CITY OF CHICAGO

RULES

AMBULANCE RULES

Last Updated: April 13, 2015

Mayor Rahm Emanuel **Commissioner Maria Guerra Lapacek**

BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PURSUANT TO **CHAPTERS 2-25 AND 4/68**, THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING **AMBULANCES** ARE ADOPTED HEREIN.

By Order of the Commissioner:

Signed: _____ Date: July 28, 2015
Commissioner Maria Guerra Lapacek

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CITY OF CHICAGO
BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
PUBLIC VEHILE OPERATIONS

AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS

As used in these rules and regulations, the following terms are defined below. The use of the masculine gender includes the feminine gender, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

The terms defined in Chapters 4-68 of the Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) shall have the same meaning in these rules and regulations.

"Authorized Personnel" means designated staff from the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Chicago Police Department, or the Chicago Fire Department.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protections or the Commissioner's designee.

"Department" means the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, which term includes the Department's employees.

"**EMS**" means emergency medical services.

"**EMT**" means emergency medical technician.

"**Ambulance Licensee**" means the holder of an ambulance license issued pursuant to Chapter 4-68 "Ambulances" of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

"**Model Year**" means the year designated in the vehicle manufacturer's certificate of origin or on the vehicle title issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois or other state.

"**Vehicle Age**" means the age of a vehicle computed by totaling the number of the years in between and including both the calendar year and the model year.

AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE AB1 Any ambulance, while engaged in the transportation of patients from one destination in the City of Chicago to another in the City of Chicago must be licensed as an ambulance pursuant to Chapter 4-68 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

RULE AB2 An ambulance licensee engaged in the transportation of patients in the City of Chicago shall have a minimum of two State of Illinois licensed EMT personnel on the ambulance vehicle.

RULE AB3 An ambulance license applicant or an ambulance licensee may not place a vehicle in operation for the first time as a licensed ambulance if

a. The vehicle has an odometer reading of 75,000 miles or greater OR
b. The vehicle has a vehicle age of three years or more.

RULE AB4 **Ambulance Vehicle Age Rules**
An ambulance licensee may not operate a licensed ambulance vehicle beyond the following the vehicle age:

a. **Emergency Use Ambulance: Eight Years** for a vehicle that is engaged in, even partially, emergency transportation. The letters spelling "AMBULANCE" and Department issued license numbers on any part of the exterior of the vehicle must be painted in the color red.

b. **Non-Emergency Use Ambulance: Ten Years** for a vehicle that is exclusively engaged in non-emergency transportation. The letters spelling "AMBULANCE" and Department issued license numbers on any part of the exterior of the vehicle must be completely painted in the color blue.

RULE AB5 **Low Mileage Stand-By Ambulance Vehicle Age Exception**
An ambulance licensee with a low mileage ambulance vehicle may apply for an exception to the above "Rule AB4 Ambulance Vehicle Age Rules" by completing and submitting forms prescribed by the Commissioner.

An ambulance vehicle is considered a low mileage ambulance vehicle if it has a lifetime total odometer reading of 60,000 miles or less.

Low mileage stand by ambulance vehicles are typically stationary at events as a resource as needed.

The maximum vehicle age for a qualifying low mileage vehicle is ten years for an Emergency Use Ambulance and twelve years for a Non-Emergency Use Ambulance.

The Commissioner may request an additional inspection of the ambulance vehicle as part of the evaluation for granting the requested exception.

In determining whether an ambulance vehicle is fit for public use pursuant to this rule, the Commissioner shall give consideration to its effect on the safety, health, comfort and convenience of the drivers and passengers, and its public appearance on the streets of the City.

RULE AB6 **Identifying Markings**

a. Ambulance licensees must have the following painted or otherwise permanently affixed on their ambulance licensed vehicles:

   i) The name of the ambulance licensee and the word "AMBULANCE" on both sides and the rear of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½" stroke and being at least 5" inches high or in accordance with a trademark design submitted to and approved by the Commissioner.

   ii) The word "AMBULANCE" on the front of the vehicle positioned under the windshield in such a manner to be easily seen in the rear view mirror of a passenger car in front of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½ inch stroke and being at least 2 ½ inches high and printed in reverse so as to be read correctly by use of a mirror.

   iii) The Department issued ambulance license number must be either horizontally or vertically on both sides of the of the vehicle near the front end and on the top

center of the rear of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½ inch stroke and 4 inches in height.

b. All identifying lettering and numbering as mandated above must be in either red or blue color letters or numbers upon a contrasting background color.

   i) Red color letters and numbers for emergency use vehicles or
   ii) Blue color letters and numbers for non-emergency use vehicles.

c. The Commissioner, upon a written request from the licensee, may, in her discretion, approve a color and identification scheme other than the above as long as the vehicle is readily identified as an ambulance and the licensee's name is prominently displayed.

RULE AB7 No person may apply for a new or renewal ambulance license without submitting documentation that the ambulance vehicle passed an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) vehicle inspection within the previous sixty days of application.

RULE AB8 The transportation of a deceased person pronounced dead by a duly authorized authority at point of pick-up must be in accordance with State of Illinois laws.

RULE AB9 Ambulance licensee's use of sirens must comply with all federal, state, and city laws. See 625 ILCS 5/11-1421 for reference.

Rule AB10 All licensed ambulances when not occupied by an employee of the ambulance licensee must be housed in a suitable and appropriate interior location owned or leased by the licensee for the express purpose of garaging ambulances. Notwithstanding the above, licensed ambulances may be unattended for the period of time reasonably necessary for the movement of patients to or from the ambulance.

RULE AB11 Ambulance licensees shall keep licensed ambulance vehicles in a safe and clean condition at all times, including smoke-free. Use of

the patient section of a licensed ambulance is reserved for the transportation of patients.

RULE AB12 No ambulance licensee shall transport more than one patient on any given trip expect when specifically directed to do so by the Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department, or the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) OR as directed by licensed physician at the scene.

RULE AB13 Ambulance licensees may operate licensed ambulance vehicles in the following instances:

a. in response to a call from an individual in either an emergency or non-emergency situation;
b. in instances where a public ambulance has responded to a call, but no true emergency exists;
c. when a patient refuses the services of a public ambulance;
d. for inter-hospital transportation; or
e. stand-by services at special events.

It is the responsibility of an ambulance licensee to respond to requests for the transportation to or from a hospital. All contracts for such service must be fully completed by the ambulance licensee. If additional help is required, back-up service should be obtained, except in extraordinary circumstances posing an immediate risk to the health or safety of a patient, from another ambulance licensee and not a public ambulance.

In the event that extraordinary circumstances require the use of a public ambulance to complete a trip originated by or contracted with an ambulance licensee, the licensee shall prepare a full written report on such incident within seventy-two hours. Such report shall contain all relevant facts surrounding the incident and shall be produced upon the request of the Department or any authorized personnel

RULE AB14 Within three (3) business days of request by the City of Chicago, a licensee shall produce requested records; including but not limited to, dates of trips, the time of trips, the ambulance number, the attendants' names, the name of the patient, the person requesting the service, the location of the pickup and discharge, and the fee charged.