

The EMS Agency License indicates the level of service an agency may provide. The different classifications of an agency license are described in:

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section410/>

12VAC5-31-410. EMS Agency Licensure Classifications.

An EMS agency license may be issued for any combination of the following classifications of EMS services:

1. Non-transport first response.
 - a. Basic life support.
 - b. Advanced life support.
2. Ground ambulance.
 - a. Basic life support.
 - b. Advanced life support.
3. Neonatal ambulance.
4. Air ambulance.

Types of vehicle permits issued by OEMS

Ambulance - This permit is issued to vehicles that meet the specifications outlined in:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section810/>

A. A vehicle maintained and operated for response to the location of a medical emergency to provide immediate medical care at the basic or advanced life support level and for the transportation of patients shall be permitted as a ground ambulance.

B. A ground ambulance must be commercially constructed and certified to comply with the current federal specification for the Star of Life ambulance (U.S. General Services Administration KKK-A-1822 standards) as of the date of vehicle construction, with exceptions as specified in these regulations.

C. A ground ambulance must be constructed to provide sufficient space for the safe storage of all required equipment and supplies. A ground ambulance must have a locking interior storage compartment or approved locking bracket used for the secure storage of drugs and drug kits that is accessible from within the patient compartment. Drugs and drug kits must be kept in a locked storage compartment or approved bracket at all times when not in use. The EMS agency must maintain drugs and drug kits as specified in these regulations.

Whether transport vehicles are considered ALS or BLS is dependent upon the EMS Agency License, the

equipment carried and the level of staffing as required by these regulations:

The minimum required equipment for each level of service is indicated in:

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section860/>

Minimum staffing for a ground ambulance:

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section1230/>

A ground ambulance transport requires a minimum of two persons:

1. An operator shall at a minimum possess a valid motor vehicle operator's permit issued by Virginia or another state and have successfully completed an approved Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC) training course or an equivalent.

2. An attendant-in-charge who must meet the requirements listed for the type of transport to be performed.

- Basic Life Support Vehicle Transport requirements:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section1240/>

During a basic life support transport, the attendant-in-charge must be certified as an emergency medical technician or an equivalent approved by the Office of EMS.

- Advanced Life Support Vehicle Transport requirements:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section1250/>

1. A ground ambulance equipped with an ALS equipment package. An ALS equipment package may be transferred to a ground ambulance not otherwise equipped to provide the needed level of ALS patient care from another appropriately equipped EMS vehicle. This transfer must include all items required for the type of ALS equipment package that the attendant-in-charge is authorized to use.

2. The attendant-in-charge must be certified as an advanced life support level provider or an equivalent approved by the Office of EMS.

3. An attendant must be certified as an emergency medical technician or an equivalent approved by the Office of EMS in addition to the attendant-in-charge. The attendant must not serve as the attendant-in-charge. An operator may serve as the attendant if certified as an emergency medical technician or an equivalent approved by the Office of EMS.

4. An ALS provider may provide care in the event that the required EMS personnel do not respond to a call to fully staff the ambulance that has responded to the scene. The extenuating circumstances of the call must be documented in writing. Based on extenuating circumstances and documentation, the EMS agency or the EMS provider may be subject to enforcement action.

Non-Transport Vehicle – This permit is issued to vehicles that meet the requirements in <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section800/> 12VAC5-31-800. Non-Transport Response Vehicle Specifications.

A. A vehicle maintained and operated for response to the location of a medical emergency to provide immediate medical care at the basic or advanced life support level (excluding patient transport) shall be permitted as a non-transport response vehicle.

A non-transport response vehicle may not be used for the transportation of patients except in the case of a major medical emergency. In such an event, the circumstances of the call shall be documented.

B. A non-transport response vehicle must be constructed to provide sufficient space for safe storage of required equipment and supplies specified in these regulations.

A non-transport response vehicle used for the delivery of advanced life support must have a locking storage compartment or approved locking bracket for the security of drugs and drug kits. When not in use, drugs and drug kits must be kept locked in the required storage compartment or approved bracket at all times. The EMS agency shall maintain drugs and drug kits as specified in these regulations.

1. Sedan/zone car must have an approved locking device attached within the passenger compartment or trunk, inaccessible by the public.
2. Utility vehicle/van must have an approved locking device attached within the vehicle interior, inaccessible by the public.
3. Rescue vehicle/fire apparatus must have an approved locking device attached within the vehicle interior or a locked compartment, inaccessible by the public.

C. A non-transport response vehicle must have a motor vehicle safety inspection performed following completion of conversion and before applying for an EMS vehicle permit.

Whether non-transport vehicles are considered ALS or BLS is dependent upon the equipment carried and the level of staffing as required by these regulations; the minimum required equipment for a non-transport unit are listed in:

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section860/> .

Reserve – An EMS agency must equip an EMS vehicle in compliance with these regulations at all times unless the vehicle is permitted as "reserved." A designated emergency response Agency may be issued a "reserved" permit by the Office of EMS. Vehicles permitted as “reserve” are not required to have any equipment on them until placed in service. Once placed in service, they must be equipped in accordance with the regulations listed for Transport or Non-Transport vehicles and appropriately staffed for the level of service they intend to provide.

Watercraft / Boat – Agencies wishing to permit boats will need to equip them as a non-transport unit and meet the following regulations which were described in detail earlier in this document:

- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section800/>
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section860/>
- <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section1210/>

Helicopter – There are numerous regulations and requirements for air ambulance services which will be provided to those agencies upon request.

Transfer of ALS Package - <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title12/agency5/chapter31/section1220/>

Advanced life support equipment may be transferred from one EMS vehicle to another EMS vehicle not otherwise equipped to provide the needed level of ALS. When this equipment is transferred, the EMS vehicle shall have required EMS personnel in compliance with these regulations.

EMS Agency Licenses and Vehicle Permits

Virginia Office of EMS
Division of Regulation & Compliance
1041 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804-888-9100

Please contact your OEMS Program Representative if you need further clarification on any issues relating to agency licenses or vehicle permits:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/23/2023/08/Rep-Map-8-24-23-2.pdf>

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