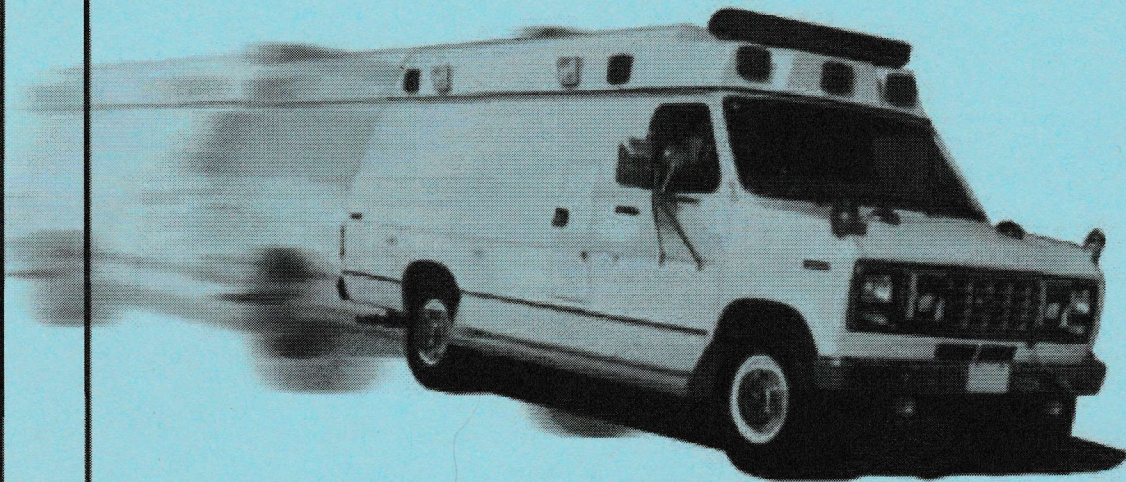


California Highway Patrol



Ambulance Driver's **HANDBOOK**



An Internationally Accredited Agency

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DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

AMBULANCE DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

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LDA

FOREWORD

The purpose of this handbook is to consolidate statutes, regulations, and information specifically related to the operation and equipment of emergency ambulances and to provide ready reference material on ambulance driver certificates, attendant requirements, and information on ambulance service operations.

Examinations for ambulance driver certificates are conducted at field offices of the State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Questions for the exams are based primarily on material contained in this handbook. However, this booklet DOES NOT contain all laws and regulations governing ambulance drivers, attendants, or services. The Vehicle Code, Health and Safety Code, and Title 13 (Division 2) and Title 22 (Division 9) of the California Code of Regulations should also be consulted. Care should be taken to distinguish between LAWS/REGULATIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS when studying for the ambulance driver examination.

This handbook was prepared by the Department of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) with the cooperation of the DMV and the State of California, Emergency Medical Services (EMS Authority). Driving tips contained herein were obtained from experienced CHP officers and from information obtained from the CHP Academy. Recommendations pertaining to emergency medical care training of ambulance personnel, medical care standards, and medical equipment performance standards or design were provided by the EMS Authority. Questions may be directed to the CHP, Commercial Vehicle Section (CVS), at P. O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001 or telephone (916) 445-1865.

Copies of this handbook may be purchased at local CHP and DMV offices or from CHP Publications Unit, telephone number (916) 325-2101. The complete Vehicle Code may be purchased at any local DMV office. Titles of the California Code of Regulations may be purchased from Barclays Law Publishers, at PO Box 95767, Chicago, IL 60694-5767 or telephone (800) 888-3600.

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INFORMATION AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- a. Compliance. Statutes and regulations governing the operation of emergency ambulances have been established for public health and safety. Compliance with applicable requirements and the exercise of sound judgment together with defensive driving techniques are essential for safe ambulance operation and will enhance patient transportation.
- b. Applicability of Regulations. The emergency ambulance service regulations adopted by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) apply to all publicly and privately owned ambulances used for emergency service (see Annex A). These regulations do not apply to ambulances not used to respond to emergency calls nor to those federally owned and operated ambulances which are operated in accordance with federal directives.
- c. Service License Requirement. Privately owned or operated emergency ambulances may not be equipped and operated as emergency vehicles nor respond to an emergency call unless the operating service has been licensed to do so by the CHP. Public agencies are not required to be licensed in order to operate an emergency ambulance service.

2. EXPLANATORY NOTES.

- a. Ambulance. The term "Ambulance" as used in Title 13, California Code of Regulations (13 CCR), Section 1100.2(a) refers to only those ambulances used to respond to emergency calls. However, the definition includes any vehicle, such as a "rescue" vehicle, when it has been specially modified or equipped with the intent to transport injured persons.
- b. Emergency Service. "Emergency service" means the functions involved in responding to a request for an ambulance to transport or assist persons in apparent sudden need of medical attention or otherwise in need of acute medical care during transportation. The definition permits ambulance transportation of a deceased victim when the ambulance has responded to an emergency call. An emergency ambulance should not ordinarily be used as a mortuary transport vehicle; however, victims presumed to be or pronounced dead at the scene of an emergency or in the ambulance may be transported as directed by proper authority. Any doubt as to the death of a victim must be resolved by assuming the victim is alive and transporting to an appropriate medical facility. In cases where

the victim is unquestionably deceased (decapitated, drowned, or incinerated) the coroner is the official charged by law to take possession of the remains, and the locally established procedures must apply.

- c. "Code 3" Operation. "Code 3" is a term used to describe the use of red warning lamps and siren as permitted by California Vehicle Code (VC) Section 21055 (see Annex B) if the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call. Emergency service, although related to apparent sudden need, does not always require "Code 3" operation. "Code 3" is justified only when initially responding to an emergency call or when speed in obtaining emergency medical care appears essential to save a life, prevent undue suffering, or to reduce or prevent disability. "Code 3" transportation of a stabilized patient is seldom necessary and often undesirable.
- d. Convictions. Those convictions that are specified in the regulations as affecting employment or certification remain convictions regardless of a subsequent action by the court to dismiss or set aside a guilty verdict as permitted by Penal Code Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4(a). Only criminal penalties and disabilities are released by such actions. The court relief does not apply to civil consequences such as the occupational restrictions specified in the regulations. The prohibitions are for the protection of the public in the exercise of police power and not to punish any person.
- e. Ambulance Identification. All ambulances operated under a single license must display the same name. The service name or the name under which the licensee is doing business as (DBA) shall be displayed on both sides and the rear of each vehicle. These requirements also apply to ambulances temporarily acquired by loan or lease. Publicly owned ambulances operated by a licensee under contract to the public agency shall display the name of the licensed service and may also display the name of the public agency under whose controlling authority the vehicle is operated.
- f. Service Availability. Ambulance owners or operators doing business under one or more licenses, are required to provide 24-hour service under each license. The 24-hour rule does not apply to an ambulance that provides service to special events or industrial employees and does not respond to calls from public agencies (13 CCR 1107).
- g. Warning Equipment Standards. Emergency ambulances are required to be equipped with warning lamps and sirens that comply with standards established by the CHP in 13 CCR (see Annex C).
- h. Fire Extinguisher Servicing. Fire extinguishers must be inspected and serviced yearly or immediately after use, whichever occurs first (Section 597.1 of Title 19, California Code of Regulations).

i. Ambulance Inspections. Licensee's vehicles are all required to be inspected initially and annually thereafter by CHP personnel. Random inspections by CHP personnel will be made to verify that the vehicles are maintained in compliance with applicable requirements. Ambulances found not in compliance when inspected may be removed from service and the identification cards confiscated until discrepancies have been corrected. Ambulance drivers should periodically verify that the ambulance which they are scheduled to drive has, in fact, been inspected by the CHP within the current license's period of validity. This information can be obtained from the Emergency Ambulance Identification Certificate or temporary operating authority issued by the CHP and required to be maintained in the ambulance. Publicly owned and operated ambulances are also subject to random inspections by the CHP.

j. Destination Restrictions. Destination restrictions are established to prevent ambulance transportation of emergency patients over unnecessarily long distances to obtain medical attention. However, the decisive factors permitting alternate destinations, must include consideration of the needs or desires of the patient, professional medical direction, and protocols established by the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency.

k. Escorts for Patients. The prohibition against unqualified personnel serving as the driver or attendant applies to required personnel and is not intended to preclude the transportation of the patient's family members or other persons directly concerned with the well being of the patient. It is recommended that all minors be accompanied whenever practicable.

l. Good Samaritan Laws. "Good Samaritan" laws provide limited protection from civil liability under specified circumstances when rendering emergency medical services in good faith. Ambulance services and personnel may be civilly liable for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or not performed in good faith. The existence of gross negligence or lack of good faith is normally a question of fact to be determined by a judge or jury.

m. Regulatory Exemptions. The CHP cannot grant exemptions to statutory requirements or regulations of other agencies. Exemptions from certain provisions of the CHP's ambulance regulations can only be granted as prescribed therein. Exemptions are usually granted to alleviate specific hardships related to the public welfare, copies of which are generally required to be maintained in the ambulance(s) in question (13 CCR 1108). Drivers should be familiar with the terms of any exemptions under which their ambulances are being operated.

CHAPTER 2

AMBULANCE DRIVER CERTIFICATION

1. CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT.

a. Regulatory Requirement. With some exceptions, every driver of an ambulance responding to an emergency call or transporting a patient must possess a valid ambulance driver certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

b. Purpose. The ambulance driver certificate is not issued as verification of driving competence, but as a screening function. It is evidence that a person has demonstrated a limited knowledge of laws pertaining to ambulance operations and has not been disqualified from such employment by criminal activities, physical disabilities, or poor driving habits.

c. Driver Certificate Exemption. Ambulance driver certificates are not required for the following:

(1) Persons driving ambulances in the line of duty as salaried, regular, full-time, police officers, deputy sheriffs, or members of a fire department of a public agency. This exemption does not include volunteers and part-time employees or members of a department whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative in nature. If persons described above drive ambulances other than in the performance of their official duties, they must possess a valid certificate.

(2) Persons driving ambulances, based out-of-state, into California to provide only interstate emergency service, if the drivers are appropriately licensed or certified by the state of origin. However, if the CHP has reason to believe an out-of-state driver would be denied an ambulance driver certificate if based in California, that driver may be prohibited from driving in this state unless he/she obtains a California ambulance driver certificate.

2. APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE.

a. Application. Application for an ambulance driver certificate may be made at any local DMV office. The initial certificate application fee (at time of handbook publishing) is \$67.00 and includes the cost of finger printing. As fees for finger printing are subject to change, contact your local DMV office for the current initial application fees. The renewal application fee is \$12.00.

b. Prerequisites. Every person submitting an application for an ambulance driver certificate is required to:

- (1) Be at least 18 years of age.
- (2) Posses a driver's license which is valid for driving in California.
- (3) File a properly completed application, certifying as to any criminal convictions or certain traffic offenses.
 - (a) All convictions, **including those that were set aside, dismissed or expunged**, must be declared regardless of any court relief which may have been granted under provisions of Penal Code Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4(a). Such court relief applies only to criminal penalties and does not apply to the occupational restrictions which may be imposed under authority of the ambulance regulations.
 - (b) **Failure to declare all criminal convictions, whether felony or misdemeanor, or a false statement on the application may cause the certificate to be denied.**
 - (c) No certificate will be issued within 12 months of a denial resulting from a deliberate misrepresentation of material facts.
- (4) Pass a written test pertaining to the operation, equipment, and driver certification requirements of emergency ambulances. Drivers are required to be familiar with ambulance regulations, traffic laws, and other laws related to emergency ambulance service.
- (5) Submit an acceptable set of fingerprints (except on renewal).
- (6) Submit a current copy of a fully completed medical form approved by either the DMV (form DL-51), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), or Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or from a licensed physician of the applicant's choice. The DL-51 form, Medical Examination Report, is available at any local DMV office.
 - (a) The report must be dated within the two years preceding the application date.
 - (b) The report must show that the applicant is free from any ailment, disease, or defect that might affect the ability to operate an ambulance safely and meets the standards set forth in Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (Section 391.41 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations).

(c) Visual acuity with or without corrective lenses shall be at least 20/40 for both eyes in focus, and 20/40 for each eye, separately. Horizontal fields of vision must be not less than 70 degrees to either side. Color perception must enable recognition of red, green, and amber traffic signals.

(d) The DL-51 must be signed by either a Medical Doctor (M.D.) or a Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Chiropractor, Physician's Assistant or Advanced Practical Nurse.

3. CERTIFICATE TERM.

a. Temporary Certificate. When the application is properly completed, the written test passed, satisfactory medical examination report completed, fingerprint card obtained, and there are no disqualifying conditions, the local DMV office may issue a temporary ambulance driver certificate. The temporary certificate becomes void 180 days from date of issuance.

b. Regular Certificate. The regular certificate is issued by the DMV, Division of Headquarters Operations Functions, only after a review of the physical examination report, driver record, and any criminal record for any disqualifying conditions. The certificate is issued for a term not to exceed five years and will expire on the same date as the applicant's driver license.

c. Conditional Validity. The ambulance driver certificate is valid only when accompanied by a valid driver's license and a medical examination certificate which was issued within the preceding two years and approved by the DMV. Additionally, one year after initial employment as an ambulance driver, the driver must also possess an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-I certificate or other certificate or license evidencing compliance with the training standards required for ambulance attendants.

4. CERTIFICATE RENEWAL. Renewal applications will be accepted during the six month period prior to the expiration of the previous certificate. Applications will be handled in the same manner as for the original certificate with two exceptions. Fingerprints are not required if the previous certificate has not been expired more than one year. A renewal applicant must possess a valid EMT-I certificate or an acceptable alternative certificate or license evidencing compliance with the medical training and educational requirements established for ambulance attendants by the EMS Authority in Title 22, California Code of Regulations (22 CCR, see Annex D).

5. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION. Conditions that authorize or require denial, suspension, or revocation of an ambulance driver certificate are listed in Section 13372 VC. Criminal records may also serve to preclude employment as an ambulance driver or attendant.

6. HEARINGS. Any driver or applicant who has had a certificate denied, suspended, or revoked by DMV for any cause, may, within ten days after receiving notification of the action, submit a written request for a hearing (Section 13374(a) VC).

7. HEARING REVIEW COMMITTEE. Following an informal hearing conducted by a DMV referee, a committee of three members representing the DMV, EMS Authority, and CHP reviews the records, findings, and recommendations, and renders a final decision on the action taken.

CHAPTER 3

AMBULANCE PERSONNEL TRAINING

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

a. Management's Responsibility. Every ambulance service owner, operator, manager, or supervisor is responsible for the operation of the service in compliance with pertinent statutes and regulations.

(1) Driver Competence. In addition to possessing a valid license and maintaining the required certificates, an ambulance driver must demonstrate his/her driving competence to the service owner. The owner shall participate in the DMV Pull Notice System per Section 1808.1 VC. The owner is also responsible to ensure that the driver is trained and competent in the use of all required safety and emergency care equipment and is trained to assist the attendant in patient care. It is recommended that a beginning driver, as a minimum, possess an advanced first aid certificate and a valid certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The driver must obtain an EMT-I certificate (or a specified alternative document) within one year of initial issuance of his or her ambulance driver certificate.

(2) Attendant Competence. The Health and Safety Code (HSC) and regulations in 13 CCR and 22 CCR, in effect, require that any ambulance attendant possess, as a minimum, a valid EMT-I certificate. The certificate is evidence of initial competence and compliance with the required medical training standards. Valid California certificates or licenses as EMT-II, EMT-P, Physician's Assistant, Registered Nurse, or Physician are also evidence of compliance.

b. Driver and Attendant. Owners are encouraged to test employees initially and periodically, by means of written and performance tests, to evaluate their knowledge and skill. Semi-annual proficiency tests are recommended.

c. Dispatcher. Owners should ensure that the service dispatcher is properly trained to obtain essential information to assess the nature, urgency, and location of the emergency and promptly dispatch the appropriate service.

2. AMBULANCE OPERATION.

a. Driver Responsibility. An ambulance driver's primary responsibility is the safe transport of the patient. Safe means:

(1) Not risking an accident.

(2) Smooth driving:

(a) Driving that will not stress or traumatize the patient.

(b) Driving in a manner that will permit the attendant to provide medical care to the patient.

b. Transport Considerations. Ambulance service personnel should be aware that "Code 3" transportation of patients is often unnecessary and sometimes harmful. The decision to use it always requires sound judgment.

(1) "Code 3" transport, with its associated noise, sudden starts, stops, and sway, could result in the following:

(a) Frighten the patient.

(b) Put a stabilized patient into shock.

(c) Disrupt ongoing medical treatment.

(d) Aggravate certain medical conditions sufficient to cause death or permanent disability to the patient, e.g., spinal injuries, serious fractures, and heart attacks are some conditions wherein especially smooth, normal speed transport is advised.

(2) There are certain medical conditions that probably require "Code 3" operation but these transports constitute only an estimated 5 to 7 percent of total trips. These conditions include, but are not limited to:

(a) Uncontrolled hemorrhage, such as internal bleeding in the chest or abdomen.

(b) Uncontrolled cardiovascular or respiratory impairment, such as congestive heart failure, wounds of the heart, or progressive pulmonary edema.

(c) Complicated impending childbirth, such as a case requiring operative intervention.

(3) As noted above, emergency service does not necessarily require nor always permit "Code 3" operation.

(a) A decision to use "Code 3" operation must be based upon reasonable cause to believe that the medical emergency justifies the risks incurred

when demanding the right-of-way through traffic. However, any doubt as to the seriousness of the emergency must be resolved in favor of the patient.

(b) No medical emergency, however severe, justifies driving in a manner that risks loss of control of the vehicle or that relies on other drivers or pedestrians to react ideally.

(4) An ambulance transporting a stabilized patient should never travel over the posted speed limit.

c. Special Privileges and/or Exemptions. Only under the conditions specified in Section 21055 VC are drivers of emergency ambulances exempt from the traffic laws in Sections 21350 through 22520 VC.

(1) Prerequisites for the exemptions include requirements that the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call, is displaying a steady burning red warning lamp that is visible from 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle, and sounds a siren as reasonably necessary.

(2) When the ambulance is not operated under all of the specified "Code 3" conditions, the driver must comply with all traffic laws to the same extent as the driver of any other vehicle upon the highway.

(3) The privileges provided by Section 21055 VC do not include exemptions from such public offenses as reckless driving or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

d. Due Regard. Section 21056 VC provides that the privileges granted under Section 21055 VC do not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor protect him/her from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges.

(1) Even when exempt from the specified traffic rules, a driver can be held criminally and/or civilly liable if involved in an accident where property damage, injury or fatality occur.

(2) Deciding whether a driver has exercised "due regard for the safety of others" is always based upon the specific set of circumstances. Certain principles may serve as guidelines:

(a) Sufficient notice of the ambulance's approach must be given to allow other motorists and pedestrians to yield the right-of-way. Failure to give notice until a collision is inevitable generally does not satisfy the principle of "due regard."

(b) In determining whether or not the driver was exercising "due regard" in using signaling equipment, the courts will consider the following:

- 1 Whether it was reasonably necessary to use signaling equipment.
- 2 Whether the signaling equipment was in fact used.
- 3 Whether the signal was audible and/or visible to the other motorists or pedestrians.

(c) Proper use of signaling equipment does not relieve the driver of the duty to otherwise exercise caution. Never travel at a speed that does not permit complete control of the vehicle.

(d) If the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle observed that a motorist was not yielding the right-of-way and that a collision would probably result unless the ambulance's speed was reduced, failure to decelerate would result in a failure to drive with "due regard" for the safety of others.

(3) Willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property when driving any vehicle upon the highway also constitutes reckless driving.

e. Siren Ineffectiveness. A study for the Society of Automotive Engineers indicated that sirens warn pedestrians and the drivers of vehicles traveling in the same direction and ahead of the ambulance. However, sirens do not give sufficient warning to drivers of vehicles approaching head on or traveling on converging roads.

(1) The difficulty in projecting the siren sound around corners in urban areas or ahead of ambulances traveling at increased speeds in rural areas can cause the warning time to be too short to allow the other driver to yield the right-of-way.

(2) In a rural environment, a person in a closed car proceeding at 55 mph with the radio playing may not be aware of a penetrating electronic siren (wail) until it is as close as 33 feet away. In city traffic, a driver with the car windows open and no radio playing might not detect the siren more than 123 feet away. The siren warning effectiveness distance to vehicles on crossroads is only about one-third of that of a vehicle straight ahead of the siren and traveling in the same direction.

f. Precautions. It should never be assumed that the use of the siren and red warning lamp will result in a clear path through traffic nor even that a motorist in the

vicinity will do what is expected after becoming aware of the ambulance. The ambulance driver must be attentive to the driving actions of other drivers to the siren and be prepared to maneuver accordingly.

(1) Particular hazards that must be anticipated by an ambulance driver during "Code 3" operation include "blind" intersections and driveways, motorists with impaired hearing, and inattentive drivers.

(2) Ambulance drivers should:

(a) Presume that other drivers do not hear the siren at a safe distance under most conditions, and particularly at intersections.

(b) Be aware that other drivers often have difficulty in locating the source of siren sounds.

(c) Restrict the use of sirens to situations where they are most effective; i.e., warning pedestrians and those drivers traveling at reduced speed with low background noise.

(d) Avoid passing on the right, since other motorists are legally required to drive to the right and stop at the approach of an emergency vehicle.

g. Warning Lamp Usage. Warning lamps must be used in conformance with Sections 21055, 25252, 25259, 25268, and 25269 VC.

(1) Excessive or indiscriminate use of warning lamps reduces public awareness and respect of their purpose and should be avoided.

(2) Protection of life and property is the primary factor in determining when warning lamps are to be used.

(3) Sections 25268 and 25269 VC restrict the display of warning lights to conditions of "extreme hazard" and "unusual traffic hazard." Proper occasions for display of warning lights may be determined as follows:

(a) The front steady burning red warning light shall be displayed when required by Section 21055 VC or when an extreme hazard exists. Revolving, rotating, or flashing red lamps do not satisfy the requirement for a steady burning red warning lamp but may supplement the required lamp.

(b) The flashing red warning lights may be displayed only during extremely hazardous conditions. These may be described as any incident or situation that requires traffic to stop or proceed only as directed, any

incident that requires the roadway to be blocked, or any situation in which an extreme hazard exists. When these hazards cease to exist, the flashing lights should be turned off.

(c) Flashing amber warning lights may be displayed only when an unusual traffic hazard exists. When the hazard ceases to exist, the flashing light must be turned off.

(4) Warning lamp effectiveness may be reduced by:

(a) Low sun or glare.

(b) Confusion with traffic signals or neon lights.

(c) Their position on the ambulance. If they are mounted high or low, they may be out of the range of vision of the driver of the vehicle ahead.

(5) Use of headlamps during daylight hours is effective in reducing accidents by making the vehicle more visible to other drivers.

3. DEFENSIVE DRIVING.

a. Definition. Defensive driving, for the purposes of this chapter, means doing everything reasonably possible to avoid being involved in a preventable accident, regardless of what the law is, what the other driver does, or in adverse driving conditions.

(1) A preventable accident is one in which a driver failed to take reasonable precautions and/or evasive actions to avoid the accident.

(2) Defensive driving requires continual exercise of sound judgment and good driving habits with an awareness that all other drivers cannot be relied upon to drive properly or safely.

(3) Physical fitness is a prerequisite to safe driving. A fit person is generally more alert, has greater dexterity, and better reflexes. Being tired adversely affects vision, reflexes, and coordination.

b. Five Elements of Defensive Driving.

(1) Knowledge. The driver must know the rules of the road; be aware of the proper procedures for passing, yielding the right-of-way, and other maneuvers; know his/her own limitations, the vehicle's limitations, and limitations imposed by the environment.

(2) Alertness. The driver must develop his/her powers of observation to be fully aware of the situation at hand. The driver must be alert to potential hazards and to changing weather and driving conditions.

(3) Vision. A driver should "aim high" by raising his field of vision to at least one-fourth of a mile ahead to observe potential hazards. As speed increases, visual acuity, peripheral vision, and depth perception all deteriorate.

(4) Judgment. The driver must know what to do and when to do it, at all times.

(5) Skill. The driver must have a good basic knowledge of how to handle the ambulance. Skill is the result of proper training and practice.

c. Driving Tips.

(1) Basic Control. The driver can control only the vehicle's speed and direction. Loss of control results from:

- (a) Driving too fast for weather, road, or tire conditions.
- (b) Accelerating too hard.
- (c) Braking inappropriately.
- (d) Changing direction too abruptly.
- (e) Taking a curve at too high a speed.

(2) Backing Mishaps. Backing maneuvers account for a large proportion of emergency vehicle accidents.

(a) While relatively minor, such incidents can result in the following consequences:

- 1 An ambulance may be kept out of service.
- 2 Costly repairs.
- 3 Cause additional paperwork.
- 4 Create a poor public image.
- 5 Increase insurance rates.
- 6 Jeopardize employment.

(b) If an ambulance must be backed, the following procedures should be followed:

- 1 Station a crew member outside to the left rear of the vehicle.
- 2 Check for pedestrians and obstacles.
- 3 Sound the horn before backing.
- 4 Back slowly.
- 5 Check mirrors constantly.

(3) Negotiating Intersections.

(a) Intersections are the most likely accident areas.

- 1 Visibility at many intersections is obstructed by buildings, landscaping, or other vehicles.
- 2 Drivers misjudge clearance and other traffic situations.
- 3 Motorists may not hear or see the approaching ambulance.
- 4 Two or more emergency vehicles often "meet" at intersections.

(b) At intersections the driver should:

- 1 Check for actual or potential hazards well in advance of the intersection.
- 2 Look to the left, then right, then left again before entering the intersection.
- 3 Maintain a safe following distance, particularly if following another emergency vehicle.

(4) Safe Following Distance.

(a) A safe following distance:

- 1 Enables a driver to stop or steer around without mishap a vehicle that comes to a sudden stop.
- 2 Is greater than the distance required for reaction time (3/4 of a second) but less than the total stopping distance. In keeping a

separation of at least three seconds between the ambulance and the vehicle being followed (the "three-second" rule) automatically increases the following distance as speed is increased.

(b) Following distances should be used as a general guide:

- 1 Increased by 50% if the ambulance is large and/or heavy.
- 2 Doubled if the road surface is loose or slippery, vision is obscured, or the driver is not fully alert.
- 3 Tripled if the road surface is packed snow or ice.

(5) Passing Another Vehicle.

(a) At highway speeds (40-60 mph) a safe pass takes about 10 seconds, assuming that the initial ambulance speed is approximately the same as that of the vehicle to be passed. At 55 mph the passing distance would be 807 feet.

(b) If a decision is made to pass and when conditions are okay:

- 1 Don't hesitate - conditions could worsen.
- 2 Stay in the passing lane the shortest time possible.
- 3 Scan the roadway for unmarked intersecting roads or driveways.
- 4 Be prepared to abort if conditions worsen - unless fully abreast of the other vehicle, it may be safer to pull in behind rather than trying to pass.

(6) High-Speed Driving. The primary rules are:

(a) Don't try to negotiate a curve or turn faster than you know you can, and allow for conditions which make lower speeds necessary, i.e., wet and slippery.

(b) Avoid brake fade. Use a smooth braking motion and apply maximum pressure short of locking the wheels. Gently pumping the brakes prior to a need for an immediate slowdown may be necessary to allow brakes sufficient time to dissipate heat.

(c) When speed is doubled, braking distance more than quadruples.

(7) Adverse Conditions. Adverse driving conditions resulting from darkness, weather, or visibility restrictions can be made less hazardous by taking precautions. The driver should:

- (a) Be sure that the following equipment is in good condition: wiper blades, heater and defroster, lights, brakes, tires and steering mechanism.
- (b) Drive at speeds appropriate for conditions and increase the following distance.
- (c) During darkness, keep the windshield clean and instrument lights dim, keep your eyes moving, and slow your speed considerably on curves and turns.
- (d) Avoid skidding and loss of control when rain, snow, or ice is present. Don't make sudden moves with the steering wheel, brakes, or accelerator.
- (e) Avoid hydroplaning on wet roadways by using properly inflated tires with deep treads and by reducing your speed.

d. Vehicle Inspections.

(1) Purpose. Vehicle inspections are intended to prevent accidents or breakdowns caused by vehicle and/or equipment malfunctions that could be detected by routine physical and visual inspections of the ambulance at the beginning of every shift.

(2) Responsibility. Responsibility for determining the mechanical safety of the ambulance rests primarily with the driver (13 CCR 1105(f)) and responsibility for equipping and maintaining the vehicle, the owner (13 CCR 1106(c)).

(a) The driver should:

- 1 Inspect the ambulance at the beginning of shift.
- 2 Ensure that scheduled vehicle maintenance has been performed at established intervals.
- 3 Ensure that any previously noted deficiencies have been corrected.
- 4 Determine if the ambulance is unsafe (or potentially unsafe) for emergency operation, or not equipped or maintained as required.

(b) It is unlawful for an owner to cause or permit the operation of any vehicle which is not equipped as required by VC or 13 CCR (Section 40001 VC).

(3) Carbon Monoxide. In addition to the inspection of specific vehicle equipment items, particular attention should be directed to those areas of the ambulance where exhaust gases from the ambulance and/or other motor vehicles may exist. A large percentage of ambulances tested were found to have carbon monoxide levels which could harm acutely ill or injured patients and, in some cases, the ambulance personnel. Major leaks were found at the rear air intakes, the rear windows, and around doors.

4. SUGGESTED EMPLOYMENT CRITERIA

a. Training Cost Consideration. Training costs for ambulance personnel can be diminished if both an ambulance driver certificate and an EMT-I certificate are required for employment.

b. Free Pre-employment Screening. If a regular ambulance driver certificate is required for employment, then the applicant will have been screened by the DMV for physical deficiencies and criminal activities. Since criminal records and medical examination reports are considered confidential, such information is not available to employers; whereas, the absence of any such disqualification can be assumed when the applicant possesses a valid ambulance driver certificate.

c. Dual Qualification. An employment prerequisite of both EMT-I and ambulance driver certificates not only permits better utilization and scheduling of employees but also enhances the quality of service that can be provided.

5. UNAUTHORIZED OR UNLAWFUL ITEMS. Owners' responsibilities include ensuring that unauthorized, unlawful, or prohibited drugs or equipment are not carried on the ambulance or used in providing patient care.

CHAPTER 4
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION. The EMS Authority has prepared the following recommendations for emergency ambulance service operators and their personnel. The recommendations should also be of interest to the wide variety of agencies, personnel, and community groups associated with or responsible for improving emergency medical services delivery systems.

2. MEDICAL TRAINING STANDARDS.

a. Authority. HSC, Division 2.5, (see Annex E) delegates to the EMS Authority, as part of its mandate, the responsibility for the coordination and integration of all emergency medical services systems in California which includes establishing training, certification and scope of practice standards for ambulance and all prehospital emergency care personnel.

b. Training Standards for Basic Life Support. Regulations adopted by the EMS Authority in 22 CCR, Sections 100056 through 100083, establish requirements for the training, re-training and scope of practice standards for EMT-I. The regulations also include the course content, training program approval process, course completion challenge process, and use of optional and advanced skills.

(1) 22 CCR, Section 100062 requires that the attendant on an ambulance operated in emergency service, or the driver if there is no attendant, must possess, as a minimum, a valid EMT-1 certificate. The certificate is waived for personnel who are more medically qualified and properly certified or licensed.

(2) The ambulance driver, when unaccompanied by certified or licensed medical personnel, is required to meet the same training and certification standards as the ambulance attendant (Section 1797.160 HSC).

(3) Regulations apply to personnel of all emergency ambulances operating in California, whether operated by a private, public, volunteer, subscription or industrial service.

(4) Though certain exemptions may be granted by the CHP from provisions of 13 CCR, exemptions are not permissible from the training and educational standards established by the EMS Authority for ambulance personnel.

(5) Training for all prehospital personnel should include prevention of infectious diseases and precautions to be taken in a hazardous materials incident, especially by first arriving responders. (See Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910; and Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3202, 3220, 5141, 5155, 5192, and 5194)

c. Training Standards for Advanced Life Support. The EMS Authority has adopted regulations in 22 CCR, Chapters 3 and 4, defining requirements for the course content, scope of practice, approval of training programs, and certification as "Emergency Medical Technician-II" (EMT-II) and "Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic" (EMT-P).

3. MEDICAL CONTROL FOR BASIC LIFE SUPPORT EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. Any ambulance service must be familiar with and follow the medical control policies and procedures of the local EMS agency (Section 1797.220 HSC).

4. STATUTE AND REGULATION INFORMATION. Information about Health and Safety Code provisions and related training standards contained in 22 CCR can be obtained from:

Emergency Medical Services Authority
1930 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 322-4336

5. RECOMMENDED AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT.

a. Safety Equipment. Additional items of equipment, although not required by regulation, are recommended for emergency ambulances.

(1) Seat belts should be provided for every sitting position in the patient compartment. Attendants, and patients are encouraged to use their seat belts. Children or infants who are not secured to a gurney, should be secured in appropriate child/infant restraint devices. Note: Drivers and passengers seated in the front seat(s) are required to use seat belts (Section 27315(d)(2) VC).

(2) Controlled heating and air conditioning equipment is essential.

(3) Ambulances should carry extrication equipment where the equipment is not readily available from tow trucks or rescue units that normally respond to emergencies.

b. Emergency Care Supplies and Equipment. Recommendations regarding specific items are as follows:

(1) One or both of the required ambulance cots should be collapsible, have the capability for elevating both the head and foot, and be adjustable to four different levels. Ambulance cots with wheels are preferred. Mattresses should be covered with impervious plastic material or equivalent.

(2) Padded ankle and wrist restraints are essential. However, if soft ties are used, they should be at least three inches wide (before tying) to maintain a two-inch width while in use.

(3) Four complete sets of clean linen supplies per ambulance cot are recommended; a complete change of freshly laundered or disposable linen is essential after each patient transport.

(4) All reusable medical supplies and equipment should be maintained in clean, ready-to-use condition, and be disinfected or sterilized as appropriate. Whenever a patient with a known or suspected communicable disease has been transported, the patient compartment and all interior surfaces including fixed equipment should be thoroughly cleansed with soap, water, and disinfectant. Supplies such as pillows, blankets, and linens should be autoclaved. Personnel and uniforms should be kept neat and clean.

(5) Protection devices should be carried for infectious disease control, especially for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B, which include masks with one-way valves, gloves, gowns and goggles. Appropriate containers for soiled equipment and supplies should also be provided.

(6) Rigid cervical collars in sizes for use in adult, child, and infant patients should be carried.

(7) Four sets of short, medium and long splints should be carried, appropriate for use in adults and children ages 1 to 14, including a pediatric femur splint. Cardboard splints are recommended for general use; inflatable air splints are recommended mainly to immobilize lower arms and lower legs. Half-ring leg splints should be of the Hare or Sager traction type or equivalent, and should have all appropriate straps.

(8) Four head beds, or equivalent material such as rolled towels to restrict movement. Additional size for children is recommended.

(9) Six oropharyngeal airways should be carried in the following sizes: two adult, two children, one infant, one newborn. Side grooved airways are preferred.

(10) At least two-stage automatic oxygen regulators with demand valves are recommended. Oxygen masks in adult, child and infant sizes should be carried.

(11) A resuscitator, such as a bag-valve-mask, capable of use with oxygen, is essential. Masks should be carried for use with adults, children and infants. It is also suggested that a bag-valve-mask resuscitator with a 350 cc reservoir for use in newborns be carried.

(12) Suctioning apparatus should be capable of at least a negative pressure equivalent to a 300 mm column of Mercury, at a 30 liter per minute air flow rate for 30 minutes of operation. Although different types of suction tubing and tips are useful, the noncollapsible, plastic, semi-rigid, whistle-tipped types, finger controlled, are preferred. Suction catheters should include a bulb syringe, 10 and 14 French sizes as well as a tonsil suction device.

(13) Blood pressure units, with cuffs in sizes appropriate for use with adults, children and infants should be carried.

(14) Tourniquets are not required and should be used only in the event of severe hemorrhage when applied pressure methods are ineffective. A tourniquet should provide a pressure area at least three inches wide. A blood pressure cuff may be used if needed.

(15) Soft rolled stretch bandages, such as Kerlex or Kling gauze types, or equivalent, are recommended.

(16) Sterile scissors should be available but should be used only when cutting the umbilical cord appears necessary in the management of emergency childbirth. A scalpel is not recommended.

(17) In addition to the required gallon of water, two separate, sealed containers of two liters (quarts) of sterile water, plus two liters (quarts) of sterile isotonic saline, each in clearly labeled plastic containers that are not expired, should be carried.

6. MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

- a. Driver Prerequisites. Prior to employment, the driver should have completed advanced first aid and CPR training.
- b. Equipment Usage. In order to assure effective use of various supplies and equipment, orientation and practice sessions should be held to familiarize emergency ambulance personnel with the required and optional equipment carried.
- c. Call Record. In addition to maintaining the required emergency call record information, it is recommended that the nature of the call also be included.
- d. Unlawful Services. Except as otherwise required by regulation, prescription items of medical supplies and equipment should not be carried or stored aboard ambulances unless appropriately licensed or certified personnel serve as authorized ambulance attendants.
- e. Smoking Recommendation. To further protect, promote and preserve the public health, it is recommended that smoking be prohibited in the patient compartment at all times, and in the driver compartment during patient transport.

EXCERPTS FROM
TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
Division 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol
Chapter 5. Special Vehicles
Article 1. Ambulances

§ 1100. Scope.

This article shall apply to all publicly and privately owned ambulances used for emergency service except as specifically exempted by provisions of these regulations.

§ 1100.2. Definitions.

Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions shall apply for the purposes of this article:

(a) Ambulance. A vehicle specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the purpose of transporting sick, injured, convalescent, infirm, or otherwise incapacitated persons.

(b) Ambulance Driver Certificate. A California Ambulance Driver Certificate or a California Special Driver Certificate valid for driving an ambulance.

(c) Ambulance Service. The private or public organization or individual providing an ambulance for use in emergency service.

(d) Department. Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(e) Emergency Call. A request for an ambulance to transport or assist persons in apparent sudden need of medical attention; or, in a medical emergency, as determined by a physician, to transport blood, any therapeutic device, accessory to such device, or tissue or organ for transplant.

(f) Emergency Service. The functions performed in response to an emergency call. Emergency service also includes transportation of a patient, regardless of a presumption of death of the patient, or transportation of a body for the purpose of making an anatomical gift, as provided in Section 12811, Vehicle Code, and the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Health and Safety Code.

§ 1100.3. General Requirements.

No ambulance shall respond to an emergency call or transport patients unless staffed by both a certificated driver and a qualified attendant, maintained in good mechanical repair and sanitary condition, and equipped as required by this article and the Vehicle Code.

(a) Driver Certificate Exemption. In addition to the exemptions stated in Vehicle Code Section 12527(f), ambulance driver certificates are not required for persons driving ambulances, based out-of-state, into California to provide only interstate emergency service, if the drivers are appropriately licensed or certified by the state of origin. However, if the department has reason to believe an out-of-state driver would be denied an ambulance driver certificate if based in California, that driver may be prohibited from driving in this state unless he/she obtains an ambulance driver certificate.

(b) Medical Training Prerequisite. Ambulances shall not respond to emergency calls or transport patients unless the attendant--or the driver, if the service has been exempted from the requirement to have an attendant--possesses a certificate or license evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the State Emergency Medical Service Authority in Title 22 of this code. This requirement shall not apply during a "state of war emergency", duly proclaimed "state of emergency", or "local emergency", as defined in Government Code Section 8558, when it is necessary to fully utilize all available ambulances in an area and it is not possible to have such ambulances operated or attended by persons with the qualifications required by this section.

§ 1100.4. Ambulance Identification.

The name of the public entity that operates an emergency ambulance service or the name under which the ambulance licensee is doing business or providing service shall be displayed on both sides and the rear of each emergency ambulance in letters that contrast sharply with the background. Lettering shall be

not less than 4 in. in height, of proportionate width, and of a color readily visible during daylight. If uppercase letters are not less than 4 1/2 in. in height, lowercase letters may be three-fourths of the uppercase height. All ambulances operated under a single license shall display the same identification.

§ 1100.5. Ambulance Location Report.

Entities providing emergency ambulance service shall notify the local office of the department whenever the usual location of an emergency ambulance is changed, an ambulance is acquired, or an ambulance is removed from service.

§ 1100.6. Periodic Ambulance and Records Inspection.

Ambulances used for emergency service, personnel records and call records may be inspected periodically by the department to ensure compliance with requirements of the Vehicle Code and this title. Ambulances and records shall be made available for such inspection upon notice by a representative of the department.

§ 1100.7. Record of Calls.

Every ambulance service shall maintain a current record of each emergency call either at the service address or the location where the responding ambulance is based. The record shall be retained for not less than three years and shall contain the following information:

- (a) Date and time of emergency call, location where service is needed, and identity of person receiving the call for ambulance service.
- (b) Identity of person or, when applicable, the name of the agency requesting an ambulance.
- (c) Identification of each ambulance and personnel dispatched, and record of siren and red light use.
- (d) Explanation of any failure to dispatch an ambulance as requested.
- (e) Time of dispatch and times of arrival and departure from the scene of emergency.
- (f) Destination of patient and time of arrival at destination.
- (g) Name or other identification of patient (if name is unavailable) or description of item requiring emergency transportation.

§ 1100.8. Personnel Records.

Every ambulance service shall maintain a personnel file for each driver and attendant either at the address of the service or the location where the employee is based. Each personnel file shall contain the following information:

- (a) Effective date of employment.
- (b) Facsimiles of driver license, ambulance driver certificate, and current medical examination certificate of each driver.
- (c) Facsimile of the current certificate or license evidencing compliance with emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the State Emergency Medical Service Authority.
- (d) Summary of work experience for the five years preceding the effective date of present employment.
- (e) An affidavit by each ambulance attendant and/or driver declaring, under penalty of perjury, that he/she is not subject to the applicable attendant or driver prohibitions contained in Sections 1101(b) of this title or Vehicle Code Section 13372.
- (f) Evidence of satisfactory completion of other driver and attendant training required by this article and the Vehicle Code.

§ 1101. Ambulance Attendant.

The attendant on an ambulance transporting any person in apparent need of medical attention shall occupy the patient compartment and shall meet the requirements of this section.

- (a) Qualifications. The attendant shall be at least 18 years of age and shall possess a certificate or license evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the State Emergency Medical Service Authority.
- (b) Prohibitions. No person shall act at any time in the capacity of an ambulance attendant when such person:

(1) Is required under Section 290 of the Penal Code to register as a sex offender for any offense involving force, duress, threat, or intimidation.

(2) Habitually or excessively uses or is addicted to narcotics or dangerous drugs, or has been convicted during the preceding seven years of any offense relating to the use, sale, possession, or transportation of narcotics or addictive or dangerous drugs.

(3) Habitually and excessively uses intoxicating beverages.

(4) Has been convicted during the preceding seven years of any offense punishable as a felony and involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation, or has been convicted of theft in either degree during that period. Persons on parole or probation for such offenses or crimes involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation shall not act as ambulance attendants until the parole or probation is ended.

(5) Has committed any act involving moral turpitude, including fraud or intentional dishonesty for personal gain, within the preceding seven years.

(6) Has demonstrated irrational behavior or incurred a physical disability to the extent that a reasonable and prudent person would have reasonable cause to believe that his/her ability to perform the duties normally expected of an attendant may be impaired.

(c) Exceptions. Criminal prohibitions of this section notwithstanding, any person who holds a valid ambulance driver certificate issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles may serve as an ambulance attendant provided he/she meets the qualifications and possesses a certificate or license evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the State Emergency Medical Service Authority. Employment as an attendant may be authorized at the discretion of the Department of the California Highway Patrol when only medical and health standards related to driving abilities or a poor driving record precludes issuance of the driver certificate.

§ 1103. Ambulance Safety Equipment.

All safety equipment carried or installed shall be maintained in good working order and shall include but not be limited to:

(a) A siren and steady burning red warning lamp that meet requirements established by the department.

(b) Seat belts or equivalent restraints, for the driver and any front seat passenger.

(c) A fire extinguisher of the dry chemical or carbon dioxide type with a minimum 4-B:C rating maintained as prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. The use of vaporizing liquid extinguishers is prohibited.

(d) A portable, battery-operated light.

(e) A spare wheel with inflated tire of appropriate load rating.

(f) A jack and tools for wheel changes.

(g) Maps covering the areas in which the ambulance provides services.

(h) Patient compartment door latches operable from inside and outside the vehicle on all emergency ambulances manufactured and first registered after January 1, 1980.

§ 1103.2. Ambulance Emergency Care Equipment and Supplies.

Any equipment or supplies carried for use in providing emergency medical care must be maintained in clean condition and good working order.

(a) Essential equipment and supplies to be carried shall include as a minimum:

(1) An ambulance cot and collapsible stretcher; or two stretchers, one of which is collapsible.

(2) Straps to secure the patient to the stretcher or ambulance cot, and means of securing the stretcher or ambulance cot in the vehicle.

(3) Ankle and wrist restraints. Soft ties are acceptable.

(4) Sheets, pillow cases, blankets, and towels for each stretcher or ambulance cot, and two pillows for each ambulance.

(5) Three oropharyngeal airways, one each of a size for adults, children and infants.

(6) At least four pneumatic or rigid splints capable of splinting all extremities.

(7) A resuscitator that meets the requirements of Vehicle Code Section 2418.5. A hand operated bag-valve-mask unit with clear masks of adult, child, and infant sizes capable of use with oxygen will meet this requirement.

(8) Oxygen (USP), regulator, and means for administering oxygen, including adequate tubing and semiopen, valveless, transparent masks in adult, child, and infant sizes. Oxygen may be administered by resuscitator, bag mask unit, or inhalator. (Portability required.) Oxygen supply must be sufficient to provide a patient with not less than 10 liters per minute for 20 minutes.

(9) Clean bandages and bandaging supplies:

Twelve 4-in. sterile bandage compresses or equivalent

Four 3- by 3-in. sterile gauze pads

Six 2-, 3-, 4- or 6-in. roller bandages

Two rolls of 1-, 2- or 3-in. adhesive tape

Bandage shears

Two 10- by 30-in. or larger universal dressings

(10) An emesis basin, or disposable bags and covered waste container.

(11) Portable suction equipment. Squeeze syringes alone are not sufficient.

(12) Two sandbags, loosely filled, or equivalent material to restrict movement.

(13) Two spinal immobilization devices, one at least 30-in. in length and the other at least 60-in. in length with straps for adequately securing patients to the devices. Combination short-long boards are acceptable.

(14) Half-ring traction splint for lower extremity with limb support slings, padded ankle hitch traction strap, and heel rest or an equivalent device.

(15) Blood pressure manometer, cuff, and stethoscope.

(16) Sterile obstetrical supplies including as a minimum: gloves, umbilical cord tape or clamps, dressings, towels, bulb syringe, and clean plastic bags.

(17) A gallon or more of potable water or two liters, saline solution in covered, secured plastic container.

(18) One bedpan or fracture pan.

(19) One urinal.

(b) Exception. Ambulances while in use for infant transportation or when staffed and equipped for use in conjunction with newborn intensive care nursery services as specified in Title 22 of this code, need not concurrently carry items of emergency care equipment or supplies that would interfere with the specialized care and transportation of an infant in an incubator or isolette.

§ 1104. Dispatching Responsibilities.

Ambulance owners, drivers, dispatchers, and other persons directing the dispatch or operation of ambulances shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) Delays. Every person who dispatches an ambulance shall do so promptly or inform the person requesting such service of any delay, with the reasons therefor, and obtain the consent of the requestor before dispatching an ambulance under any circumstances that could delay it.

(b) Restrictions on Directing Use of Red Light and Siren. No person shall direct or request the use of the siren and red warning light (Code 3 operation) unless such person has reasonable cause to believe that speed in providing emergency ambulance service is essential to save a life, prevent undue suffering, or to reduce or prevent disability.

(c) Restrictions on Dispatch of Ambulances. The dispatch of an emergency ambulance where ambulance transportation is readily available from two or more ambulance services shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) An ambulance service receiving an emergency call from a private person requesting an ambulance at the scene of a motor vehicle accident shall notify the appropriate law enforcement or other public agency dispatch center of the call. An ambulance shall be dispatched only upon instructions from that agency.

(2) When the dispatch of an ambulance is normally coordinated by a single public agency, an ambulance service receiving an emergency call from a private person requesting an ambulance at the

scene of a motor vehicle accident shall notify the appropriate public agency dispatch center of the call. An ambulance shall be dispatched only upon instructions from the agency.

(3) No public or private ambulance service shall cause or permit any ambulance to be dispatched on the basis of information obtained by monitoring a radio frequency assigned to a law enforcement or other public agency except by specific request of, or prior arrangement with, the coordinating agency responsible for dispatching emergency ambulances.

§ 1105. Ambulance Driver's Responsibilities.

(a) Delays. Every driver of an ambulance dispatched for emergency service shall respond promptly or inform the dispatcher of his/her inability to respond.

(b) Speed Restriction. In no event shall an ambulance driver exceed a speed of 15 miles per hour while disobeying any official traffic control stop sign or stop signal. This subsection shall not apply to publicly owned and operated dual purpose law enforcement vehicles during law enforcement work.

(c) Destination Restriction. In the absence of decisive factors to the contrary, an ambulance driver shall transport emergency patients to the most accessible emergency medical facility equipped, staffed, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patients.

(d) Siren and Red Warning Light Use Restrictions. Ambulance drivers shall not use the siren and red warning light (Code 3 operation) when traffic is congested to a degree that increased ambulance speed and right-of-way cannot be gained thereby. Siren and red warning lights shall be used with due regard for safe roadway operation of ambulances and shall not be used except under the following circumstances.

(1) When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in emergency services as defined in this article, and

(2) When speed in transporting the patient to an emergency medical care facility appears essential to prevent loss of life, undue suffering, or to reduce or prevent disability.

(e) Driver Conditions. No person shall drive or be directed to drive an ambulance when his/her ability to operate the ambulance safely is adversely affected by fatigue, illness, or any other cause nor when the vehicle is unsafe to operate.

(f) Vehicle Condition. Every driver shall inspect the ambulance prior to operation to determine that it is in safe condition, equipped as required, and that all vehicle equipment and installed medical equipment is in good working order.

§ 1106. Owner's Responsibilities.

Every owner, operator, manager, or supervisor of an ambulance service shall comply with all the provisions of this article and Vehicle Code Section 13373 and shall have the following supplementary responsibilities:

(a) Driver Proficiency. Each driver shall be required to demonstrate that he/she is capable of safely operating the type of ambulance to which assigned before driving such vehicle on a highway unsupervised or in emergency service.

(b) Staffing Qualifications. No person shall be permitted to drive an ambulance or act as the required attendant unless he/she meets all applicable provisions of this article. Any employee who does not meet the requirements of, or is not thoroughly familiar with the provisions of this article and Vehicle Code Sections 21055, 21056, 21806, 21807 and 23103, shall be prohibited from driving an ambulance in emergency service.

(c) Unlawful Operation. No owner shall knowingly require or permit the operation of any ambulance that is not in safe operating condition or not equipped and maintained as required by any law or this subchapter; or knowingly require or permit any driver to drive in violation of any law or regulation.

§ 1106.2. Financial Responsibility.

No owner shall use any ambulance, or permit any ambulance to be used, to transport passengers for hire without maintaining ability to respond in damages as required by Vehicle Code Section 16500.

§ 1107. Ambulance Service Licensing Requirements.

Owners other than public agencies shall not permit their ambulances to respond to emergency calls unless they have obtained from the department a license to operate an emergency ambulance service. A license will be issued only to persons or entities operating 1 or more ambulances designed and operated exclusively as ambulances of which at least 1 is available 24 hrs daily to provide emergency transportation.

(a) EXCEPTIONS. Exceptions to ambulance licensing requirements are as follows:

(1) License and vehicle identification card requirements shall not apply to publicly owned and operated ambulances, or vehicles operated as ambulances at the request of local authorities during any "state of war emergency", duly proclaimed "state of emergency", or "local emergency", as defined in Government Code Section 8558.

(2) License requirements shall not prevent peace officers from arranging for the transportation of any person in need of emergency medical care when a licensed ambulance is not available and such transportation is immediately required.

(3) An ambulance service that provides service only for special events or industrial employees and does not respond to calls from the general public is exempt from 24-hr availability as a licensing prerequisite.

(b) License Applications.

(1) Ambulance license applications shall contain such information as the department may deem necessary to determine whether any owner, partner, officer, or director shall be disqualified for any of the reasons set forth in Vehicle Code Sections 2541 and 2542. Information may include the business name, owner's name, address, fingerprints, birth date, social security number, driver license number, and personal history.

(2) Every license application shall be signed and verified by the owner applicant or an authorized representative.

(3) Every license application shall be accompanied by a list of ambulances to be operated under the license with each ambulance identified by year model, make, vehicle identification number, and license plate number.

(4) Every application for an initial license shall also be accompanied by:

(A) A fee of \$200.

(B) An inspection report on a form furnished by the department for each ambulance certifying satisfactory completion of a vehicle inspection performed not more than 30 days prior to the application date. The vehicle inspection shall be performed and the report signed by a representative of the department.

(C) An official brake adjustment certificate for each ambulance issued not more than 45 days prior to the application date. Submission of the certificate may be waived by the department when no licensed brake adjusting station is located within 30 miles provided the licensee certifies the brake system meets requirements of the Vehicle Code. The certificate will be waived if the ambulance qualifies under Section 430 of the Vehicle Code as a new vehicle.

(D) One acceptable fingerprint card for each applicant owner, partner, officer, director and controlling shareholder. The fingerprint card requirement may be waived upon application to the department from a corporation where the requirement would be burdensome because there exists a large number of officers, directors, or controlling shareholders.

(5) Every application for a renewal license shall also be accompanied by:

(A) A fee of \$150.

(B) One acceptable fingerprint card for each applicant owner, partner, officer, director and controlling shareholder added since last licensed.

(c) License Cancellation and Replacement. An ambulance license may be cancelled without prejudice when it has been issued through error or voluntarily surrendered. Any person who has voluntarily surrendered his license may immediately apply for a replacement license for the unexpired term without fee.

(1) Any licensee who changes the name of the business or service from that on the license shall surrender the license to the department for cancellation within 10 days thereafter and may apply for a replacement license.

(2) Surrender and cancellation will be permitted at any time at the request of the licensee.

(d) Posting of Service Fees. The licensee shall establish and maintain a schedule of fees covering usual service charges. The schedule shall be prominently posted in the business office.

(e) Direct Telephone Service. 24 hr availability for service includes but is not limited to 24-hr maintenance of direct telephone service whereby both public agencies and the general public can request and obtain prompt emergency ambulance service.

§ 1107.2. Ambulance Identification Card.

(a) Requirements. No privately owned or operated emergency ambulance shall be operated in emergency service or be used to transport a patient unless it carries a valid special vehicle identification card or temporary operating authority issued for that ambulance. An identification card is issued by the department as evidence that the operator has obtained a license to operate an emergency ambulance service and that the ambulance identified thereon has been inspected and determined to be in compliance with requirements of the Vehicle Code and this title.

(b) Issuance. A special vehicle identification card will be issued in conjunction with the initial license for each ambulance to be operated under that license. An identification card will be issued for an additional ambulance acquired by a licensee provided a request is accompanied by the items listed in Section 1107(b)(3)(B) through (D). The vehicle must be inspected and the inspection report signed by a representative of the department.

(c) Validity. An ambulance identification card shall remain valid during the term of the license under which the card was issued, including renewals thereof, provided the licensee retains the license and possession and control of the vehicle and the ambulance meets all applicable requirements.

(d) Surrender. An ambulance identification card shall be surrendered to the department under any of the following conditions:

(1) Change in ownership of the vehicle

(2) Transfer of possession or control of the ambulance

(3) Surrender or expiration of the license

(4) Noncompliance with equipment requirements of statutes, or regulations. (The card may be returned when the vehicle is again in compliance.)

(5) Failure to submit an inspection report as required.

(e) Temporary Transfer of Emergency Ambulance. Provisions of preceding subsection (a) notwithstanding, a privately owned emergency ambulance for which an identification card has been issued and which is temporarily transferred to another licensee may be operated for not more than 30 days without a new identification card if all other requirements for equipment, identification, and operation are met. Before operating the ambulance, the new licensee shall obtain temporary operating authorization from the local office of the department. When an ambulance is transferred between licensees, the original licensee shall surrender the identification card to the department. The card may be returned to the original licensee upon repossession of the vehicle and submission of a signed inspection report for that ambulance. A brake certificate and photographs are not required in conjunction with a temporary transfer.

§ 1107.4. Temporary Operating Authorization.

A privately owned or operated ambulance inspected and approved by a member of the department may be temporarily operated by a licensee or applicant prior to receipt of the license and/or the ambulance identification card when authorized by the local California Highway Patrol Area Commander. Such authorization shall be carried in the vehicle. A temporary substitute for the identification card and the license, the authorization is valid for a period of up to 30 days. It shall be invalid when replaced by an ambulance identification card and/or license or when the license is denied.

§ 1108. Exemption from Requirements.

(a) Discretionary Exemption. The department may, upon a showing of good cause, grant exemptions to requirements specified in this article. The department may require concurrence by the County Health Officer or the county emergency medical care committee where the ambulance service is provided, and may impose such conditions as deemed necessary.

(b) Mandatory Exemption. Exemptions mandated by Vehicle Code Section 2512 will be granted subject to the following conditions:

(1) Requests. Requests for exemptions by a county board of supervisors shall include the ambulance service name, the specific exemption requested, the findings of the county emergency medical care committee pertaining to the exemption, and a statement from the county board of supervisors that the exemption is necessary for public health and safety.

(2) Limitations. Each exemption shall be limited to a specific ambulance service and shall be applicable to ambulance operation only within the county of the board requesting the exemption.

(3) Exemption Renewal. Renewal requests should indicate that the conditions creating the need for exemptions have been reviewed and that the continued exemption is necessary for public health and safety.

(c) Exemption Expiration. Exemptions shall be valid for a period of not more than two years, unless rescinded earlier for cause. Exemptions are not transferable and shall expire upon change of ownership of the ambulance service.

(d) Termination. Exemptions may be terminated for cause, upon request of the county board of supervisors, or when the need for exemptions no longer exists.

§ 1109. Grounds for Suspension or Revocation of License.

Grounds for disciplinary action enumerated in Vehicle Code Section 2542 include but are not limited to:

- (a) Violation of any provision of this article.
- (b) Unlawful use of sirens or warning lamps.
- (c) Frequent failure to respond or an evidenced lack of ability or intention to provide 24-hour service.
- (d) Failure to exercise reasonable care in handling patients or a demonstrated lack of competence in caring for patients or using required equipment.
- (e) Fraudulent billing practices or charging for services not provided and/or not necessary.

**EXCERPTS FROM
THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

§ 30. Legislative Policy: Red Lights and Sirens

It is declared as a matter of legislative policy that red lights and sirens on vehicles should be restricted to authorized emergency vehicles engaged in police, fire and lifesaving services; and that other types of vehicles which are engaged in activities which create special hazards upon the highways should be equipped with flashing amber warning lamps.

§ 31. False Information to Peace Officer

No person shall give, either orally or in writing, information to a peace officer while in the performance of his duties under the provisions of this code when such person knows that the information is false.

DIVISION 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED

§ 165. Authorized Emergency Vehicle

An authorized emergency vehicle is:

(a) Any publicly owned and operated ambulance, lifeguard, or lifesaving equipment or any privately owned or operated ambulance licensed by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to operate in response to emergency calls.

(b) Any publicly owned vehicle operated by the following persons, agencies, or organizations:

(1) Any federal, state, or local agency, department, or district employing peace officers as that term is defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Part 2 of Title 3 of the Penal Code, for use by those officers in the performance of their duties.

(2) Any forestry or fire department of any public agency or fire department organized as provided in the Health and Safety Code.

(c) Any vehicle owned by the state, or any bridge and highway district, and equipped and used either for fighting fires, or towing or servicing other vehicles, caring for injured persons, or repairing damaged lighting or electrical equipment.

(d) Any state-owned vehicle used in responding to emergency fire, rescue or communications calls and operated either by the Office of Emergency Services or by any public agency or industrial fire department to which the Office of Emergency Services has assigned the vehicle.

(e) Any vehicle owned or operated by any department or agency of the United States government when the vehicle is used in responding to emergency fire, ambulance, or lifesaving calls or is actively engaged in law enforcement work.

(f) Any vehicle for which an authorized emergency vehicle permit has been issued by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol.

§ 165.5. Authorized Emergency Vehicle: Rescue Team

No act or omission of any rescue team operating in conjunction with an authorized emergency vehicle as defined in Section 165, while attempting to resuscitate any person who is in immediate danger of loss of life, shall impose any liability upon the rescue team or the owners or operators of any authorized emergency vehicle, if good faith is exercised.

For the purposes of this section, "rescue team" means a special group of physicians and surgeons, nurses, volunteers, or employees of the owners or operators of the authorized emergency vehicle who have been trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and have been designated by the owners or operators of the emergency vehicle to attempt to resuscitate persons who are in immediate danger of loss of life in cases of emergency.

This section shall not relieve the owners or operators of any other duty imposed upon them by law for the designation and training of members of a rescue team or for any provisions regarding maintenance of equipment to be used by the rescue team.

Members of a rescue team shall receive the training in a program approved by, or conforming to, standards prescribed by an emergency medical care committee established pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 1797.270) of Chapter 4 of Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or a voluntary area health planning agency established pursuant to Section 127155 of the Health and Safety Code.

§ 260. Commercial Vehicle

(a) A "commercial vehicle" is a vehicle of a type required to be registered under this code used or maintained for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit or designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

(b) Passenger vehicles which are not used for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit and housecars are not commercial vehicles. This subdivision shall not apply to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 3.

(c) . . .

(d) . . .

§ 465. Passenger Vehicle

A "passenger vehicle" is any motor vehicle, other than a motortruck or truck tractor, designed for carrying not more than 10 persons including the driver, and used or maintained for the transportation of persons. The term "passenger vehicle" shall include a housecar.

DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION

Chapter 1. The Department of Motor Vehicles

Article 3. Records of Department

§ 1808.1 Employer Notification

(a) The prospective employer of a driver who drives any vehicle specified in subdivision (l) shall obtain a report showing the driver's current public record as recorded by the department [DMV]. For purposes of this subdivision, a report is current if it was issued less than 30 days prior to the date the employer employs the driver. The report shall be reviewed, signed, and dated by the employer and maintained at the employer's place of business until receipt of the pull notice system report pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c). These reports shall be presented upon request to any authorized representative of the Department of the California Highway Patrol during regular business hours.

(b) The employer of a driver who drives any vehicle specified in subdivision (l) shall participate in a pull notice system, which is a process for the purpose of providing the employer with a report showing the driver's current public record as recorded by the department [DMV], and any subsequent convictions, failures to appear, accidents, driver's license suspensions, driver's license revocations, or any other actions taken against the driving privilege or certificate, added to the driver's record while the employer's notification request remains valid and uncanceled. As used in this section, participation in the pull notice system means obtaining a requester code and enrolling all employed drivers who drive any vehicle specified in subdivision (l) under that requester code.

(c) The employer of a driver of any vehicle specified in subdivision (l) shall, additionally, obtain a periodic report from the department [DMV] at least every six months, except that an employer who enrolls more than 500 drivers in the pull notice system under a single requester code shall obtain a report at least every 12 months.

The employer shall verify that each employee's driver's license has not been suspended or revoked, the employee's traffic violation point count, and whether the employee has been convicted of a violation of Section 23152 or 23153. The report shall be signed and dated by the employer and maintained at the

employer's principal place of business. The reports shall be presented upon demand to any authorized representative of the Department of the California Highway Patrol during regular business hours.

(d) Upon the termination of a driver's employment, the employer shall notify the department [DMV] to discontinue the driver's enrollment in the pull notice system.

(e) For the purposes of the pull notice system and periodic report process required by subdivisions (b) and (c), owners, other than owner-operators as defined in Section 34624, and employers who drive vehicles described in subdivision (l), shall be enrolled as if they were employees. Family members and volunteer drivers who drive vehicles described in subdivision (l) shall also be enrolled as if they were employees.

(f) An employer who, after receiving any driving record pursuant to this section, employs or continues to employ as a driver any person against whom a disqualifying action has been taken regarding his or her driving privilege or required driver's certificate, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(g) . . .

(h) A request to participate in the pull notice system established by this section shall be accompanied by a fee determined by the department [DMV] to be sufficient to defray the entire actual cost to the department [DMV] for the notification service. For the receipt of subsequent reports, the employer shall also be charged a fee established by the department [DMV] pursuant to Section 1811. Any employer who qualifies under Section 1812 shall be exempt from any fee required under this section. Failure to pay the fee shall result in automatic cancellation of the employer's participation in the notification services.

(i) The department [DMV], as soon as feasible, may establish an automatic procedure to provide the periodic reports in subdivision (c) to employers on a regular basis without the need for individual requests.

(j) This section shall not be construed to change the definition of "employer," "employee," or "independent contractor" for any other purpose.

(k) The employer of a driver who is employed as a casual driver is not required to enter that driver's name in the pull notice system, as otherwise required by subdivision (a). However, the employer of a casual driver shall be in possession of a report of the driver's current public record as recorded by the department [DMV], prior to allowing a casual driver to drive any vehicle specified in subdivision (l). A report is current if it was issued less than six months prior to the date the employer employs the driver. As used in this subdivision, a driver is employed as a casual driver when the employer has employed the driver less than 30 days during the preceding six months. For purposes of this subdivision, "casual driver" does not include any driver who operates a vehicle that requires a passenger transportation endorsement.

(l) This section applies to any vehicle for the operation of which the driver is required to have a class 1, class 2, class A, or class B driver's license, a class C license with a hazardous materials endorsement, or a certificate issued pursuant to Section 2512, 12517, 12519, 12520, 12523, or 12523.5, or any passenger vehicle having a seating capacity of not more than 10 persons, including the driver, operated for compensation by a charter-party carrier of passengers or passenger stage corporation pursuant to a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a permit issued by the Public Utilities Commission.

Chapter 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol

Article 3. Powers and Duties

§ 2416. Authorized Emergency Vehicle Permit

(a) The Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol may issue authorized emergency vehicle permits only for the following vehicles, and then only upon a finding in each case that the vehicle is used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property or for the apprehension of law violators:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8) Privately owned ambulances licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 2500).

(9) Vehicles other than privately owned ambulances used by privately owned ambulance operators exclusively to transport medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene of an emergency when a request for medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel has been made by any person or public agency responsible for providing emergency medical transportation. These vehicles shall display a sign or lettering not less than two and one-half inches in height, in a color providing a sharp contrast to its background, on each side showing the name of the ambulance operator.

(10) . . .

(b) The commissioner may adopt and enforce regulations to implement this section.

(c) Violation of any regulation adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section is a misdemeanor.

§ 2418.5. Resuscitator Requirements for Ambulances

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every emergency ambulance which is operated within this state by any public or private agency, including but not limited to any emergency ambulance which is operated by the State of California, any charter or general law city or county, or any district, shall be equipped at all times with a resuscitator.

For purposes of this section "emergency ambulance" means a vehicle which is designed or intended to be used in providing emergency transportation of wounded, injured, sick, invalid, or incapacitated human beings.

For the purposes of this section, a "resuscitator" means a device which adequately, effectively and safely restores breathing, which includes, but is not limited to, a portable hand-operated, self-refilling bag-valve mask unit for inflation of the lungs with either air or oxygen. The resuscitator shall not have any straps which could be used to attach the resuscitator to the human head.

Chapter 2.5. Licenses Issued by California Highway Patrol

Article 1. General Provisions

§ 2501. Licenses

The Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol may issue licenses for the operation of privately owned or operated ambulances used to respond to emergency calls Such licenses shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant thereto. All licenses issued by the commissioner shall expire one year from the date of issue. Licenses may be renewed upon application and payment of the renewal fees if the application for renewal is made within the 30-day period prior to the date of expiration. Persons whose licenses have expired shall immediately cease the activity requiring a license, but the commissioner shall accept applications for renewal during the 30-day period following the date of expiration if they are accompanied by the new license fee. In no case shall a license be renewed where the application is received more than 30 days after the date of expiration.

§ 2502. Form of Application; Fee

(a) . . .

(b) Each application for a new or renewal license for the operation of ambulances shall be accompanied by a fee not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) for a new license or one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for a renewal license.

(c) . . .

(d) Each application shall be made upon a form furnished by the commissioner. It shall contain information concerning the applicant's background and experience which the commissioner may prescribe, in addition to other information required by law.

§ 2503. Transfer or Replacement of License

(a) Licenses issued by the commissioner shall not be transferable. Any change in ownership or control of the licensed activity shall require a new license. A change in ownership or control includes, but is not limited to, the addition or deletion of a partner, transfer of ownership between family members, change in corporate status, or a stock transfer of shares possessing more than 50 percent of the voting power of the corporation.

(b) In the event of a change of name, not involving a change of ownership or control, the license shall be returned to the commissioner for cancellation, and a new license application form shall be submitted. The commissioner shall cancel the returned license and issue a new license for the unexpired term without fee.

(c) In the event of loss, destruction, or mutilation of a license issued by the commissioner, the person to whom it was issued may obtain a duplicate upon paying a fee of five dollars (\$5). Any person who loses a license issued by the commissioner and who, after obtaining a duplicate, finds the original license shall immediately surrender the original license to the commissioner.

(d) Any change of address or relocation of a licensed service shall be reported to the commissioner within 10 days.

§ 2504. Violation of Regulations

It is unlawful to violate any regulation adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter.

Article 2. Privately Owned and Operated Ambulances and Armored Cars

§ 2510. License for Ambulance or Armored Car

(a) A person applying for a license to operate ambulances . . . shall provide separate identification data and reports of inspection for each vehicle as prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) No person shall operate a privately owned emergency ambulance . . . until the California Highway Patrol has determined that the vehicle is in compliance with this code and regulations adopted by the commissioner. Ambulances licensed by the department [CHP] shall be inspected by the department [CHP] not less often than once annually.

§ 2511. Eligibility for License

Licenses for the operation of ambulances may be issued only to those persons or entities which operate ambulances designed and operated exclusively as such and which are used to respond to emergency calls.

§ 2512. Regulations Governing Ambulance Service: Handbook

(a) The commissioner, after consultation with, and pursuant to the recommendations of, the Emergency Medical Service Authority and the department [DMV], shall adopt and enforce reasonable regulations as the commissioner determines are necessary for the public health and safety regarding the operation, equipment, and certification of drivers of all ambulances used for emergency services. The regulations shall not conflict with standards established by the Emergency Medical Service Authority pursuant to Section 1797.170 of the Health and Safety Code. The commissioner shall exempt, upon request of the county board of supervisors that an exemption is necessary for public health and safety, noncommercial ambulances operated within the county from the regulations adopted under this section as are specified in the board of supervisors' request. The Emergency Medical Service Authority shall be notified by the county boards of supervisors of any exemptions.

(b) The department [DMV], in cooperation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol and the Emergency Medical Service Authority, may adopt and administer regulations relating to the issuance, suspension, or revocation of ambulance driver's certificates. In addition to the fee authorized in Section 2427, the department [DMV] shall charge a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for the issuance of an original certificate and twelve dollars (\$12) for the renewal of that certificate, and, in the administration thereof, to exercise the powers granted to the commissioner by this section.

(c) This section shall not preclude the adoption of more restrictive regulations by local authorities, except that inspection of ambulances pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 2510 shall not be duplicated by local authorities. It is the intent of the Legislature that regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section shall be the minimum necessary to protect public health and safety, and shall not be so restrictive as to preclude compliance by ambulances operated in sparsely populated areas. This subdivision does not relieve the owner or driver of any ambulance from compliance with Section 21055.

(d) The Department of the California Highway Patrol after consultation with the department [DMV] and the Emergency Medical Service Authority shall prepare, and make available for purchase, an ambulance driver's handbook.

Article 5. Denial, Suspension and Revocation

§ 2540. Denial, Suspension or Revocation of License

Any license issued may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner. The commissioner may refuse to issue a license to any applicant for the reasons set forth in Section 2531 or 2541. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the commissioner shall have all the powers granted therein.

§ 2541. Grounds for Denial of License

(a) The commissioner may deny a license if the applicant or any partner, officer, or director thereof:

(1) Fails to meet the qualifications established by the department [CHP] pursuant to this chapter for the issuance of the license applied for.

(2) Was previously the holder of a license issued under this chapter which license has been revoked and never reissued or which license was suspended and the terms of the suspension have not been fulfilled.

(3) Has committed any act which, if committed by any licensee, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of a license issued pursuant to this chapter.

(4) Has committed any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is injured or whereby the applicant has benefited.

(5) Has acted in the capacity of a licensed person or firm under this chapter without having a license therefor.

(6) Has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of, or been convicted of, a felony, or a crime involving moral turpitude, and the time for appeal has elapsed or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, irrespective of an order granting probation following such conviction, suspending the imposition of sentence, or of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the plea or verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation or information.

(b) The commissioner may also deny a license if a corporation is the applicant and the policy or activities of the corporation are or will be directed, controlled, or managed by individuals or shareholders who are ineligible for a license, and the licensing of that corporation would likely defeat the purpose of this section.

§ 2542. Grounds for Disciplinary Action

The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or take other disciplinary action against a license as provided in this article if the licensee or any partner, officer, director, controlling shareholder, or manager thereof:

(a) Violates any section of this code which relates to his or her licensed activities.

(b) Is convicted of any felony.

(c) Is convicted of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

(d) Violates any of the regulations promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter.

(e) Commits any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit whereby another is injured or any act involving moral turpitude.

- (f) Has misrepresented a material fact in obtaining a license.
- (g) Aids or abets an unlicensed person to evade this chapter.
- (h) Fails to make and keep records showing his or her transactions as a licensee, or fails to have these records available for inspection by the commissioner or his or her duly authorized representative for a period of not less than three years after completion of any transaction to which the records refer, or refuses to comply with a written request of the commissioner to make such record available for inspection.
- (i) Violates or attempts to violate this chapter relating to the particular activity for which he or she is licensed.
- (j) Fails to equip or maintain his or her vehicles, as required by this code or by the regulations adopted pursuant to this code.

§ 2543. Convictions

A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The commissioner may order the license suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.

§ 2544. Disciplinary Actions

The commissioner may take disciplinary action against any license after a hearing as provided in this chapter by any of the following:

- (a) Imposing probation upon terms and conditions to be set forth by the commissioner.
- (b) Suspending the license.
- (c) Revoking the license.

§ 2545. Surrender of License

Upon the effective date of any order of suspension or revocation of any license governed by this chapter, the licensee shall surrender the license to the commissioner.

§ 2546. Continuing Jurisdiction

The expiration or suspension of a license by operation of law or by order or decision of the commissioner or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the commissioner of jurisdiction to proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceedings against such licensee, or to render a decision suspending or revoking such license.

§ 2547. Period for Filing Accusations

All accusations against licensees shall be filed within three years after the act or omission alleged as the ground for disciplinary action, except that with respect to an accusation alleging a violation of subdivision (f) of Section 2542, the accusation may be filed within two years after the discovery by the California Highway Patrol of the alleged facts constituting the fraud or misrepresentation prohibited by said section.

§ 2548. Revocation or Suspension of Additional Licenses

When any license has been revoked or suspended following a hearing under the provisions of this chapter, any additional license issued under this chapter in the name of the licensee may be likewise revoked or suspended by the commissioner.

§ 2549. Reinstatement of License

After suspension of the license upon any of the grounds set forth in this article, the commissioner may reinstate the license upon proof of compliance by the applicant with all provisions of the decision as to reinstatement. After revocation of a license upon any of the grounds set forth in this article, the license shall not be reinstated or reissued within a period of one year after the effective date of revocation.

Chapter 4. Administration and Enforcement

Article 1. Lawful Orders and Inspections

§ 2800. Obedience to Traffic Officers

It is unlawful to willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order, signal, or direction of any peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, when that peace officer is in uniform and is performing duties under any of the provisions of this code, or to refuse to submit to any lawful inspection under this code.

DIVISION 6. DRIVERS'S LICENSES

Chapter 1. Issuance of Licenses, Expiration, and Renewal

Article 1. Persons Required to Be Licensed, Exemptions, and Age Limits

§ 12527. Ambulance Driver Certificate

In addition to satisfying all requirements specified in this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code, an applicant for an ambulance driver certificate shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(a) Except as otherwise provided, every ambulance driver responding to an emergency call or transporting patients shall be at least 18 years of age, hold a driver's license valid in California, possess a valid ambulance driver certificate, and be trained and competent in ambulance operation and the use of safety and emergency care equipment required by the California Code of Regulations governing ambulances.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (f), no person shall operate an ambulance unless the person has in his or her immediate possession a driver's license for the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven, and a certificate issued by the department [DMV] to permit the operation of an ambulance.

(c) An ambulance driver certificate may be issued by the department [DMV] only upon the successful completion of an examination conducted by the department [DMV] and subject to all of the following conditions:

(1) An applicant for an original or renewal driver certificate shall submit a report of medical examination on a form approved by the department [DMV], the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Aviation Administration. The report shall be dated within the two years preceding the application date.

(2) An applicant for an original driver certificate shall submit an acceptable fingerprint card.

(3) The certificate to drive an ambulance shall be valid for a period not exceeding five years and six months and shall expire on the same date as the driver's license. The ambulance driver certificate shall be valid only when both of the following conditions exist:

(A) The certificate is accompanied by a medical examination certificate that was issued within the preceding two years and approved by the department [DMV], Federal Highway Administration, or Federal Aviation Administration.

(B) A copy of the medical examination report from which the certificate was issued is on file with by the department [DMV].

(4) The ambulance driver certificate is renewable under conditions prescribed by the department [DMV]. Except as permitted under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (d), applicants renewing an ambulance driver certificate shall possess certificates or licenses evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance attendants established by the Emergency Medical Service Authority.

(d) (1) Every ambulance driver shall have been trained to assist the ambulance attendant in the care and handling of the ill and injured.

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the driver of a California-based ambulance shall, within one year of initial issuance of the driver's ambulance driver certificate, possess a certificate or license evidencing compliance with the emergency medical training and educational standards established for ambulance attendants by the Emergency Medical Service Authority. In those emergencies requiring both the regularly

assigned driver and attendant to be utilized in providing patient care, the specialized emergency medical training requirement shall not apply to persons temporarily detailed to drive the ambulance.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to an ambulance driver who is a volunteer driver for a volunteer ambulance service under the circumstances specified in this paragraph, if the service is provided in the unincorporated areas of a county with a population of less than 125,000 persons, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census. The operation of an ambulance under this paragraph shall only apply if the name of the driver and the volunteer ambulance service and facts substantiating the public health necessity for an exemption are submitted to the department [DMV] by the county board of supervisors and by at least one of the following entities in the county where the driver operates the ambulance:

- (A) The county health officer.
- (B) The county medical care committee.
- (C) The local emergency medical services agency coordinator.

(3) The information required by paragraph (2) shall be submitted to the department [DMV] at the time of application for an ambulance driver certificate. Upon receipt of that information, the department [DMV] shall restrict the certificate holder to driving an ambulance for the volunteer ambulance service.

(4) The director may terminate any certificate issued pursuant to paragraph (2) at any time the department [DMV] determines that the qualifying conditions specified therein no longer exist.

(5) The exemption granted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall expire on the expiration date of the ambulance driver certificate.

(e) A person holding a valid certificate to permit the operation of an ambulance, issued prior to January 1, 1991, shall not be required to reapply for a certificate to satisfy the requirements of this section until the certificate he or she holds expires or is canceled or revoked.

(f) An ambulance certificate is not required for persons operating ambulances in the line of duty as salaried, regular, full-time police officers, deputy sheriffs, or members of a fire department of a public agency. This exemption does not include volunteers and part-time employees or members of a department whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative.

Chapter 2. Suspension or Revocation of Licenses

Article 3. Suspension and Revocation by Department

§ 13372. Denial, Suspension or Revocation of Ambulance Driver Certificate

(a) The department [DMV] shall deny an ambulance driver certificate if any of the following apply to the applicant:

- (1) Is required to register as a sex offender under Section 290 of the Penal Code for any offense involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation.
- (2) Habitually or excessively uses or is addicted to narcotics or dangerous drugs.
- (3) Is on parole or probation for any felony, theft, or any crime involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation.

(b) The department [DMV] may deny an ambulance driver certificate if any of the following apply to the applicant:

- (1) Has been convicted during the preceding seven years of any offense punishable as a felony or has been convicted during that period of any theft.
- (2) Has committed any act involving moral turpitude, including fraud or intentional dishonesty for personal gain, within the preceding seven years.
- (3) Habitually and excessively uses intoxicating beverages.
- (4) Has been convicted within the preceding seven years of any offense relating to the use, sale, possession, or transportation of narcotics or addictive or dangerous drugs, or of any misdemeanor involving force, violence, threat, or intimidation.
- (5) Is on probation to the department [DMV] for a cause involving the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle.

(6) Within the three years immediately preceding the application has had his or her driver's license suspended or revoked by the department [DMV] for a cause involving the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle, or, within the same period, has been convicted of any of the following:

(A) Failing to stop and render aid in an accident involving injury or death.

(B) Driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor, any drug, or under the combined influence of intoxicating liquor and any drug.

(C) Reckless driving, or reckless driving involving bodily injury.

(7) Has knowingly falsified or failed to disclose a material fact in his and her application. Applicants refused certification under this provision shall not be issued an ambulance driver certificate within 12 months of that refusal.

(8) Has been involved as a driver in any motor vehicle accident causing death or bodily injury or in three or more motor vehicle accidents during the preceding one-year period.

(9) Does not meet minimum medical standards specified in this code or in regulations adopted pursuant to this code.

(10) Has demonstrated irrational behavior or incurred a physical disability to the extent that a reasonable and prudent person would have reasonable cause to believe that the ability to perform the duties normally expected of an ambulance driver may be impaired.

(11) Has violated any provision of this code or any rule or regulation adopted by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol relating to the operation of emergency ambulances during the preceding one-year period.

(12) Has committed any act that warrants dismissal, as provided in Section 13373.

(c) The department [DMV] may revoke or suspend the ambulance driver certificate of any person who gives any cause, before or after issuance of the certificate, for either mandatory or discretionary refusal of certification.

§ 13373. Grounds for Dismissal of an Ambulance Driver

The receipt of satisfactory evidence of any violation of Article 1 (commencing with Section 1100) of Subchapter 5 of Chapter 2 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, the Vehicle Code, or any other applicable law that would provide grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of an ambulance driver's certificate or evidence of an act committed involving intentional dishonesty for personal gain or conduct contrary to justice, honesty, modesty, or good morals, may be sufficient cause for the dismissal of any ambulance driver or attendant. Dismissal of a driver or attendant under this section shall be reported by the employer to the Department of Motor Vehicles at Sacramento within 10 days.

§ 13374. Hearing Process: Ambulance Driver Certificates

(a) Whenever the department refuses to issue or renew, or suspends or revokes, an ambulance driver certificate for any cause, the person involved may, within 10 days after receiving notification of the action, submit a written request for a hearing. Upon receipt of the request, the department shall appoint a referee who shall conduct an informal hearing in accordance with Section 14104. Failure to request a hearing within 10 days after receiving a notice given under this section is a waiver of the right to a hearing. A request for a hearing shall not operate to stay the action for which notice is given.

(b) Upon conclusion of an informal hearing, the referee shall prepare and submit findings and recommendations through the department to a committee of three members one each appointed by the Director of the Emergency Medical Service Authority, the director, and the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol with the appointee of the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol serving as chairperson. After a review of the findings and recommendations, the committee shall render a final decision on the action taken, and the department shall notify the person involved of the decision.

§ 13375. Definition of Conviction

For the purposes of this article, any plea or verdict of guilty, plea of nolo contendere, or court finding of guilt in a trial without a jury, or forfeiture of bail, is deemed a conviction, notwithstanding subsequent action under Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a of the Penal Code allowing withdrawal of the plea of guilty and entering a plea of not guilty, setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation or information.

DIVISION 7. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWS

Chapter 1. Compulsory Financial Responsibility

Article 2. Financial Responsibility

§ 16021. Establishing Financial Responsibility

Financial responsibility of the driver or owner is established if the driver or owner of the vehicle involved in an accident described in Section 16000 is:

- (a) A self-insurer under the provisions of this division.
- (b) An insured or obligee under a form of insurance or bond which complies with the requirements of this division and which covers the driver for the vehicle involved in the accident.
- (c) The United States of America, this state, any municipality or subdivision thereof, or the lawful agent thereof.
- (d) A depositor in compliance with subdivision (a) of Section 16054.2.
- (e) In compliance with the requirements authorized by the department [DMV] by any other manner which effectuates the purposes of this chapter.

Chapter 4. Commercial Vehicles

§ 16500. Proof Required: Commercial Passenger Vehicles

Every owner of a vehicle used in the transportation of passengers for hire, including taxicabs, when the operation of the vehicle is not subject to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission, shall maintain, whenever he or she may be engaged in conducting those operations, proof of financial responsibility resulting from the ownership or operation of the vehicle and arising by reason of personal injury to, or death of, any one person, of at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), and, subject to the limit of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for each person injured or killed, of at least thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the injury to, or the death of, two or more persons in any one accident, and for damages to property of at least five thousand dollars (\$5,000) resulting from any one accident. Proof of financial responsibility may be maintained by either:

- (a) Being insured under a motor vehicle liability policy against that liability.
- (b) Obtaining a bond of the same kind, and containing the same provisions, as those bonds specified in Section 16434.
- (c) By depositing with the department [DMV] thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000), which amount shall be deposited in a special deposit account with the Controller for the purpose of this section.
- (d) Qualifying as a self-insurer under Section 16053.

The department [DMV] shall return the deposit to the person entitled thereto when he or she is no longer required to maintain proof of financial responsibility as required by this section or upon his or her death.

§ 16501. Power of Local Authorities

The provisions of this chapter shall not prevent local authorities, within the reasonable exercise of the police power, from adopting rules and regulations, by ordinance or resolution, licensing and regulating the operation of any vehicle for hire and the drivers of passenger vehicles for hire.

§ 16502. Prohibited Use

No owner shall use, or with his or her consent permit the use of, any vehicle used in the transportation of persons or property in the conduct of a business, without maintaining proof of financial responsibility as required by this chapter.

DIVISION 9. CIVIL LIABILITY

Chapter 1. Civil Liability of Owners and Operators of Vehicles

Article 1. Public Agencies

§ 17001. Liability of a Public Entity

A public entity is liable for death or injury to person or property proximately caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission in the operation of any motor vehicle by an employee of the public entity acting within the scope of his employment,

§ 17002. Extent of Liability

Subject to Article 4 (commencing with Section 825) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code, a public entity is liable for death or injury to person or property to the same extent as a private person under the provisions of Article 2 (commencing with Section 17150) of this chapter.

§ 17004. Authorized Emergency Vehicles

A public employee is not liable for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or damage to property resulting from the operation, in the line of duty, of an authorized emergency vehicle while responding to an emergency call or when in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm or other emergency call.

§ 17004.5. Liability of Private Fire Department

Any private firm or corporation, or employee thereof, which maintains a fire department and has entered into a mutual aid agreement pursuant to Section 13855, 14095, or 14455.5 of the Health and Safety Code shall have the same immunity from liability for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or damage to property resulting from the operation of an authorized emergency vehicle while responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm or other emergency call as is provided by law for the district and its employees with which the firm or corporation has entered into a mutual aid agreement, except when the act or omission causing the personal injury to or death of any person or damage to property occurs on property under the control of such firm or corporation.

Article 2. Private Owners

§ 17150. Liability of Private Owners

Every owner of a motor vehicle is liable and responsible for death or injury to person or property resulting from a negligent or wrongful act or omission in the operation of the motor vehicle, in the business of the owner or otherwise, by any person using or operating the same with the permission, express or implied, of the owner.

DIVISION 10. ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

Chapter 1. Accidents and Accident Reports

§ 20016. Persons Injured on Highways

Any peace officer, any member of an organized fire department or fire protection district, any employee of the Department of Transportation assigned to maintenance operations, or any member of the California Highway Patrol may transport or arrange for the transportation of any person injured in an accident upon any highway to a physician and surgeon or hospital, if the injured person does not object to such transportation. Any officer, member, or employee exercising ordinary care and precaution shall not be liable for any damages due to any further injury or for any medical, ambulance, or hospital bills incurred in behalf of the injured party.

DIVISION 11. RULES OF THE ROAD

Chapter 1. Obedience to and Effect of Traffic Laws

Article 2. Effect of Traffic Laws

§ 21055. Exemption of Authorized Emergency Vehicles

The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21350), Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21650), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 21800), Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21950), Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 22100), Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 22348), Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 22450), Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 22500), and Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 22650) of this division, and Article 3 (commencing with Section 38305) and Article 4 (commencing with Section 38312) of Chapter 5 of Division 16.5, under all of the following conditions:

(a) If the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call or while engaged in rescue operations or is being used in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or is responding to, but not returning from, a fire alarm, except that fire department vehicles are exempt whether directly responding to an emergency call or operated from one place to another as rendered desirable or necessary by reason of an emergency call and operated to the scene of the emergency or operated from one fire station to another or to some other location by reason of the emergency call.

(b) If the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren as may be reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

A siren shall not be sounded by an authorized emergency vehicle except when required under this section.

PRINCIPAL SECTIONS FROM WHICH AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE EXEMPT WHEN OPERATING UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED ABOVE

- § 21453. Circular Red or Red Arrow
- § 21457. Flashing Signals
- § 21460. Double Lines
- § 21461. Obedience by Driver to Official Traffic Control Devices
- § 21650. Right Side of Roadway
- § 21651. Divided Highways
- § 21657. Designated Traffic Direction
- § 21658. Laned Roadways
- § 21659. Three-Lane Highways
- § 21750. Overtake and Pass to Left
- § 21751. Passing Without Sufficient Clearance
- § 21752. When Driving on Left Prohibited
- § 21754. Passing on the Right
- § 21756. Passing Standing Streetcar, Trolley Coach, or Bus
- § 21800. Intersections
- § 21801. Left-Turn or U-Turn
- § 21802. Stop Signs: Intersections
- § 21803. Signs: Intersections
- § 21804. Entry Onto Highway
- § 21950. Right-of-Way at Crosswalks
- § 21951. Vehicles Stopped for Pedestrians
- § 21952. Right-of-Way on Sidewalk
- § 22100. Turning Upon a Highway

- § 22102. U-turn in Business District
- § 22103. U-turn in Residence District
- § 22105. Unobstructed View Necessary for U-Turn
- § 22108. Duration of Signal
- § 22349. Maximum Speed Limit (55 MPH)
- § 22350. Basic Speed Law
- § 22356. Increase of Freeway Limit
- § 22450. Stop Requirements
- § 22451. Stops for Train Signals
- § 22452. Railroad Crossings
- § 22500. Prohibited Stopping, Standing, or Parking
- § 22504. Unincorporated Area Parking; School Bus Stops
- § 22517. Opening and Closing Doors
- § 22520. Stopping on Freeway

§ 21056. Effect of Exemption

Section 21055 does not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor protect him from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges granted in that section.

Chapter 3. Driving, Overtaking, and Passing

Article 2. Additional Driving Rules

§ 21706. Following Emergency Vehicles

No motor vehicle, except an authorized emergency vehicle, shall follow within 300 feet of any authorized emergency vehicle being operated under the provisions of Section 21055

§ 21707. Fire Areas

No motor vehicle, except an authorized emergency vehicle or a vehicle of a duly authorized member of a fire or police department, shall be operated within the block wherein an emergency situation responded to by any fire department vehicle exists, except that in the event the nearest intersection to the emergency is more than 300 feet therefrom, this section shall prohibit operation of vehicles only within 300 feet of the emergency, unless directed to do so by a member of the fire department or police department, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or member of the California Highway Patrol. The emergency shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when the official of the fire department in charge at the scene of the emergency shall so indicate. Officials of the fire department or police department or the Department of the California Highway Patrol who are present shall make every effort to prevent the closing off entirely of congested highway traffic passing the scene of any such emergency.

Chapter 4. Right-of-Way

§ 21806. Authorized Emergency Vehicles

Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle which is sounding a siren and which has at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light that is visible, under normal atmospheric conditions, from a distance of 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, the surrounding traffic shall, except as otherwise directed by a traffic officer, do the following:

(a) (1) Except as required under paragraph (2), the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection, and thereupon shall stop and remain stopped until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

(2) A person driving a vehicle in an exclusive or preferential use lane shall exit that lane immediately upon determining that the exit can be accomplished with reasonable safety.

(b) The operator of every street car shall immediately stop the street car, clear of any intersection, and remain stopped until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

(c) All pedestrians upon the highway shall proceed to the nearest curb or place of safety and remain there until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

§ 21807. Effect of Exemption

The provisions of Section 21806 shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.

Chapter 7. Speed Laws

Article 1. Generally

§ 22350. Basic Speed Law

No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

§ 22352. Prima Facie Speed Limits

(a) The prima facie limits are as follows and shall be applicable unless changed as authorized in this code and, if so changed, only when signs have been erected giving notice thereof:

(1) Fifteen miles per hour:

(A) When traversing a railway grade crossing, if during the last 100 feet of the approach to the crossing the driver does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the crossing and of any traffic on the railway for a distance of 400 feet in both directions along the railway. This subdivision does not apply in the case of any railway grade crossing where a human flagman is on duty or a clearly visible electrical or mechanical railway crossing signal device is installed but does not then indicate the immediate approach of a railway train or car.

(B) When traversing any intersection of highways if during the last 100 feet of the driver's approach to the intersection the driver does not have a clear and unobstructed view of the intersection and of any traffic upon all of the highways entering the intersection for a distance of 100 feet along all those highways, except at an intersection protected by stop signs or yield right-of-way signs or controlled by official traffic control signals.

(C) On any alley.

(2) Twenty-five miles per hour:

(A) On any highway other than a state highway, in any business or residence district unless a different speed is determined by local authority under procedures set forth in this code.

(B) When passing a school building or the grounds thereof, contiguous to a highway and posted with a standard "SCHOOL" warning sign, while children are going to or leaving the school either during school hours or during the noon recess period. The prima facie limit shall also apply when passing any school grounds which are not separated from the highway by a fence, gate or other physical barrier while the grounds are in use by children and the highway is posted with a standard "SCHOOL" warning sign.

(C) When passing a senior center or other facility primarily used by senior citizens, contiguous to a street other than a state highway and posted with a standard "SENIOR" warning sign. A local authority is not required to erect any sign pursuant to this paragraph until donations from private sources covering those costs are received and the local agency makes a determination that the proposed signing should be implemented. A local authority may, however, utilize any other funds available to it to pay for the erection of those signs.

(3) Thirty-five miles per hour on any highway, other than a state highway, in any moderate density residential district, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 22352.1, when posted with a sign giving notice of that speed limit, unless a different speed is determined by local authority under procedures set forth in this code. *{This subsection [(a)(3)] shall remain in effect only until March 1, 2001, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted on or before March 1, 2001, deletes or extends that date}.*

§ 22352.1. Moderate Density Residential Districts: Speed Limits: Demonstration Project: Town of Apple Valley

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Town of Apple Valley, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and the Department of the California Highway Patrol, may conduct a demonstration program that establishes a prima facie speed limit of 35 miles per hour on any highway, other than a state highway, in a moderate density residence district.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a "moderate density residence district" is that portion within the boundaries of the Town of Apple Valley of a highway and the property contiguous thereto, other than a business district, (1) upon one side of which highway, within a distance of a quarter of a mile, the contiguous property fronting thereon is occupied by six, but not more than 12, separate dwelling houses or business structures, or (2) upon both sides of which highway, collectively, within a distance of a quarter of a mile, the contiguous property fronting thereon is occupied by 10, but not more than 15, separate dwelling houses or business structures. A moderate density residence district may be longer than a quarter of a mile if the above ratio of separate dwelling houses or business structures to the length of the highway exists.

(c) Section 240 shall apply to the demonstration program established pursuant to subdivision (a).

(d) The Town of Apple Valley shall select at least four representative streets within a moderate density residence district for purposes of the demonstration program. The demonstration program shall be conducted for at least one year but not longer than three years. Selected streets shall have at least one quarter mile of straight roadway without interruption and at least one of the streets shall have a curb and gutter.

(e) Drivers of vehicles operating on selected streets shall comply with this code for the purpose of all traffic laws. Traffic laws shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies in accordance with law.

(f) The Town of Apple Valley shall prepare a written report at the end of the demonstration program. The report shall include data identifying street volume, street classification, street width, accident history for three years prior to the demonstration program, incidences of accidents occurring during the program, and the number of violations, identified by violation, time of day, speed, and residency of the violation. The report shall be submitted to the Legislature within 90 days of the conclusion of the program and shall be made available to the public.

(g) In addition, the Town of Apple Valley shall have a study conducted by a public or private entity employing traffic and engineering consultants or by any organization with traffic engineering expertise. The entity or organization undertaking the study shall conduct a study of speeds on the selected residential streets before posting signs. Surveys shall include morning and evening commute times. This study shall be presented with the report described in subdivision (f).

(h) This section shall remain in effect only until March 1, 2001, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted on or before March 1, 2001, deletes or extends that date.

Chapter 12. Public Offenses

Article 1. Driving Offenses

§ 23103. Reckless Driving

(a) Any person who drives any vehicle upon a highway in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving.

(b) Any person who drives any vehicle in any offstreet parking facility, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 12500, in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving.

(c) Persons convicted of the offense of reckless driving shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than five days nor more than 90 days or by a fine of not less than one hundred forty-five dollars (\$145) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both fine and imprisonment, except as provided in Section 23104.

§ 23104. Reckless Driving: Bodily Injury

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), whenever reckless driving of a vehicle proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver, the person driving the vehicle shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months or by a fine of not less than two hundred twenty dollars (\$220) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.

(b) Any persons convicted of reckless driving which proximately causes great bodily injury, as defined in Section 12022.7 of the Penal Code, to any person other than the driver, who previously has been convicted of a violation of Section 23103, 23104, 23109, 23152, or 23153, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison, by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 30 days nor more than six months or by a fine of not less than two hundred twenty dollars (\$220) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Article 2. Offenses Involving Alcohol and Drugs

§ 23152. Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

(a) It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, to drive a vehicle.

(b) It is unlawful for any person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle.

For purposes of this article and Section 34501.16, percent, by weight, of alcohol in a person's blood is based upon grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

In any prosecution under this subdivision, it is a rebuttable presumption that the person had 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood at the time of driving the vehicle if the person had 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood at the time of the performance of a chemical test within three hours after the driving.

(c) It is unlawful for any person who is addicted to the use of any drug to drive a vehicle. This subdivision shall not apply to a person who is participating in a narcotic treatment program approved pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 11875) of Chapter 1 of Part 3 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(d)

(e)

(f)

§ 23153. Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs Causing Injury

(a) It is unlawful for any person, while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver.

(b) It is unlawful for any person, while having 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver.

In any prosecution under this subdivision, it is a rebuttable presumption that the person had 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood at the time of driving the vehicle if the person had

0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood at the time of the performance of a chemical test within three hours after driving.

(c) In proving the person neglected any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, it is not necessary to prove that any specific section of this code was violated.

(d)

(e)

(f)

DIVISION 12. EQUIPMENT OF VEHICLES

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§ 24002. Vehicle Not Equipped or Unsafe

(a) It is unlawful to operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in an unsafe condition, or which is not safely loaded, and which presents an immediate safety hazard.

(b) It is unlawful to operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is not equipped as provided in this code.

§ 24003. Vehicle With Unlawful Lamps

No vehicle shall be equipped with any lamp or illuminating device not required or permitted in this code, nor shall any lamp or illuminating device be mounted inside a vehicle unless specifically permitted by this code. This section does not apply to:

(a) Interior lamps such as door, brake and instrument lamps, and map, dash, and dome lamps designed and used for the purpose of illuminating the interior of the vehicle.

(b) Lamps needed in the operation or utilization of those vehicles mentioned in Section 25801, or vehicles used by public utilities in the repair or maintenance of their service, or used only for the illumination of cargo space of a vehicle while loading or unloading.

(c) Warning lamps mounted inside an authorized emergency vehicle and meeting requirements established by the department [CHP].

§ 24004. Unlawful Operation After Notice by Officer

No person shall operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles after notice by a peace officer, as defined in Section 830.1 or subdivision (a) of Section 830.2 of the Penal Code, that the vehicle is in an unsafe condition or is not equipped as required by this code, except as may be necessary to return the vehicle or combination of vehicles to the residence or place of business of the owner or driver or to a garage, until the vehicle and its equipment have been made to conform with the requirements of this code.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to an employee who does not know that such notice has been issued, and in such event the provisions of Section 40001 shall be applicable.

§ 24005. Sale, Transfer or Installation of Unlawful Equipment

It is unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, lease, install, or replace, either for himself or as the agent or employee of another, or through such agent or employee, any glass, lighting equipment, signal devices, brakes, vacuum or pressure hose, muffler, exhaust, or any kind of equipment whatsoever for use, or with knowledge that any such equipment is intended for eventual use, in any vehicle, that is not in conformity with this code or regulations made thereunder.

§ 24012. Compliance With Lighting Equipment Mounting Regulations

All lighting equipment or devices subject to requirements established by the department [CHP] shall comply with the engineering requirements and specifications, including mounting and aiming instructions, determined and publicized by the department [CHP].

Chapter 2. Lighting Equipment
Article 6. Side and Fender Lighting Equipment

§ 25100.1. Clearance Lamps: Ambulances

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, an ambulance may be equipped with clearance and side-marker lamps.

§ 25110. Utility Flood and Loading Lamps

(a) The following vehicles may be equipped with utility flood or loading lamps mounted on the rear, and sides, that project a white light illuminating an area to the side or rear of the vehicle for a distance not to exceed 75 feet at the level of the roadway:

(1) Tow trucks that are used to tow disabled vehicles may display utility floodlights, but only during the period of preparation for towing at the location from which a disabled vehicle is to be towed.

(2) Ambulances used to respond to emergency calls may display utility flood and loading lights, but only at the scene of an emergency or while loading or unloading patients.

(3) Firefighting equipment designed and operated exclusively as such may display utility floodlamps only at the scene of an emergency.

(4) Vehicles used by law enforcement agencies or organizations engaged in the detoxification of alcoholics may display utility flood or loading lights when loading or unloading persons under the influence of intoxicants for transportation to detoxification centers or places of incarceration.

(5) Vehicles used by law enforcement agencies for mobile blood alcohol testing, drug evaluation, or field sobriety testing.

(6) Vehicles used by publicly or privately owned public utilities may display utility flood or loading lights when engaged in emergency roadside repair of electric, gas, telephone, telegraph, water, or sewer facilities.

(b) Lamps permitted under subdivision (a) shall not be lighted during darkness, except while the vehicle is parked, nor project any glaring light into the eyes of an approaching driver.

Article 7. Flashing and Colored Lights

§ 25250. Flashing Lights

Flashing lights are prohibited on vehicles except as otherwise permitted.

§ 25251. Permitted Flashing Lights

(a) Flashing lights are permitted on vehicles as follows:

(1) To indicate an intention to turn or move to the right or left upon a roadway, turn signal lamps and turn signal exterior pilot indicator lamps and side lamps permitted under Section 25106 may be flashed on the side of a vehicle toward which the turn or movement is to be made.

(2) When disabled or parked off the roadway but within 10 feet of the roadway, or when approaching, stopped at, or departing from, a railroad grade crossing, turn signal lamps may be flashed as warning lights if the front turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously and the rear turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously.

(3) To warn other motorists of accidents or hazards on a roadway, turn signal lamps may be flashed as warning lights while the vehicle is approaching, overtaking, or passing the accident or hazard on the roadway if the front turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously and the rear turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously.

(4) For use on authorized emergency vehicles.

(5) To warn other motorists of a funeral procession, turn signal lamps may be flashed as warning lights on all vehicles actually engaged in a funeral procession, if the front turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously and the rear turn signal lamps at each side are being flashed simultaneously.

(b) Turn signal lamps shall be flashed as warning lights whenever a vehicle is disabled upon the roadway and the vehicle is equipped with a device to automatically activate the front turn signal lamps at each side to flash simultaneously and the rear turn signal lamps at each side to flash simultaneously, if the device and the turn signal lamps were not rendered inoperative by the event which caused the vehicle to be disabled.

(c) Side lamps permitted under Section 25106 and used in conjunction with turn signal lamps may be flashed with the turn signal lamps as part of the warning light system, as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a).

(d) Required or permitted lamps on a trailer or semitrailer may flash when the trailer or semitrailer has broken away from the towing vehicle and the connection between the vehicles is broken.

(e) Hazard warning lights, as permitted by paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a) may be flashed in a repeating series of short and long flashes when the driver is in need of help.

§ 25252. Warning Lamps on Authorized Emergency Vehicles

Every authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with at least one steady burning red warning lamp visible from at least 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle to be used as provided in this code.

In addition, authorized emergency vehicles may display revolving, flashing, or steady red warning lights to the front, sides or rear of the vehicles.

§ 25252.5 Flashing Headlamps on Authorized Emergency Vehicles

(a) Every authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a system which flashes the upper-beam headlamps of the vehicle with the flashes occurring alternately from the front headlamp on one side of the vehicle to the front headlamp on the other side of the vehicle. The flashing of the headlamps shall consist only of upper-beam flashing, and not the flashing of any other light beam.

(b) "Upper-beam headlamp," as used in this section, means a headlamp or that part of a headlamp which projects a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead of all conditions of loading.

(c) The system provided for in subdivision (a) shall only be used when an authorized emergency vehicle is being operated pursuant to Section 21055.

§ 25258. Authorized Emergency Vehicles: Additional Lights

(a) An authorized emergency vehicle operating under the conditions specified in Section 21055 may display a flashing white light from a gaseous discharge lamp designed and used for the purpose of controlling official traffic control signals.

(b) An authorized emergency vehicle used by a peace officer . . . in the performance of the peace officer's duties, may, in addition, display a steady or flashing blue warning light visible from the front, sides, or rear of the vehicle.

§ 25259. Additional Warning Lights on Authorized Emergency Vehicles

(a) Any authorized emergency vehicle may display flashing amber warning lights to the front, sides, or rear.

(b) A vehicle operated by a police or traffic officer while in the actual performance of his or her duties may display steady burning or flashing white lights to either side mounted above the roofline of the vehicle.

(c) Any authorized emergency vehicle may display not more than two flashing white warning lights to the front mounted above the roofline of the vehicle and not more than two flashing white warning lights to the front mounted below the roofline of the vehicle. These lamps may be in addition to the flashing headlamps permitted under Section 25252.5.

§ 25268. Use of Flashing Amber Warning Light

No person shall display a flashing amber warning light on a vehicle as permitted by this code except when an unusual traffic hazard exists.

§ 25269. Use of Red Warning Light

No person shall display a flashing or steady burning red warning light on a vehicle except as permitted by Section 21055 or when an extreme hazard exists.

Article 9. Commercial and Common Carrier Vehicles

§ 25350. Identification of Lamps and Signs

Any commercial vehicle, other than a passenger common carrier motor vehicle, may be equipped with an illuminated identification sign upon the front thereof which shall not exceed 24 inches in length or 8 inches in width and which emits diffused white light without glare.

§ 25351. Identification Lamps

(a) A commercial vehicle and, except as provided in subdivision (d), any other vehicle 80 or more inches in width may be equipped with identification lamps mounted on the front or rear. No part of any such lamps or their mountings on the front of a motor vehicle shall extend below the top of the windshield.

(b) Identification lamps on such vehicles manufactured prior to January 1, 1968, may exhibit either amber, green, or white light to the front and red light to the rear.

(c) Identification lamps on such vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 1968, may exhibit only amber light to the front and red light to the rear.

(d) Identification lamps are not permitted on passenger vehicles, except . . . ambulances, regardless of width.

Article 16. Equipment Testing

§ 26100. Vehicle Equipment

No person shall sell or offer for sale for use upon or as part of the equipment of a vehicle, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any lighting equipment, safety glazing material, or other device that does not meet the provisions of Section 26104

§ 26104. Required Laboratory Tests

(a) Every manufacturer who sells, offers for sale, or manufactures for use upon a vehicle devices subject to requirements established by the department [CHP] shall, before the device is offered for sale, have laboratory test data showing compliance with such requirements. Tests may be conducted by the manufacturer.

(b) . . . the department [CHP] may prohibit the sale of the device in this state until acceptable proof of compliance is received by the department [CHP].

Chapter 5. Other Equipment

Article 1. Horns, Sirens, and Amplification Equipment

§ 27002. Sirens

No vehicle, except an authorized emergency vehicle, shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any siren except that an authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren meeting requirements established by the department [CHP].

DIVISION 17. OFFENSES AND PROSECUTION

Chapter 1. Offenses

Article 1. Violation of Code

§ 40001. Owner's Responsibility

(a) It is unlawful for the owner, or any other person, employing or otherwise directing the driver of any vehicle to cause the operation of the vehicle upon a highway in any manner contrary to law.

(b) It is unlawful for an owner to request, cause, or permit the operation of any vehicle:

(1) Which is not registered or for which any fee has not been paid under this code.

(2) Which is not equipped as required in this code.

(3) Which does not comply with the size, weight, or load provisions of this code.

(4) Which does not comply with the regulations promulgated pursuant to this code, or with applicable city or county ordinances adopted pursuant to this code.

(5) Which is not in compliance with the provisions of Part 5 (commencing with Section 43000) of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code and the rules and regulations of the State Air Resources Board.

(c) Whenever a violation is chargeable to the owner or lessee of a vehicle pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b), the driver shall not be arrested or cited for the violation unless the vehicle is registered in a state or country other than California, or unless the violation is for an offense that is clearly within the responsibility of the driver. The Department of the California Highway Patrol shall report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 1988, concerning the effects of this subdivision.

(d) Whenever the owner, or lessee, or any other person is prosecuted for a violation pursuant to this section, the court may, on the request of the defendant, take appropriate steps to make the driver of the vehicle, or any other person who directs the loading, maintenance or operation of the vehicle, or any other person who gives false or erroneous information in a written certification of actual gross weight, a codefendant. However, the court may make the driver a codefendant only if the driver is the owner or lessee of the vehicle, or the driver is an employee or a contractor of the defendant who requested the court to make the driver a codefendant. If the codefendant is held solely responsible and found guilty, the court may dismiss the charge against the defendant.

(e) In any prosecution under this section, it is a rebuttable presumption that any person who gives false or erroneous information in a written certification of actual gross cargo weight has directed, requested, caused, or permitted the operation of a vehicle in a manner contrary to law in violation of subdivision (a) or (b), or both.

Chapter 5. Defenses

§ 41401. Federal Law

No person shall be prosecuted for a violation of any provision of this code if the violation was required by a law of the federal government, by any rule, regulation, directive or order of any agency of the federal government, the violation of which is subject to penalty under an act of Congress, or by any valid order of military authority.

EXCERPTS FROM
TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
Division 2. Department of the California Highway Patrol
(Warning Lamps & Sirens)
Chapter 2. Lighting Equipment
Article 5. Mechanical Test Requirements

§ 671. General Lighting Equipment.

Lighting equipment . . . shall be aimed so the center of the beam produced by the major filament is parallel to the road and projects directly to the front, side, or rear, depending on mounting location. Adjustable warning lamps in movable spotlamp type housings shall be aimed in the direction selected by the vehicle driver to provide adequate warning to other traffic.

Article 7. Mounting Requirements

§ 685. Installation and Maintenance.

Lighting equipment shall be securely mounted on a rigid part of the vehicle to prevent noticeable vibration of the beam and shall be maintained with the proper aim when the vehicle is stationary and in motion

§ 700. Warning Lamps.

Required front warning lamps . . . shall be mounted so the entire projected area of the lens is visible from all eye heights of drivers of other vehicles at angles within 45 deg left to 45 deg right of the front of the vehicle. If the light within these required angles is blocked by the vehicle or any substantial object on it, an additional warning lamp shall be displayed within the obstructed angle. Warning lamps may be mounted at any height.

Article 22. Warning Lamps

§ 811. Definitions.

(a) A "warning lamp" is a lamp designed for use on authorized emergency vehicles . . . to indicate the existence of a traffic hazard or to signal other drivers to stop or yield the right of way.

(b) . . .

(c) . . .

(d) . . .

(e) A "flashing lamp" is a lamp in which the emitted light in a particular direction alternates between on and off either electrically by controlling the current or mechanically by a revolving, oscillating, or other mechanism.

(f) A "steady burning lamp" is a lamp in which the emitted light in any direction is uninterrupted.

§ 812. Classification of Warning Lamps.

Five classes of warning lamps are established as follows:

Class A: High intensity, concentrated-beam lamp

Class B: Moderate intensity, wide-beam lamp

Class C: High intensity, wide-beam lamp

Class D: Motorcycle front warning lamp

Class E: Revolving, oscillating, or gaseous discharge lamp

§ 818. Type of Warning Lamps Used on Emergency Vehicles and Special Hazard Vehicles.

Warning lamps on emergency vehicles . . . shall be of the following types:

(a) Required Red Warning Lamps on Authorized Emergency Vehicles. The steady burning red warning lamp required to be visible to the front of an authorized emergency vehicle by Vehicle Code Section 25252 shall be a Class A, B, or C warning lamp

(b) Permitted Additional Red Warning Lamps on Authorized Emergency Vehicles. The additional steady burning or flashing red warning lamp permitted by Vehicle Code Section 25252 shall be a Class A, B, C, or E warning lamp.

(c) Permitted Yellow Warning Lamps on Authorized Emergency Vehicles. The additional flashing yellow warning lamp permitted on authorized emergency vehicles by Vehicle Code Section 25259 shall be a Class B, C, or E warning lamp

(d) . . .

(e) . . .

(f) . . .

(g) . . .

Chapter 4. Special Equipment

Article 8. Sirens

§ 1021. Definitions.

(a) A "siren" is an audible warning device that produces the readily recognizable warning sound identified with emergency vehicles. An audible device, such as a vehicle theft alarm, that produces a sound with one or more of the following characteristics is not a siren:

(1) an unvarying sound.

(2) a varying sound that cycles at a rate faster than 400 cycles per minute.

(3) a discontinuous sound that repeats at rates lower than 90 cycles per minute or higher than 400 cycles per minute.

(4) a sound frequency (and any second harmonics) lower than 100 Hz or higher than 5,000 Hz.

(b) An "authorized emergency vehicle siren" is a device that meets the requirements of this article.

(c) An "electromechanical siren" consists of a stator and rotor driven by an electric motor.

(d) An "electronic siren" consists of an oscillator, amplifier, and speaker.

(e) A "mechanical siren" consists of a stator and rotor driven by a mechanical connection to a moving part of the vehicle or engine.

(f) "Manual" means a siren control that allows the operator to produce a wailing sound by alternately applying and releasing a momentary contact switch.

(g) "Wail" is a siren sound producing a slow, continuous automatic cycling of increasing and decreasing frequencies and sound levels.

(h) "Yelp" is a siren sound producing a rapid, continuous automatic cycling of increasing and decreasing frequencies and sound levels.

(i) "Hi-Lo" means a nonsiren sound alternating between a fixed high and a fixed low frequency.

(j) . . .

(k) . . .

§ 1023. Identification Markings.

Sirens and components shall be marked as follows:

(a) Siren Markings. Each siren shall be permanently marked with the manufacturer's or vendor's name, initials, or lettered trademark and a model designation in letters and numerals at least 3 mm (0.12 in.) in height.

(b) . . .

(c) . . .

(d) Control Markings. Electronic siren controls shall be marked to indicate each siren function by the words "Manual," "Wail," and "Yelp" spelled out or abbreviated. Markings for other nonpermitted functions, such as "Hi-Lo", may remain on the control panel provided the function is made inoperable on sirens manufactured after January 1, 1978.

(e) . . .

(f) Visibility of Markings. Required siren markings, except those on the speaker driver and on speakers mounted within warning lamp housings, shall be clearly visible when the siren is installed on a vehicle. Amplifier markings may be on the front, top, sides, or bottom of the case provided they are in a location where they are legible to a person inspecting the component without using mirrors or removing the component when it is installed in a vehicle

§ 1028. Performance Requirements.

(a) Siren Functions. Electronic sirens shall have a wail function and may also have manual and yelp functions. No other function is permitted on sirens sold after January 1, 1982, except for voice communication

(b) . . .

(c) . . .

(d) . . .

(e) . . .

§ 1029. Installation Requirements.

Sirens and speakers installed on authorized emergency vehicles shall be mounted as follows:

(a) Electromechanical and Mechanical Sirens. Class A electromechanical and mechanical sirens shall be mounted outside, between the grille and radiator, or under the hood. Class B electromechanical and mechanical sirens shall be mounted outside or between the grille and the radiator

(b) Electronic Sirens. Class A and B electronic sirens installed after January 1, 1976, shall be mounted outside or with the horn opening facing forward ahead of the radiator with a relatively open path for the sound to project forward. The horn axis shall be parallel to the road and vehicle centerline.

(c) Dual Speakers. Dual speakers for electronic sirens shall be connected in phase and mounted so that the speaker axis is parallel to the vehicle centerline or angled outward not more than 10 degrees to the sides.

(d) Speakers in Lightbars. Electronic siren speakers may be mounted facing forward behind a speaker grille in a lightbar.

(e) Transfer. A siren . . . meeting the requirements established by the department at the time it was first installed on an authorized emergency vehicle may be transferred between authorized emergency vehicles by the owner or sold by the owner for use on other authorized emergency vehicles.

EXCERPTS FROM
TITLE 22, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services
Chapter 2. Emergency Medical Technician I
Article 1. Definitions

§ 100060. Emergency Medical Technician I.

"Emergency Medical Technician I" or "EMT-I" means a person who has successfully completed an EMT-I course which meets the requirements of this Chapter, has passed all required tests, and who has been certified by the EMT-I certifying authority.

(a) An individual currently certified in California as an EMT-I A or EMT-I NA is deemed to be certified as an EMT-I, with no further testing required, upon documentation of training in the topics specified in Section 100075 subsection (p). The certification expiration date shall be the same as the expiration date of the EMT-I A or EMT-I NA certification.

Article 2. General Provisions

§ 100062. Application of Chapter to Operation of Ambulances.

(a) Except as provided herein, the attendant on an ambulance operated in emergency service, or the driver if there is no attendant, shall possess a valid and current California EMT-I certificate. This requirement shall not apply during officially declared states of emergency and under conditions specified in Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.160.

(b) The requirements for EMT-I certification of ambulance attendants shall not apply, unless the individual chooses to be certified, to the following:

- (1) Physicians currently licensed in California.
- (2) Registered nurses currently licensed in California.
- (3) Physicians' assistants currently licensed in California.
- (4) Emergency Medical Technician Paramedics (EMT-Ps) currently certified in California.
- (5) Emergency Medical Technician IIs (EMT-IIs) currently certified in California.

(c) EMT-IIs who are not currently certified in California may temporarily perform their scope of practice in California, when approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency, in order to provide emergency medical services in response to a request, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The EMTs are registered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians or licensed or certified in another state or under the jurisdiction of a branch of the Armed Forces including the Coast Guard of the United States, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior--Bureau of Land Management, or the United States Forest Service; and

(2) The EMTs restrict their scope of practice to that for which they are licensed or certified.

§ 100063. Scope of Practice of Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-1).

(a) During training, while at the scene of an emergency, during transport of the sick or injured, or during interfacility transfer, a supervised EMT-I student or certified EMT-I is authorized to do any of the following:

- (1) Evaluate the ill and injured.
- (2) Render basic life support, rescue and first aid to patients.
- (3) Obtain diagnostic signs including temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rates, level of consciousness, and pupil status.
- (4) Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including the use of mechanical adjuncts to basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- (5) Use the following adjunctive airway breathing aids:
 - (A) oropharyngeal airway;
 - (B) nasopharyngeal airway;

- (C) suction devices;
- (D) basic oxygen delivery devices; and
- (E) manual and mechanical ventilating devices designed for prehospital use.
- (6) Use various types of stretchers and body immobilization devices.
- (7) Provide initial prehospital emergency care of trauma.
- (8) Administer oral glucose or sugar solutions.
- (9) Extricate entrapped persons.
- (10) Perform field triage.
- (11) Transport patients.
- (12) Set up for ALS procedures, under the direction of an EMT-II or EMT-P.
- (13) Inflate antishock trousers, under the direction of an EMT-II or EMT-P, if approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency.

(b) In addition to the activities authorized by subdivision (a) of this section, the medical director of the local EMS agency may also establish policies and procedures to allow a certified EMT-I or a supervised EMT-I student in the prehospital setting and/or during interfacility transport to:

- (1) monitor peripheral lines delivering intravenous glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate for volume replacement;
- (2) Monitor, maintain, and adjust if necessary in order to maintain, a preset rate of flow and turn off the flow of intravenous fluid; and
- (3) Transfer a patient, who is deemed appropriate for transfer by the transferring physician, and who has nasogastric (NG) tubes, gastrostomy tubes, heparin locks, foley catheters, tracheostomy tubes and/or indwelling vascular access lines, excluding arterial lines;
- (4) Monitor preexisting vascular access devices and peripheral lines delivering intravenous fluids with additional medications pre-approved by the Director of the EMS Authority. Approval of such medications shall be obtained pursuant to the following procedures:

(A) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall submit a written request, Form #EMSA-0391, revised January 1994, and obtain approval from the director of the EMS Authority, who shall consult with a committee of local EMS medical directors named by the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, for any additional medications that in his/her professional judgement should be approved for implementation of Section 100063(b)(4).

(B) The EMS Authority shall, within fourteen (14) days of receiving the request, notify the medical director of the local EMS agency submitting the request that the request has been received, and shall specify what information, if any, is missing.

(C) The director of the EMS Authority shall render the decision to approve or disapprove the additional medications within ninety (90) days of receipt of the completed request.

(5) Assist patients with the administration of physician prescribed devices, including but not limited to, patient operated medication pumps, sublingual nitroglycerin, and self-administered emergency medications, including epinephrine devices.

(c) The scope of practice of an EMT-I shall not exceed those activities authorized in this section, Section 100064, and Section 100064.1.

§ 100064. Optional Skill.

(a) In addition to the activities authorized by Section 100063 of this Chapter, a local EMS agency may establish policies and procedures for local accreditation of an EMT-I student or certified EMT-I to perform any or all of the following optional skills specified in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section:

(1) Defibrillation on an unconscious, pulseless patient who is apneic or has agonal respirations.

(A) Training in the use of a manual defibrillator shall consist of not less than ten (10) hours to result in the EMT-I being competent in the recognition of ventricular fibrillation and use of the device. Included in the above training hours shall be the following topics and skills:

- 1. Anatomy and physiology of the heart;
- 2. Basic electrophysiology;
- 3. Cardiac monitoring;

4. Rhythm recognition of ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia, pulseless electrical activity, and cardiac standstill (asystole);

5. Defibrillator operation and defibrillation;

6. Medical control; and

7. Post conversion care and monitoring according to local policies and procedures.

(B) Training in the use of an automated defibrillator shall consist of not less than (4) hours to result in the EMT being competent in the use of the device. Included in the above training hours shall be the following topics and skills:

1. Anatomy and physiology of the heart;

2. Basic electrophysiology;

3. Defibrillator operation and defibrillation;

4. Medical control; and

5. Post conversion care and monitoring according to local policies and procedures.

(2) Endotracheal intubation for children and adults.

(A) Training in endotracheal intubation shall consist of not less than fourteen (14) hours to result in the EMT-I being competent in airway control. Included in the above training hours shall be the following topics and skills:

1. Airway anatomy and physiology.

2. Patient assessment.

3. The role of endotracheal intubation in the sequence of airway control.

4. The role of pre-oxygenation in preparation for endotracheal intubation.

5. Use of the laryngoscope, suction, endotracheal tube, and bag-valve mask.

6. Indication and contraindications of endotracheal intubation.

7. Alternatives to endotracheal intubation.

8. Skill deterioration and methods of prevention.

9. Need for rapid placement of endotracheal tube.

10. Methods of assuring and maintaining correct placement of endotracheal tube.

(3) Use of esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(A) Training in the use of an esophageal-tracheal airway device shall consist of not less than five (5) hours to result in the EMT-I being competent in the use of the device and airway control. Included in the above training hours shall be the following topics and skills:

1. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system.

2. Assessment of the respiratory system.

3. Review of basic airway management techniques, which includes manual and mechanical.

4. The role of the esophageal-tracheal airway device in the sequence of airway control.

5. Indications and contraindications of the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

6. The role of pre-oxygenation in preparation for the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

7. Esophageal-tracheal airway device insertion and assessment of placement.

8. Methods for prevention of basic skills deterioration.

9. Alternatives to the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(B) At the completion of initial training a student shall complete a competency-based written and skills examination for airway management which shall include the use of basic airway equipment and techniques and use of the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(C) A local EMS agency shall establish policies and procedures for skills competency demonstration that requires the accredited EMT-I to demonstrate skills competency monthly for a minimum of six (6) months after initial accreditation and every six (6) months thereafter.

9. Need for rapid placement of endotracheal tube.

10. Methods of assuring and maintaining correct placement of endotracheal tube.

(3) Use of esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(A) Training in the use of an esophageal-tracheal airway device shall consist of not less than five (5) hours to result in the EMT-I being competent in the use of the device and airway control. Included in the above training hours shall be the following topics and skills:

1. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system.

2. Assessment of the respiratory system.
3. Review of basic airway management techniques, which includes manual and mechanical.
4. The role of the esophageal-tracheal airway device in the sequence of airway control.
5. Indications and contraindications of the esophageal-tracheal airway device.
6. The role of pre-oxygenation in preparation for the esophageal-tracheal airway device.
7. Esophageal-tracheal airway device insertion and assessment of placement.
8. Methods for prevention of basic skills deterioration.
9. Alternatives to the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(B) At the completion of initial training a student shall complete a competency-based written and skills examination for airway management which shall include the use of basic airway equipment and techniques and use of the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(C) A local EMS agency shall establish policies and procedures for skills competency demonstration that requires the accredited EMT-I to demonstrate skills competency monthly for a minimum of six (6) months after initial accreditation and every six (6) months thereafter.

(b) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall develop a plan for each optional skill allowed. The plan shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- (1) A description of the need for the use of the optional skill.
- (2) A description of the geographic area within which the optional skill will be utilized.
- (3) A description of the data collection methodology which shall also include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the optional skill.

(4) The policies and procedures to be instituted by the local EMS agency regarding medical control and use of the optional skill.

(c) A local EMS agency medical director who accredits EMT-I's to perform an optional skill shall:

- (1) Establish policies and procedures for the approval and designation of service provider(s).
- (2) Approve and designate selected base hospital(s) as the local EMS agency deems necessary to provide direction and supervision of accredited EMT-I's in accordance with policies and procedures established by the local EMS agency.
- (3) Establish policies and procedures to collect, maintain and evaluate patient care records.
- (4) Establish a quality improvement program. Quality improvement means a method of evaluation of services provided, which includes defined standards, evaluation of methodology(ies) and utilization of evaluation results for continued system improvement. Such methods may include, but not be limited to, a written plan describing the program objectives, organization, scope and mechanisms for overseeing the effectiveness of the program.

(5) For the optional skill of defibrillation only, report annually to the EMS Authority on:

- (A) The number of patients on whom EMT-I defibrillatory shocks were administered:
1. The number of these patients who suffered a witnessed (seen or heard) cardiac arrest whose initial monitored rhythm was ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation; and
 2. The number of these patients who were discharged from the hospital alive.

(d) The local EMS medical director may approve an optional skill medical director to be responsible for accreditation and any or all of the following requirements.

- (1) Approve and monitor training programs including refresher training within its jurisdiction.
- (2) Establish policies and procedures for continued competency in the optional skill which will consist of organized field care audits, periodic training sessions and/or structured clinical experience that will be in addition to the requirements in Section 100081 of this Chapter.

(3) Require a documented demonstration of the optional skill proficiency at intervals determined by the medical director. In no case shall the interval exceed one (1) month for those accredited to use manual defibrillators, every six (6) months for those accredited to use automated defibrillators, every six (6) months for those accredited to perform endotracheal intubation and monthly for a minimum of six (6) months after initial accreditation and every six (6) months thereafter for those accredited to use the esophageal-tracheal airway device.

(A) Accreditation may be rescinded by the medical director who granted accreditation if, in his/her judgement, the individual fails to demonstrate competency in the optional skill.

(B) Accreditation may be temporarily suspended in accordance with the local EMS agency's policies and procedures, by the local EMS medical director, EMT-I optional skill medical director, or base hospital medical director.

(C) The local EMS agency medical director may review and sustain or overrule a decision to rescind or suspend accreditation made by the optional skill medical director or base hospital physician.

(D) The local EMS agency shall develop policies to provide for notice and appeal procedures for individual(s) whose accreditation has been suspended or rescinded.

(e) For the optional skill of defibrillation, the optional skill medical director may delegate the specific field care audits, training, and demonstration of competency, if approved by the local EMS agency medical director, to a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, EMT-P, EMT-II, or EMT-I accredited in defibrillation, licensed or certified in California, or a physician licensed in another state immediately adjacent to the local emergency medical services agency jurisdiction.

(f) For the optional skill of endotracheal intubation, the optional skill medical director may delegate the specific field care audits, training, and demonstration of competency, if approved by the local EMS agency medical director, to a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, EMT-P or EMT-II, licensed or certified in California or a physician licensed in another state immediately adjacent to the local emergency medical services agency jurisdiction.

(g) For the optional skill of the esophageal-tracheal airway device, the optional skill medical director may delegate the specific field care audits, training, and demonstration of competency, if approved by the local EMS agency medical director, to a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, EMT-P or EMT-II, licensed or certified in California or a physician licensed in another state immediately adjacent to the local emergency medical services agency jurisdiction.

(h) An EMT-I accredited in an optional skill may assist in demonstration of competency and training of that skill.

(i) In order to be accredited to utilize defibrillation, endotracheal intubation, or an esophageal-tracheal airway device, an EMT-I shall demonstrate competency through passage, by preestablished standards, developed and/or approved by the local EMS agency, of a competency-based written and skills examination which tests the ability to assess and manage the specified condition.

§ 100064.1. EMT-I Trial Studies.

An EMT-I may perform any prehospital emergency medical care treatment procedure(s) or administer any medication(s) on a trial basis when approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency and the director of the EMS Authority. The medical director of the local EMS agency shall review the medical literature on the procedure or medication and determine in his/her professional judgement whether a trial study is needed.

(a) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall review a trial study plan which, at a minimum, shall include the following:

(1) A description of the procedure(s) or medication(s) proposed, the medical conditions for which they can be utilized, and the patient population that will benefit.

(2) A compendium of relevant studies and material from the medical literature.

(3) A description of the proposed study design, including the scope of study and method of evaluating the effectiveness of the procedure(s) or medication(s), and expected outcome.

(4) Recommended policies and procedures to be instituted by the local EMS agency regarding the use and medical control of the procedure(s) or medication(s) used in the study.

(5) A description of the training and competency testing required to implement the study. Training on subject matter shall be consistent with the related topic(s) and skill(s) specified in Section 100159, Chapter 4 (EMT-P regulations), Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations.

(b) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall appoint a local medical advisory committee to assist with the evaluation and approval of trial studies. The membership of the committee shall be determined by the medical director of the local EMS agency, but shall include individuals with knowledge and experience in research and the effect of the proposed study on the EMS system.

(c) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall submit the proposed study and a copy of the proposed trial study plan at least forty-five (45) days prior to the proposed initiation of the study to the

director of the EMS Authority for approval in accordance with the provisions of Section 1797.221 of the Health and Safety Code. The EMS Authority shall inform the Commission on EMS of studies being initiated.

(d) The EMS Authority shall notify the medical director of the local EMS agency submitting its request for approval of a trial study within fourteen (14) days of receiving the request that the request has been received.

(e) The Director of the EMS Authority shall render the decision to approve or disapprove the trial study within forty-five (45) days of receipt of all materials specified in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(f) Within eighteen (18) months of the initiation of the procedure(s) or medication(s), the medical director of the local EMS agency shall submit to the Commission on EMS a written report which includes at a minimum the progress of the study, number of patients studied, beneficial effects, adverse reactions or complications, appropriate statistical evaluation, and general conclusion.

(g) The Commission on EMS shall review the above report within two (2) meetings and advise the EMS Authority to do one of the following:

(1) Recommend termination of the study if there are adverse effects or if no benefit from the study is shown.

(2) Recommend continuation of the study for a maximum of eighteen (18) additional months if potential but inconclusive benefit is shown.

(3) Recommend the procedure or medication be added to the EMT-I scope of practice.

(h) If option (g)(2) is selected, the Commission on EMS may advise continuation of the study as structured or alteration of the study to increase the validity of the results.

(i) At the end of the additional eighteen (18) month period, a final report shall be submitted to the Commission on EMS with the same format as described in (f) above.

(j) The Commission on EMS shall review the final report and advise the EMS Authority to do one of the following:

(1) Recommend termination or further extension of the study.

(2) Accept the study recommendations.

(3) Recommend the procedure or medication be added to the EMT-I scope of practice.

(k) The EMS Authority may require a trial study(ies) to cease after thirty-six (36) months.

EXCERPTS FROM
THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
Division 2.5. Emergency Medical Services
Chapter 2. Definitions

§ 1797.52 Advanced Life Support (ALS)

"Advanced life support" means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care, including, but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medicinal preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by authorized personnel under the direct supervision of a base hospital as part of a local EMS system at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during interfacility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital.

§ 1797.54. Authority

"Authority" means the Emergency Medical Services Authority established by this division.

§ 1797.56. Authorized Registered Nurse or MICN

"Authorized registered nurse," "mobile intensive care nurse," or "MICN" means a registered nurse who is functioning pursuant to Section 2725 of the Business and Professions Code and who has been authorized by the medical director of the local EMS agency as qualified to provide prehospital advanced life support or to issue instructions to prehospital emergency medical care personnel within an EMS system according to standardized procedures developed by the local EMS agency consistent with statewide guidelines established by the authority. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to abridge or restrict the duties or functions of a registered nurse or mobile intensive care nurse as otherwise provided by law.

§ 1797.60. Basic Life Support (BLS)

"Basic life support" means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until advanced life support is available.

§ 1797.62. Certificate

"Certificate" means a specific document issued to an individual denoting competence in the named area of prehospital service.

§ 1797.67. Designated Facility

"Designated facility" means a hospital which has been designated by a local EMS agency to perform specified emergency medical services systems functions pursuant to guidelines established by the authority.

§ 1797.70. Emergency

"Emergency" means a condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention, or where the potential for such need is perceived by emergency medical personnel or a public safety agency.

§ 1797.72. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

"Emergency medical services" means the services utilized in responding to a medical emergency.

§ 1797.80. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-I

"Emergency Medical Technician-I" or "EMT-I" means an individual trained in all facets of basic life support according to standards prescribed by this part and who has a valid certificate issued pursuant to this part. This definition shall include, but not be limited to, EMT-I (FS) and EMT-I-A.

§ 1797.82. EMT-II

"Emergency Medical Technician-II" or "EMT-II" means an EMT-I with additional training in limited advanced life support according to standards prescribed by this part and who has a valid certificate issued pursuant to this part.

Chapter 3. State Administration

Article 5. Personnel

§ 1797.84. EMT-Paramedic

"Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic," "EMT-P," "paramedic" or "mobile intensive care paramedic" means an individual whose scope of practice to provide advanced life support is according to standards prescribed by this division and who has a valid certificate issued pursuant to this division.

§ 1797.92. Limited Advanced Life Support (LALS)

"Limited advanced life support" means special service designed to provide prehospital emergency medical care limited to techniques and procedures that exceed basic life support but are less than advanced life support and are those procedures specified pursuant to Section 1797.171.

§ 1797.160. Ambulance Attendant Training Requirement

No owner of a publicly or privately owned ambulance shall permit the operation of the ambulance in emergency service unless the attendant on duty therein, or, if there is no attendant on duty therein, the operator, possesses evidence of that specialized training as is reasonably necessary to ensure that the attendant or operator is competent to care for sick or injured persons who may be transported by the ambulance, as set forth in the emergency medical training and educational standards for ambulance personnel established by the authority pursuant to this article. This section shall not be applicable in any state of emergency declared pursuant to the California Emergencies Services Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code), when it is necessary to fully utilize all available ambulances in an area and it is not possible to have the ambulance operated or attended by persons with the qualifications required by this section.

§ 1797.170. EMT-I Standards for Training and Scope of Practice

(a) The authority shall establish minimum standards and promulgate regulations for the training and scope of practice for EMT-I.

(b) Any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this act shall be recognized as an EMT-I on a statewide basis, and recertification shall be based on statewide standards. Effective July 1, 1990, any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this act shall complete a course of training on the nature of sudden infant death syndrome which is developed by the California SIDS program in the State Department of Health Services in consultation with experts in the field of sudden infant death syndrome.

§ 1797.171. EMT-II Standards for Training and Scope of Practice; Additions to Scope of Practice

(a) The authority shall develop, and after approval of the commission pursuant to Section 1799.50, shall adopt, minimum standards for the training and scope of practice for EMT-II.

(b) An EMT-II shall complete a course of training on the nature of sudden infant death syndrome in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 1797.170.

(c) In rural or remote areas of the state where patient transport times are particularly long and where local resources are inadequate to support an EMT-P program for EMS responses, the director may approve additions to the scope of practice of EMT-IIs serving the local system, if requested by the medical

director of the local EMS agency, and if the EMT-II has received training equivalent to that of an EMT-P. The approval of the director, in consultation with a committee of local EMS medical directors named by the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, is required prior to implementation of any addition to a local optional scope of practice for EMT-IIs proposed by the medical director of a local EMS agency. No drug or procedure that is not part of the basic EMT-P scope of practice, including, but not limited to, any approved local options, shall be added to any EMT-II scope of practice pursuant to this subdivision.

Approval of additions to the scope of practices pursuant to this subdivision may be given only for EMT-II programs in effect on January 1, 1994.

§ 1797.177. Requirement for Certification

No individual shall hold himself or herself out to be an EMT-I, EMT-II, EMT-P, or paramedic unless that individual is currently certified as such by the local EMS agency or other certifying authority.

§ 1797.178. LALS and ALS Restriction

No person or organization shall provide advanced life support or limited advanced life support unless that person or organization is an authorized part of the emergency medical services system of the local EMS agency or of a pilot program operated pursuant to the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act, Article 3 (commencing with Section 1480) of Chapter 2.5 of Division 2.

§ 1797.180. Advertisement Restriction of EMT-II and EMT-P Services

No agency, public or private, shall advertise or disseminate information to the public that the agency provides EMT-II or EMT-P rescue or ambulance services unless that agency does in fact provide this service on a continuous 24 hours-per-day basis. If advertising or information regarding that agency's EMT-II or EMT-P rescue or ambulance service appears on any vehicle it may only appear on those vehicles utilized solely to provide that service on a continuous 24 hours-per-day basis.

§ 1797.181. Standardized Insignias or Emblems

The authority may, by regulation, prescribe standardized insignias or emblems for patches which may be affixed to the clothing of an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P.

Chapter 4. Local Administration

Article 1 Local EMS Agency

§ 1797.210. Certification of Personnel; Recertification.

(a) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall issue a certificate, except an EMT-P certificate, to an individual upon proof of satisfactory completion of an approved training program, passage of the certifying examination designated by the authority, completion of any other requirements for certification established by the authority, and a determination that the individual is not precluded from certification for any of the reasons listed in Section 1798.200. The certificate shall be proof of the individual's initial competence to perform at the designated level.

(b) The medical director of the local EMS agency shall, at the interval specified by the authority, recertify an EMT-I or EMT-II upon proof of the individual's satisfactory passage of the examination for recertification designated by the authority, completion of any continuing education or other requirements for recertification established by the authority, and a determination that the individual is not precluded from recertification because of any of the reasons listed in Section 1798.200.

Chapter 5. Medical Control

§ 1798.6. Medical Emergencies; Authority for Patient health Care Management; Committee

(a) Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include any paramedic or other prehospital emergency

personnel, at the scene of the emergency who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.

(b) If any county desires to establish a unified command structure for patient management at the scene of an emergency within that county, a committee may be established in that county comprised of representatives of the agency responsible for county emergency medical services, the county sheriff's department, the California Highway Patrol, public prehospital-care provider agencies serving the county, and public fire, police, and other affected emergency service agencies within the county. The membership and duties of the committee shall be established by an agreement for the joint exercise of powers under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks.

Chapter 6. Facilities

Article 3. Transfer Agreements

§ 1798.170. Triage and Transfer Protocols

A local EMS agency may develop triage and transfer protocols to facilitate prompt delivery of patients to appropriate designated facilities within and without its area of jurisdiction. Considerations in designating a facility shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) A general acute care hospital's consistent ability to provide on-call physicians and services for all emergency patients regardless of ability to pay.

(b) The sufficiency of hospital procedures to ensure that all patients who come to the emergency department are examined and evaluated to determine whether or not an emergency condition exists.

(c) The hospital's compliance with local EMS protocols, guidelines, and transfer agreement requirements.

Chapter 7. Penalties

§ 1798.200. Grounds for Probation or the Suspension or Revocation of Certificate

(a) The medical director of the local EMS agency may, in accordance with Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 100206) of Division 9 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, deny, suspend, or revoke any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate issued under this division, or may place any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate holder on probation, upon the finding by that medical director of the occurrence of any of the actions listed in subdivision (c). The authority shall ensure that the local EMS agency's disciplinary policies and procedures are, at a minimum, as effective in protecting the due process rights of any EMT-I or EMT-II certificate holder as those in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(b) The authority may deny, suspend, or revoke any EMT-P license issued under this division, or may place any EMT-P license issued under this division, or may place any EMT-P licenseholder on probation upon the finding by the director of the occurrence of any of the actions listed in subdivision (c). Proceedings against any EMT-P license or licenseholder shall be held in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(c) Any of the following actions shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety and may result in the denial, suspension, or revocation of a certificate or license issued under this division, or in the placement on probation of a certificate or licenseholder under this division:

- (1) Fraud in the procurement of any certificate or license under this division.
- (2) Gross negligence.
- (3) Repeated negligent acts.
- (4) Incompetence.
- (5) The commission of any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel.
- (6) Conviction of any crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel. The record of conviction or a certified copy of the record shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.
- (7) Violating or attempting to violate directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this division or the regulations adopted by the authority pertaining to prehospital personnel.
- (8) Violating or attempting to violate any federal or state statute or regulation which regulates narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.
- (9) Addiction to the excessive use of, or the misuse of, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, dangerous drugs, or controlled substances.
- (10) Functioning outside the supervision of medical control in the field care system operating at the local level, except as authorized by any other license or certification.
- (11) Demonstration of irrational behavior or occurrence of a physical disability to the extent that a reasonable and prudent person would have reasonable cause to believe that the ability to perform the duties normally expected may be impaired.
- (12) Unprofessional conduct exhibited by any of the following:
 - (A) The mistreatment or physical abuse of any patient resulting from force in excess of what a reasonable and prudent person trained and acting in a similar capacity while engaged in the performance of his or her duties would use if confronted with a similar circumstance. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P from assisting a peace officer, or a peace officer who is acting in the dual capacity of peace officer and EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P, from using that force that is reasonably necessary to effect a lawful arrest or detention.
 - (B) The failure to maintain confidentiality of patient medical information, except as disclosure is otherwise permitted or required by law in Sections 56 to 56.6, inclusive, of the Civil Code.
 - (C) The commission of any sexually related offense specified under Section 290 of the Penal Code.

§ 1798.206. Violation as Misdemeanor

Any person who violates this part, the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or county ordinances adopted pursuant to this part governing patient transfers, is guilty of a misdemeanor. The Attorney General or the district attorney may prosecute any of these misdemeanors which falls within his or her jurisdiction.

Chapter 9. Liability Limitation

§ 1799.102. Persons Rendering Emergency Care at Emergency Scene for no Compensation [Good Samaritan Liability]

No person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission. The scene of an emergency shall not include emergency departments and other places where medical care is usually offered.

§ 1799.104. Liability for Directions from BHP or ARN to EMT-II or MICP

(a) No physician or nurse, who in good faith gives emergency instructions to an EMT-II or mobile intensive care paramedic at the scene of an emergency, shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of issuing the instructions.

(b) No EMT-II or mobile intensive care paramedic rendering care within the scope of his duties who, in good faith and in a nonnegligent manner, follows the instructions of a physician or nurse shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of following such instructions.

**§ 1799.106. Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians;
Employing Agencies [Limited Liability]**

In addition to the provisions of Section 1799.104 of this code and of Section 1714.2 of the Civil Code and in order to encourage the provision of emergency medical services by firefighters, police officers or other law enforcement officers, EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P, a firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement officer, EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P who renders emergency medical services at the scene of an emergency shall only be liable in civil damages for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or omissions not performed in good faith. A public agency employing such a firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement officer, EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P shall not be liable for civil damages if the firefighter, police officer or other law enforcement officer, EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P is not liable.

§ 1799.108. Liability of Persons Certified to Provide Care at Scene

Any person who has a certificate issued pursuant to this division from a certifying agency to provide prehospital emergency field care treatment at the scene of an emergency, as defined in Section 1799.102, shall be liable for civil damages only for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or omissions not performed in good faith.