



STRETCHER TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

VEHICLE STANDARDS

Vehicle Weights

1. Gross Vehicle Weight (G.V.W.)

The combination of curb weight and payload weight as defined below may not exceed the original equipment manufacturer rated chassis Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW).

 - a)Curb Weight
Certification of curb weight shall be provided to the operator of the vehicle by the manufacturer and provided to the minister on request, by means of a certificate from the manufacturer indicating the rated G.V.W., and a certificate from a weigh scale operated under the authority of the Manitoba Department of Highways. The curb weight shall be defined as the completed vehicle containing its full capacity of fuel, coolant and other fluids, and with all permanently installed accessories in place.
 - b)Payload Allowance
Shall be defined as the difference between the maximum GVW as certified by the original equipment manufacturer and the curb weight of the vehicle as defined above. No permanently installed optional equipment may be installed either by the original manufacturer or by retrofit by the end purchaser of the vehicle which will reduce the payload allowance below that defined in this section.
 - c) Minimum Payload
The minimum payload allowance will be 1,400 lbs. (636 kgs.)

Seating Safety

2. The vehicle shall be furnished with seating for the driver and a minimum of three additional people, in addition to the stretcher. All seats must be certified as conforming with CMVSS standards # 207, 208, 209, 210, and 302.

All seats in the rear compartment shall be padded and at least 18 inches (46 cm) wide. Padding shall be covered with fire retardant, washable, nonabsorbent material. All safety padding to be securely fastened to vehicle components. Each seating position shall be equipped with a safety belt in accordance with CMVSS standards 208, 209, and 210. [See also 3(18).]

The attendant shall have a seat facing towards the client. Seat anchorage must comply with CMVSS Standard 207.

Floor Plan and Cot Placement

3. Unless otherwise specified, each person requiring stretcher transport shall be transported on a mobile elevating cot or litter designed to accommodate a person who requires transportation in a horizontal plane. Loading arrangements shall be provided in the clients' compartment so that the head of the client is forward in the vehicle. Each cot shall be located to allow a minimum of 6" (15.25 cm) to the rear door. Other configurations including multiple elevating cots may be approved if submitted to the Ministry prior to acquisition.

Floor Covering

4. The floor covering shall be seamless, one piece, fireproof, mar resistant and scuff proof safety flooring. It shall provide slip resistance throughout the thickness of material. It shall be a minimum of 2 mm thick. It shall be bonded to the sub floor with waterproof adhesive. Where the covering and side walls meet it shall be sealed or the flooring shall extend at least three (3) inches (8 cm) up the side walls. Metal scuff plates are not permitted.

Doors

5. There shall be a door opening on the right forward side of the client compartment which shall be designed and placed in such a manner that a client on a wheeled cot may be removed from the vehicle through the right side door in the event that the rear doors are inoperable.

Rear door(s) shall be provided to allow clients to be easily loaded or unloaded while on a wheeled cot. Doors shall have sealed safety glass. Each door shall have seals to prevent leakage of dust, water, and air.

Windows

6. All glass shall meet required CMVSS standards (ANSI Z26.1) and be privacy glass or masked on the inside with a smoked non-reflective film to allow a maximum of 20% transmission of ambient light to reduce heat, and to ensure privacy. Alternative privacy devices may be approved by the ministry.

Door Latches, Hinges and Hardware

7. Door latches, hinges and hardware shall comply with CMVSS 206. All doors shall have devices to prevent inadvertent opening and closing. In addition to a door operating handle; door stops to prevent damage to body sides; a handle with latches operable from inside, even if key-locked. Inside door handles shall be designed and placed so they cannot be operated (opening door) when accidentally hit or used as a grab handle. In addition, vehicles must be certified in compliance with a standard approved by the minister.

Rear Compartment

8. All surfaces within the rear compartment must be constructed with hard-surfaced materials which may be disinfected, and all interior joints and corners must be sealed to prevent fluids from becoming trapped.

Interior Storage Compartments and Cabinets

9. Compartments or cabinets shall be provided adequate to secure all of the equipment listed under Schedule "B". In addition, every stretcher transport vehicle must provide at minimum 0.175 cubic meters (6 cu. Ft.) of secure storage for carry-on effects. All securement systems must be permanently installed in the vehicle with attachment points compatible to the weight and size of the item being restrained. The restraint system must be bolted or welded to tapping plates of the body structure. All exposed edges of cabinets shall rounded to a minimum ½ inch radius and be protected with safety padding. All compressed gas tanks, including fire extinguishers using a compressed propellant, and any portable gas system which is stored in the vehicle must be restrained by a restraint system certified to a standard approved by the minister. These tanks must be stored separately from heavy items that may damage valves in the event of a motor vehicle accident. All items carried in the rear compartment that are not in approved cabinets, and which are of such size or weight to be a hazard in the event of an accident to the client and crew, must be secured in a manner approved by the minister. This requirement applies to:
- a) all equipment used in normal operations,
 - b) all carry-on equipment used by medical/nursing personnel or other designated persons, and
 - c) personal effects and property transported with clients.

Cot Fasteners and Anchorage

10. A side or center mount style fastener of quick release type shall be provided for each wheeled cot. These fasteners shall be securely attached to the main vehicle body. The mounting system must be certified to a standard approved by the minister.

IV Holders

11. Holders and strapping device to tie and control movement of IV bags/bottles must be provided at each location where a client may be carried, for the use of medical/nursing or other designated personnel. The hardware shall be recessed or near flush to the ceiling or wall, and must be anchored to the main body construction.

Other legislative requirements

12. All vehicles used for stretcher transport services must carry such equipment (first aid kit, fire extinguisher, safety reflectors) as required by the Motor Vehicle Branch for a commercial vehicle of this type.

VEHICLE APPEARANCE

1. EXTERNAL MARKINGS

Vehicles used for stretcher transport services operations shall not be marked, painted or decorated with any decoration, image, or icon which is used to identify any type of medical or ambulance operation.

- Flashing “ambulance” type lighting in red, white or amber are not permitted
- The “Star of Life” symbol is not permitted
- The word “Ambulance” is not permitted.

2. INTERNAL MARKINGS

Vehicles used for stretcher transport services operations must display NO SMOKING signs on both the front dashboard and in the rear compartment. These signs must be at minimum 3.5 cm. by 18 cm.