

# Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations Fact Sheet

## Special Transportation Service (STS)

**Special Transportation Service (STS)** means motor vehicle transportation provided by a person on a regular basis designed to serve individuals who are elderly, handicapped, or disabled and are unable to use regular types of transportation. The terms and conditions of these rules are in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Special Transportation Services Rules, Parts 8840.5100 through 8840.6400 (Minn. R. 8840.5100 through 8840.6400).

### Ambulance Service License Required

A STS provider cannot provide, or represent itself as being able to provide any type of medical emergency, ambulance, or any implied life support service unless it is licensed as such under Minnesota Statutes, Section 144E.10.<sup>1</sup>

Violation of the above will subject the provider to administrative penalties or revocation of its STS certificate.

### Restrictions on Name of Service

An STS provider cannot use the words "ambulance," "medical," "emergency," "life support," or other forms of these words on any of its vehicles or in any advertising unless it is properly licensed as an ambulance service.<sup>2</sup>

### Certification

A person wishing to provide STS service must first submit an application to Mn/DOT requesting an STS certificate of compliance. The application form must follow the format described in this part of the rules.<sup>3</sup>

### Annual Evaluation

Mn/DOT may conduct an audit of each STS provider on an annual basis. The audit may include a review of the provider's records<sup>4</sup> and an inspection of the provider's vehicles.<sup>5</sup>

### Vehicle Inspections

Vehicles equipped with wheelchair securement devices **must** have those devices inspected and be issued a sticker certifying the vehicle has proper securement devices.

*Annual* - All STS vehicles are inspected on an annual basis.

*Random* - Mn/DOT may inspect vehicles unannounced.<sup>6</sup>

- **New vehicles**

Before a provider puts a used (or a new vehicle equipped with a wheelchair device) into service, that vehicle must be inspected by Mn/DOT.

- **Out-of-service**

Mn/DOT must place a provider's vehicle "out-of-service" if it is determined that the vehicle is likely to cause an accident or breakdown. The North American Uniform Vehicle Out-of-Service (OOS) Criteria, as adopted under Minnesota Statutes, will be followed in making such a determination. When placed OOS a vehicle cannot be placed back into service until the defect or violation has been properly corrected.

### Enforcement

In OSS cases, a provider must immediately remove the vehicle from service. For other violations, a provider will be given a notice to correct. This notice must be returned to Mn/DOT within 15 days. Failure to correct a violation within 15 days or using a vehicle or driver that has been placed OOS is grounds for suspension of an STS provider's certificate.<sup>7</sup>

## Driver Qualifications

This section lists the standards for drivers regarding medical conditions, drivers records, criminal records and what the provider is required to keep in the drivers files.<sup>8</sup>

- **Training**

Before providing special transportation service, each driver and attendant must complete the training described in Minn. R. 8840.5910, Subpart 1. Within 45 days after beginning to provide STS services, each driver and attendant shall be trained in **first aid abuse prevention, defensive driving, and assistance training**. All classes must be conducted by a Mn/DOT certified instructor.<sup>9</sup>

- **Vehicle Equipment**

This section covers safety equipment, seats, ramps, wheelchair lift requirements and securement devices. All equipment must conform to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.<sup>10</sup>

- **Vehicle Construction Standards**

Federal rollover safety standards (FMVSS 216 or 220) are effective for all vehicles put into STS service, except for cars, station wagons, and taxis. Certification of compliance must be maintained in vehicle files.<sup>11</sup>

- **Insurance**

A provider must have a certificate of insurance, form "E," as required.

- **Records**

Mn/DOT will provide sufficient notice when scheduling an annual audit.<sup>12</sup>

- **Certification of Training Courses**

Passenger assistance, first aid, defensive driving and abuse prevention training courses must be pre-approved by Mn/DOT. Mn/DOT is to be notified at least 72 hours prior to class instruction.<sup>13</sup> Mn/DOT will periodically review and audit training courses. It will also maintain a database of certified trainers.

This Fact Sheet is intended as a resource. It is not intended to explain all the requirements of Minnesota or Federal law. The actual Rules and Regulations are recommended as a resource, and can be purchased at the Minnesota Bookstore (phone number 651/297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757). For additional assistance contact the US DOT at 651/291-6150 or Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.

<sup>1</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5400

<sup>2</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5450

<sup>3</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5500

<sup>4</sup> Minn. R. 8840.6100

<sup>5</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5650

<sup>6</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5700

<sup>7</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5800

<sup>8</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5900

<sup>9</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5910

<sup>10</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5925

<sup>11</sup> Minn. R. 8840.5940

<sup>12</sup> Minn. R. 8840.6100

<sup>13</sup> Minn. R. 8840.6200



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