/2026/13/328>.

(202 KAR 007:550. 44 Ky.R. 1736, 2042, 2196; eff. 5-4-2018; 50 Ky.R. 426, 1251; eff. 12-13-2023; 52 Ky.R. 2147, 500; eff. 9-15-2026.)

FILED WITH LRC: August 11, 2026

CONTACT PERSON: John K. Wood, counsel for the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, 163 East Main Street, Suite 200, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, Phone: (859) 225-4714, Email: administrativeregulations@wgmfirm.com.