

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 22-11

2022 Legislation – Authorized Emergency Vehicle Certificates

DATE: May 24, 2022

FROM: MVD Policy & Compliance Team

TO: All Motor Vehicle Division staff

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2022 legislative session which makes numerous changes to Iowa Code regarding permissible operations of authorized emergency vehicles, including permissible use of lights, sirens, immunity from liability and operations during emergencies and various community events. Of most interest to MVD, the legislation expands who is eligible to be issued an MVD certificate of designation as an authorized emergency vehicle for a privately-owned vehicle.

SUMMARY

Senate File 333 adds the following persons to the list of persons eligible to be issued an MVD certificate of designation for an authorized emergency vehicle:

- 1) A vehicle privately-owned by a certified chief or certified fire officer of a volunteer fire department, a fire department comprised of volunteer and paid members, or a nonprofit corporation delivering emergency services to a municipality under contract.
- 2) A vehicle privately-owned by a chief, medical director, or certified medical provider of an authorized emergency medical service (EMS).

Additionally, the certified chief or certified fire officer must have completed an emergency vehicle operations course approved by the fire service training bureau and provide proof of certification as a fire officer as well as proof of financial responsibility to qualify to be issued the certificate of designation by MVD. On the other hand, a chief, medical director, or certified medical provider of an authorized emergency medical service (EMS) must have completed an emergency vehicle operations course approved by the Iowa Department of Public Health and must also provide proof of financial responsibility to qualify to be issued the certificate of designation by MVD.

The legislation became effective upon enactment, which was May 24, 2022.

LINK TO LEGISLATION

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=sf333>

CURRENT

Currently, MVD issues certificates of designation for the following privately-owned vehicle types:

- 1) An ambulance or fire rescue vehicle.
- 2) A state or county medical examiner vehicle.

- 3) A vehicle owned by a sheriff or full-time sheriff's deputy if requested by the sheriff.
- 4) A vehicle owned by a chief of police or any officer of the department if requested by the chief.
- 5) A vehicle owned by a chief of a full-time paid fire department.
- 6) A towing or recovery vehicle.

NEW

As of May 24, 2022, MVD will also be able to issue certificates of designation for private vehicles owned by certified chief or certified fire officer of a volunteer fire department, a fire department comprised of volunteer and paid members, or a nonprofit corporation delivering emergency services to a municipality under contract and a chief, medical director, or certified medical provider of an authorized EMS.

BUSINESS IMPACT

This legislation impacts staff who process form 411025, which is the application for a certificate of designation for an authorized emergency vehicle. We have updated the form to include the new vehicle types eligible for the certificate of designation and will also be updating our internal procedures accordingly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information to you and to customers:

ARE ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS REQUIRED OTHER THAN FORM 411025 TO PROCESS AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION FOR THESE NEW VEHICLE TYPES?

Yes. A certified chief or certified fire officer of a volunteer fire department, a fire department comprised of volunteer and paid members, or a nonprofit corporation delivering emergency services to a municipality under contract must provide a copy of their Fire Officer Certification Certificate as well as a copy of their insurance card.

A chief, medical director, or certified medical provider of an authorized EMS must provide a copy of their insurance card.

These additional proof documents should be stored along with the application in the ERMS file.

HOW WILL AN APPLICANT FOR A CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION FOR THESE NEW VEHICLE TYPES PROVIDE PROOF THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIRED TRAINING COURSE?

Form 411025 has been revised so that the official signing off on the request on behalf of the applicant is certifying that the applicant has completed the required training course.