

# **Pennsylvania Statutes**

## **“Emergency Vehicle”**

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### **§ 121.1. Definitions.**

The definitions in section 3 of the act (35 P. S. § 4003) apply to this article. In addition, the following words and terms, when used in this article, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Emergency vehicle*—A fire, police or sheriff department vehicle, ambulance, blood-delivery vehicle, hazardous material response vehicle, armed forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner used for answering emergency calls. The term includes motor vehicles under 75 Pa.C.S. § 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately-owned vehicle specified in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions) which is used in answering an emergency call by any of the following:

- (i) A police chief and assistant chief.
- (ii) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief.
- (iii) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.
- (iv) An ambulance corps commander and assistant commander.
- (v) A river rescue commander and assistant commander.
- (vi) A county emergency management coordinator.
- (vii) A fire marshall.
- (viii) A rescue service chief and assistant chief.**

### **§ 1003.27. Disciplinary and corrective action.**

(a) The Department may, upon investigation, hearing and disposition, impose upon prehospital personnel who are certified or recognized by the Department one or more of the disciplinary or corrective measures in subsection (c) for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Demonstrated incompetence to provide adequate emergency medical services.
- (2) Deceptive or fraudulent procurement or misrepresentation of certification or recognition credentials.
- (3) Willful or negligent practice beyond the scope of certification or recognition authorization.

- (4) Abuse or abandonment of a patient.
- (5) The rendering of services while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- (6) The operation of an emergency vehicle in a reckless manner or while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
- (7) Disclosure of medical or other information if prohibited by Federal or State law.
- (8) Willful preparation or filing of false medical reports or records, or the inducement of others to do so.
- (9) Destruction of medical records required to be maintained.
- (10) Refusal to render emergency medical care because of a patient's race, sex, creed, national origin, sexual preference, age, handicap, medical problem or financial inability to pay.
- (11) Failure to comply with Department-approved regional EMS council transfer and medical treatment protocols.
- (12) Failure to comply with ambulance response reporting requirements as established by the Department.
- (13) Failure to meet recertification requirements.
- (14) Conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude. Conviction includes a judgment of guilt, a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere.
- (15) Conviction of a misdemeanor which relates to the practice or the profession of the prehospital practitioner. Conviction is a judgment of guilt.
- (16) A willful or consistent pattern of failure to complete details on a patient's medical record.
- (17) Misuse or misappropriation of drugs or medication.
- (18) Having a certification or other authorization to practice a health care profession or occupation revoked, suspended or subjected to disciplinary sanction.
- (19) Failure to comply with skill maintenance requirements established by the Department.
- (20) Violating a duty imposed by the act, this subpart or an order of the Department previously entered in a disciplinary proceeding.

(21) Other reasons as determined by the Department which pose a threat to the health and safety of the public.

(b) It is the duty of all prehospital personnel to report to the Department, within 30 days, a misdemeanor or felony conviction, or a revocation, suspension or other disciplinary sanction of a certificate or other authorization to practice a health care profession or occupation.

(c) If disciplinary action is appropriate for one of the reasons listed in subsection (a), the Department may:

(1) Deny an application for certification or recognition.

(2) Administer a written reprimand with or without probation.

(3) Revoke, suspend, limit or otherwise restrict the certification or recognition.

(4) Require the person to take refresher educational courses.

(5) Stay enforcement of a suspension and place the individual on probation with the right to vacate the probationary order for noncompliance.

(d) The Department will conduct all aspects of the disciplinary process and any hearing that may be held in accordance with 1 Pa. Code Part II (relating to General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure). A revocation or suspension of certification or recognition may be appealed to the Commonwealth Court under 2 Pa.C.S. § § 501—508 and 701—704 (relating to Administrative Agency Law).

### **Authority**

The provisions of this § 1003.27 amended under the Do-Not Resuscitate Act, 20 Pa.C.S. Chapter 54.

### **Source**

The provisions of this § 1003.27 amended September 1, 1995, effective September 2, 1995, 25 Pa.B. 3685; amended October 13, 2000, effective October 14, 2000, 30 Pa.B. 5363; amended December 13, 2002, effective March 1, 2003, 32 Pa.B. 6117; amended February 6, 2004, effective February 7, 2004, 34 Pa.B. 677. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (293998) to (294000).

### **Cross References**

This section cited in 28 Pa. Code § 1003.22 (relating to first responder); 28 Pa. Code § 1003.23 (relating to EMT); 28 Pa. Code § 1003.24 (relating to EMT-paramedic); and 28 Pa. Code § 1003.25b (relating to prehospital registered nurse).

#### **§ 41.4. Application.**

*Procedure.* Application for an emergency vehicle designation shall be made to the State Police on the Emergency Vehicle Designation, Form SP 6-115.

- (1) Application forms may be obtained from the State Police, Director, Bureau of Patrol, 1800 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109.
- (2) Applications shall be notarized and submitted in duplicate.
- (3) The Bureau of Patrol has the authority for approval or disapproval of applications. An applicant will be notified by mail of the disposition of the application.

#### **Source**

The provisions of this § 41.4 adopted May 21, 1982, effective March 10, 1979, 12 Pa.B. 1640; amended November 5, 1982, effective November 6, 1982, 12 Pa.B. 3901. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (70877) to (70878).

#### **§ 41.5. Eligibility.**

(a) *Considerations.* The following vehicles may qualify for an emergency vehicle designation:

- (1) The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management organization vehicle.
- (2) Bona fide rescue organization vehicle.
- (3) Department of Corrections vehicles used by members of the Department's Hostage Rescue Teams, Hostage Negotiation Teams, Corrections Emergency Response Teams, Corrections Rifle Specialist Teams and Central Office Special Teams Coordinator.

(b) *Exclusions.* Private vehicles of the following persons will not be considered for an emergency vehicle designation:

- (1) Volunteer firemen, fire commissioners, fire inspectors, fire police, fire engineers, other fire department or fire company personnel and members of rescue organizations.
- (2) Police, special police, auxiliary police, part-time police, constables, security police and campus police.
- (3) Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, local emergency management organization or disaster control personnel.
- (4) Red Cross personnel.

(5) Military personnel.

(6) The Department of Corrections, its personnel, and members of its Hostage Rescue Teams, Hostage Negotiation Teams, Corrections Emergency Response Teams, Corrections Rifle Specialist Teams and Central Office Special Teams Coordinator.

(c) *Restriction.* A designation will be issued only for a vehicle owned or leased by the applicant.

### **Authority**

The provisions of this § 41.5 amended under the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S. § 6106.

### **Source**

The provisions of this § 41.5 adopted May 21, 1982, effective March 10, 1979, 12 Pa.B. 1640; amended November 5, 1982, effective November 6, 1982, 12 Pa.B. 3901; amended September 17, 2004, effective September 18, 2004, 34 Pa.B. 5134. Immediately preceding text appears at serial page (297814).

### **§ 173.2. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Authorized vehicle*—The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions).

*Emergency vehicle*—The term as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102.

*Flash*—An intermittent burst of light.

*Flash rate*—The rate of flash, revolution or oscillation per minute of a single light, when that light is observed from a fixed position.

*Flashing headlamp system*—A system designed to automatically flash the high intensity—high beam—portion of the headlamps of a vehicle in either an alternate or simultaneous flash. The system shall be designed so that activation of the high intensity—high beam—portion of the standard headlamp system overrides the flashing headlamp system.

*Flashing light*—A light designed to flash by current interruption, oscillation of the lamp or current, or by revolution of the lamp.

*Hazard warning system*—Driver-controlled flashing front and rear lights used to warn approaching motorists when a vehicle is broken down or is traveling at a slow speed.

*Intersection light*—A flashing red light device, mounted on the upper portion of each front fender of an emergency vehicle, and used as a part of the flashing or revolving light system to enhance the visibility of an emergency vehicle as it approaches or travels through an intersection.

*Light activation indicator*—An audible signal or an illuminated switch or pilot light which provides the driver of an emergency or authorized vehicle with a clearly audible or visible and continual indicator that a flashing or revolving light, flashing headlamp system, traffic control emergency directional light, or authorized nonflashing or nonrevolving light is activated.

*Light-bar assembly*—A device designed and constructed to provide and display more than one steady burning, flashing or revolving beam of light.

*Oscillation*—Movement back and forth between two points, including the alternation between the maximum and minimum voltage.

*Revolving light*—A light designed to give the appearance of flashing by its rotation around a fixed axis through a 360° arc, on a horizontal plane.

*Single light*—A device containing one or more lenses, lamps or bulbs which are designed to produce, when viewed from a fixed position or point, the appearance of one flashing or revolving beam of light.

*Traffic control emergency directional light assembly*—A device electronically designed to display amber or yellow warning signal lights in a distinctive motion-lighting pattern—arrow left, arrow right, center out or alternately flashing—to warn motorists that they are approaching a hazard or to direct them around an impending hazard.

### Source

The provisions of this § 173.2 adopted October 21, 1977, effective October 22, 1977, 7 Pa.B. 3131; amended May 12, 1978, effective May 13, 1978, 8 Pa.B. 1329; amended November 5, 1993, effective November 6, 1993, 23 Pa.B. 5309. Immediately preceding text appears at serial page (132817).

### **173.3. Display requirements.**

(a) *Color.* White, clear, red, blue, amber or yellow are the only colors permitted for use in flashing or revolving lights.

(1) *Chromaticity coordinates.* A flashing or revolving light shall comply with the Chromaticity Coordinates, CIE 1931, Standard Colorimetric System as provided in SAE Standard J578d, Color Specification for Electrical Signal Lighting Devices, September 1978. This requirement does not apply to flashing headlamp systems.

(2) *Red lights.* A vehicle may display red lights as follows:

(i) Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4571 (relating to visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles), an emergency vehicle, as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions), shall be equipped with one or more flashing or revolving red lights.

(ii) Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4571, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission vehicles used for the enforcement of 66 Pa.C.S. Chapters 23 and 25 (relating to common carriers; and contract carrier by motor vehicle and broker) may be equipped with flashing or revolving red lights.

(3) *Blue lights.* Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4572(a) (relating to visual signals on authorized vehicles), ambulance personnel, owners and handlers of dogs used in tracking humans, and volunteer firefighters may each equip one personal vehicle with no more than two flashing or revolving blue lights or one light-bar assembly containing no more than two blue lights. Only blue lights may be used on the light-bar assembly. See Figure 3.1.

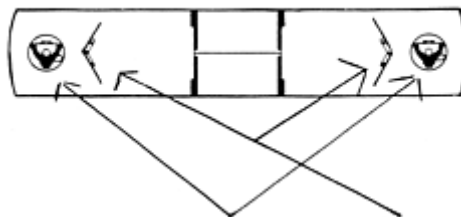
(4) *Combination red-and-blue lights.* Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4571(b), police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles may be equipped with flashing or revolving blue lights in addition to red lights—combination red-and-blue lights. The privately-owned vehicles of a police chief, assistant police chief, fire police captain and fire police lieutenant shall be equipped under paragraph (2).

(5) *Yellow or amber lights.* A vehicle may display yellow or amber lights as follows:

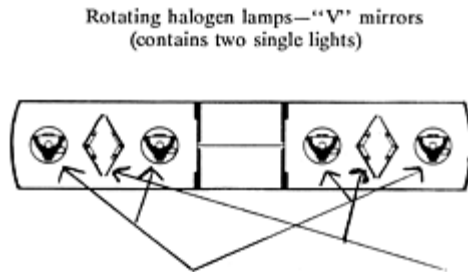
(i) Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4572(b), an authorized vehicle as defined in 75 Pa.C.S. § 102 and designated in Chapter 15 (relating to authorized vehicles and special operating privileges) may be equipped with no more than two flashing or revolving yellow or amber lights or one light-bar assembly containing no more than two yellow or amber lights. Only yellow or amber lights may be used on the light-bar assembly. See Figure 3.1.

**FIGURE 3.1  
ILLUSTRATIONS OF LIGHT-BAR ASSEMBLIES \***

ILLUSTRATIONS OF LIGHT-BAR ASSEMBLIES \*



Rotating halogen lamps—“V” mirrors  
(contains two single lights)



Rotating halogen lamps—“diamond” mirrors  
(contains four single lights)

\* THESE ILLUSTRATIONS REPRESENT TWO COMMON MODELS OF LIGHT-BAR ASSEMBLIES. OTHER LIGHT-BAR ASSEMBLIES MAY BE USED.

(ii) Emergency vehicles may be equipped with no more than two yellow or amber lights, in addition to one traffic control emergency directional light assembly.

(6) *White or clear lights.* In addition to flashing or revolving red or combination red-and-blue lights, an emergency vehicle may be equipped with a flashing headlamp system and no more than one flashing or revolving white or clear light, except that an emergency vehicle may be equipped with a light-bar assembly containing no more than two flashing or revolving white or clear lights.

(i) Flashing or revolving white or clear lights and flashing headlamp systems may only be used in conjunction with the flashing or revolving red or combination red-and-blue lights. Flashing or revolving white or clear lights and flashing headlamp systems that are not used in conjunction with flashing or revolving red or combination red-and-blue lights do not constitute visual signals under 75 Pa.C.S. § § 3325 and 4571 (relating to duty of driver on approach of emergency vehicle; and visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles).

(ii) Flashing headlamp systems are to be used under 75 Pa.C.S. § 4306 (relating to use of multiple-beam road lighting equipment).

(7) *Steady burning lights.* Unauthorized colored, white or clear nonflashing or nonrevolving lights—steady burning lights—may not be used in conjunction with flashing or revolving lights, except for steady burning lights used on emergency vehicles as specified in 75 Pa.C.S. § 4571(a) and (b)(3). These lights, which include flood lights and other steady burning lights, may be used only while the vehicle is stationary, except that a police officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff operating a police or sheriff vehicle may use these lights while the vehicle is in motion, if the lights are used only for the purpose of an emergency, or for the safety of the public or in the enforcement of the law.

(8) *Other lights.* A vehicle, other than those identified in this subsection, may not be equipped with lights or systems identical or similar to those specified by this subsection, except that school buses and urban mass transit buses which will be used for carrying school children may be equipped with flashing lights as permitted by 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 4552(b) and 4553(a) (relating to general requirements for school buses; and general requirements for other vehicles transporting school children), and Chapter 15 and Chapter 171 (relating to school buses and school vehicles).

(9) *Hazard warning systems and turn signals.* Hazard warning systems and turn signals are not considered flashing lights for the purposes of this chapter.

(b) *360° visibility.* When flashing or revolving red, blue, yellow or amber lights are mounted on a vehicle, one or more of these lights shall be mounted to provide visibility to vehicles approaching from any direction (360° visibility), regardless of the method of mounting. Emergency vehicles equipped with flashing or revolving red or blue lights mounted on or behind the grille are not exempt from this subsection.

(1) When only one light is used to provide 360° visibility, this light shall be in compliance with SAE Standard J845, 360° Emergency Warning Lamps, January 1984.

(2) When more than one light is used to provide 360° visibility, the number of lights used may not exceed those specified in 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 4571 and 4572.

(3) For emergency vehicles, 360° visibility shall be provided by one or more red lights.

(4) Vehicles that are equipped with a light-bar assembly are presumed to have met the 360° visibility requirements when the flashing or revolving light configuration is visible to vehicles approaching from any direction.

(c) *Flash rate.* The flash rate, when observed from a fixed position, shall be between 60 and 120 flashes per minute. When the flash rate is produced by the interruption of current, the period of illumination shall be long enough to permit the bulb to come to full brightness.

(d) *Mounting location.* The following applies to mounting locations for flashing or revolving lights:

(1) Flashing or revolving lights, excluding flashing headlamp systems, may be permanently mounted on the vehicle or attached to a mounting device, in a workmanlike manner, in the following locations only:

(i) On a cab or roof of the vehicle.

(ii) No more than 18 inches above the highest fixed point of the vehicle.

(iii) On the front of a dump truck bed.

(iv) Behind or on the grille of emergency vehicles. A flashing light may not be mounted so that it flashes through the grille, except that no more than two flashing red or blue lights, excluding light-bar assemblies, may be mounted so as to flash through or in front of the grille on emergency vehicles when the vehicle is also equipped with one or more flashing or revolving red lights that meet the 360° visibility requirements of subsection (b).

(v) Close to the front upper edge of each front fender of an emergency vehicle and not protruding more than 2 inches from the fender, with respect to intersection lights.

(2) Traffic control emergency directional light assemblies shall be rear-facing only and may not interfere with permanently installed lights. These assemblies may be permanently mounted on the vehicle or attached to a mounting device, in a workmanlike manner, in the following locations only:

(i) Underneath or behind light-bar assemblies.

(ii) On the rear deck, inside or outside of the vehicle.

(iii) On the trunk lid.

(e) *Mounting devices.* Flashing or revolving lights, excluding flashing headlamp systems, grille-mounted flashing lights and intersection lights, may be mounted on one of the following devices:

(1) A magnetic base.

(2) A roof rack, light-bar or other device that is welded or bolted onto the vehicle, or is mounted on the vehicle by using suction cups equipped with nylon or steel straps and clips which hook onto the drip rail or moulding.

(3) A self-leveling gimbal device.

### **Authority**

The provisions of this § 173.3 issued under the Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S. § § 4571, 4572 and 6103.

### **Source**

The provisions of this § 173.3 adopted October 21, 1977, effective October 22, 1977, 7 Pa.B. 3131; amended May 12, 1978, effective May 13, 1978, 8 Pa.B. 1329; amended March 27, 1981, effective March 28, 1981, 11 Pa.B. 1100; amended August 14, 1981, effective August 15, 1981, 11 Pa.B. 2856; amended November 5, 1993, effective November 6, 1993, 23 Pa.B. 5309. Immediately preceding text appears at serial page (132818).

## **Cross References**

This section cited in 67 Pa. Code § 179.10 (relating to general conditions).