




EMS Information Bulletin 2022-07

DATE: May 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Licensing of mass incident multi-person vehicles (busses)

TO: PA EMS Agencies
PA Regional Councils

Thru: Dr. Aaron M. Rhone,
Director 

FROM: Lori A. Driscoll, EMS Program Specialist
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

Recently, the Bureau has received several inquiries on the need to license Mass Casualty Incident buses, Medical Emergency Response Vehicles (MERVs), etc. These vehicles are primarily used for larger events on-site or to assist with the evacuation of larger numbers of people. Several agencies are interested in placing medical equipment on board these types of vehicles.

As the primary purpose of these vehicles is not to routinely transport patients and the vehicle does not meet federal standards for Ambulances, any agency seeking to add equipment to this type of vehicle shall license it at a squad level as chosen by the agency. As such, the Bureau strongly recommends agencies consider licensing the vehicle through the Public Utility Commission.

Agencies shall submit an amendment through the licensure process to add the vehicle. The amendment must include adding the appropriate level of service, adding the vehicle information, and adding the equipment/gear. Once the amendment is submitted, the regional council shall conduct an inspection utilizing the appropriate squad inspection sheet.

The Bureau recognizes under a disaster declaration or in an extreme emergency this type of vehicle may be utilized for transportation and will not penalize the agency as long as this does not occur on a regular and routine basis.

Please direct any questions regarding this memo to your regional council.