

WAC 246-976-290 Ground ambulance vehicle standards. (1) Essential equipment for patient and provider safety and comfort must be in good working order.

(2) All ambulance vehicles must be clearly identified as an EMS vehicle and display the agency identification by emblems and markings on the front, side, and rear of the vehicle. A current state ambulance credential must be prominently displayed in a clear plastic cover positioned high on the partition behind the driver's seat.

(3) Tires must be in good condition.

(4) The electrical system must meet the following requirements:

(a) Interior lighting in the driver compartment must be designed and located so that no glare is reflected from surrounding areas to the driver's eyes or line of vision from the instrument panel, switch panel, or other areas which may require illumination while the vehicle is in motion; and

(b) Interior lighting in the patient compartment must be provided throughout the compartment, and provide an intensity of twenty foot-candles at the level of the patient; and

(c) Exterior lights must be fully operational, and include body-mounted flood lights over the patient loading doors to provide loading visibility; and

(d) Emergency warning lights must be provided in accordance with RCW 46.37.380, as administered by the state commission on equipment.

(5) Windshield wipers and washers must be dual, electric, multi-speed, and functional at all times.

(6) Battery and generator system:

(a) The battery must be capable of sustaining all systems. It must be located in a ventilated area sealed off from the vehicle interior, and completely accessible for checking and removal;

(b) The generating system must be capable of supplying the maximum built-in DC electrical current requirements of the ambulance. If the electrical system uses fuses instead of circuit breakers, extra fuses must be provided.

(7) The ambulance must be equipped with:

(a) Seat belts that comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 207, 208, 209, and 210. Restraints must be provided in all seat positions in the vehicle, including the attendant station; and

(b) Mirrors on the left side and right side of the vehicle. The location of mounting must provide maximum rear vision from the driver's seated position; and

(c) One ABC two and one-half pound fire extinguisher.

(8) Ambulance body requirements:

(a) The length of the patient compartment must be at least one hundred twelve inches in length, measured from the partition to the inside edge of the rear loading doors; and

(b) The width of the patient compartment, after cabinet and cot installation, must provide at least nine inches of clear walkway between cots or the squad bench; and

(c) The height of the patient compartment must be at least fifty-three inches at the center of the patient area, measured from floor to ceiling, exclusive of cabinets or equipment; and

(d) There must be secondary egress from the vehicle; and

(e) Back doors must open in a manner to increase the width for loading patients without blocking existing working lights of the vehicle; and

(f) The floor at the lowest level permitted by clearances. It must be flat and unencumbered in the access and work area, with no

voids or pockets in the floor to side wall areas where water or moisture can become trapped to cause rusting or unsanitary conditions; and

(g) Floor covering applied to the top side of the floor surface. It must withstand washing with soap and water or disinfectant without damage to the surface. All joints in the floor covering must have minimal void between matching edges, cemented with a suitable water-proof and chemical-proof cement to eliminate the possibility of joints loosening or lifting; and

(h) The finish of the entire patient compartment must be impervious to soap and water and disinfectants to permit washing and sanitizing; and

(i) Exterior surfaces must be smooth, with appurtenances kept to a minimum; and

(j) Restraints must be provided for all litters. If the litter is floor supported on its own support wheels, a means must be provided to secure it in position. These restraints must permit quick attachment and detachment for quick transfer of patient.

(9) Vehicle brakes, regular and special electrical equipment, heating and cooling units, safety belts, and window glass, must be functional at all times.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.71, 18.73, and 70.168 RCW. WSR 11-07-078, § 246-976-290, filed 3/22/11, effective 5/15/11; WSR 00-08-102, § 246-976-290, filed 4/5/00, effective 5/6/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040 and chapters 18.71, 18.73 and 70.168 RCW. WSR 93-01-148 (Order 323), § 246-976-290, filed 12/23/92, effective 1/23/93.]