

EMS AIRCRAFT - CLASSIFICATION

I. PURPOSE

To specify the classification requirements for EMS aircraft providers that base their operations within Contra Costa County.

II. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5 California Health and Safety Code; Title 22 California Code of Regulations.

III. CLASSIFICATION

The local EMS Agency is responsible for classifying EMS aircraft based within its jurisdiction, except that the California EMS Authority is responsible for classifying aircraft of the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Forestry, and California National Guard.

A. Classification Categories

An EMS aircraft will be classified as either an air ambulance or a rescue aircraft. Rescue aircraft will be further classified as advanced life support, basic life support or auxiliary based on level of medical flight crew credentials.

1. **Air Ambulance:** Any aircraft that is
 - a. constructed, modified, equipped, and used to respond to emergency requests and to transport critically ill or injured patients, and
 - b. staffed with a minimum of two attendants credentialed in advanced life support.
2. **Rescue Aircraft:** An aircraft whose usual function is not prehospital emergency patient transport but which may be used, in compliance with EMS policy, for prehospital emergency patient transport when use of an air or ground ambulance is unsuitable or unavailable.
 - a. **Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft:** A rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has a minimum of one attendant credentialed in advanced life support.
 - b. **Basic Life Support Rescue Aircraft:** A rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has at a minimum one attendant certified as an EMT-A. An EMT-NA with the additional training and experience specified in Title 22, Section 100283 may be used to meet the BLS rescue aircraft medical staffing requirement.
 - c. **Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft:** A rescue aircraft which does not have a medical flight crew, or whose medical flight crew does not meet minimum requirements established for Basic Life Support Rescue Aircraft.

B. Medical Helicopter

The term "medical helicopter" shall mean a rotary wing aircraft that has been classified as an "air ambulance."

IV. CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

- A. To become classified in Contra Costa County, and EMS aircraft provider is required to:
 1. Submit a completed Contra Costa County EMS Aircraft Classification form,
 2. Submit all required attachments, and
 3. Pay the current EMS Aircraft Classification Fee.
- B. Prior to classification, EMS Agency staff may visually inspect the aircraft, equipment and radios.



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- C. An EMS aircraft provider shall apply for re-classification whenever there is a:
 - 1. Transfer of ownership, or
 - 2. Change in any factor that applies to or affects its classification category.
- D. No person or organization shall provide or hold itself out as providing prehospital air ambulance or air rescue services unless that person or organization has been classified by a local EMS agency, or in the case of the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Forestry, and California National Guard, the EMS Authority.