



The Emergency Medical Response and Stretcher Transportation Act **Stretcher Transportation Services Regulation** **Fact Sheet**

The Amendments to *The Ambulance Services Amendment Act* to be known as *The Emergency Medical Response and Stretcher Transportation Act* will be proclaimed **effective April 1, 2006**.

The revised *Emergency Medical Response and Stretcher Transportation Act* has been broadened to recognize that “Ambulance Service” is not just transportation but a system with multiple layers of response and care from medical first responders to advanced paramedics providing medical care inside and outside of an ambulance. Along with this, the concept of providing non-ambulance stretcher service was introduced.

The Stretcher Transportation Services Regulation addresses the regulatory issues related to set up and operation of stretcher services.

Under this regulation, new and existing stretcher car services will be required to:

- Apply to the Minister to become a licence holder
- Have written agreements in place with Regional Health Authorities for facilities that the licence holder may be providing stretcher transport to or from
- Have preventive maintenance programs that ensure the vehicle(s) is maintained in a mechanically safe condition
- Ensure that the vehicle(s) complies with vehicle specifications approved by the Minister
- Provide functioning communications equipment capable of contacting an emergency medical response system
- Undergo annual vehicle safety inspection(s) by the regulator
- Ensure that every stretcher transportation vehicle carries individual care supplies as outlined in Schedule – Individual Care Supplies (Section 9)
- Ensure that all stretcher transportation vehicles have a crew of at least two (2) licenced stretcher attendants
- Ensure that the individuals meet the requirements determined to be appropriate for the use of a stretcher transportation vehicle as per the regulations
- Ensure that if transportation has been arranged by a facility that it is done pursuant to a written order being signed by a recognized health professional (as outlined in Section 11 (1) b (ii))
- Ensure that written orders are maintained on file by the licence holder
- Obtain insurance which meets or exceeds the regulation
- Develop and implement Policy and Procedures in regards to:
 - contacting the appropriate medical response system if during transport the client requires urgent medical intervention
 - implementation of infection control procedures
 - prohibition of smoking in the vehicle
 - reporting mechanisms if stretcher transportation is involved in a collision or fire
 - documentation and retention of transport reports
 - reporting requirements in regards to occurrences in or related to stretcher transportation as per regulation Section 12

Transitional Provisions

- A person who has operated a stretcher transportation service for at least three (3) months prior to the implementation date of the regulations may continue to operate without a licence for a period of not more than three (3) months after the coming into force of this regulation
- Individuals employed with a stretcher transportation service for at least one (1) month prior to implementation of the regulations, April 1, 2006, may continue to be employed without a licence for a period of not more than one (1) year after the coming into force of this regulation
- Vehicles used as stretcher transportation vehicles on the date the regulations are implemented, April 1, 2006, (and do not comply with Section 7) may continue to be used for a period not exceeding 60 days after the coming into force of this regulation or up to two (2) years if the Minister is satisfied the deficiencies are not related to safety

For Further Information Contact

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