

Section 42 – Vehicles

New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

42.1 Patrol Vehicles

OPERATIONS

STANDARD 42.1 The agency has a written directive that:

- A. Specifies the minimum equipment authorized by the agency to be included in every vehicle used for patrol, and;**
- B. Requires that the majority of vehicles used routinely for general patrol service are conspicuously marked.**

Commentary: For the purposes of this standard, "conspicuously marked" includes at a minimum, light bars and an agency identifier on the vehicle. It is important to have patrol officers maintain a high visibility as a deterrent to criminal activity. However, it is also recognized that unmarked or special duty vehicles not conspicuously marked may also be used occasionally for patrol.

Further, it is not the intent of this standard to direct an agency as to what equipment it must carry in a patrol car, but rather to require the agency to specify such equipment on an official list. Equipment such as first aid kits, blankets, flares, and a fire extinguisher are generally considered the minimum needed by patrol officers to handle emergencies effectively. It is the intent of this standard that the equipment carried in all patrol vehicles is standardized within the agency.

Compliance Verification Strategies

Assessors may seek to verify compliance with this standard by using one or more of the strategies listed below. There may be other strategies identified by the agency which could also be acceptable.

1. A copy of the written directive is available for review.
2. Inspection of agency vehicle(s) that are routinely used in patrol service to verify that they are conspicuously marked and are equipped as per the directive.
3. Interview(s) with personnel responsible for assigning vehicles to verify their knowledge of and compliance with this standard.
4. Interview(s) with agency personnel who operate police vehicles to verify their knowledge of and compliance with the standard.