ALL-ALUMINUM EMS VEHICLE MODULE PROCUREMENT CHECKLIST

Construction-Focused RFP Specification Guide for Fire & EMS Leadership

Agency: _____ **RFP Number:** _____

Date: _____ **Prepared By:** _____

When preparing your next emergency vehicle procurement, use this checklist to look beyond the finished interior and define what the module is actually built from. The goal is to help your team evaluate structural materials, hidden substrates, cleanability, durability, and future remount potential. A finished surface may look non-porous while still covering wood-based material underneath, so the specification should address both visible and concealed construction.

ALL-ALUMINUM MODULE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

1. Wood-Free Structural Module Construction

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

The patient module shall use welded aluminum structural framing and shall not rely on plywood, OSB, particleboard, or other wood-based materials as structural reinforcement. Bidders shall identify the materials used in the roof, walls, floor structure, cabinet framing, and structural attachment points.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- ■ Welded aluminum structural framing
- ■ No wood structural reinforcement
- ■ Roof, wall, and floor materials identified
- ■ Cabinet framing materials identified
- ■ Hidden substrates disclosed

2. Wood-Free Interior Substrates

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

The patient compartment shall be free of plywood, OSB, particleboard, and other wood-based substrates beneath flooring, wall finishes, cabinetry, seating structures, and interior panels. Decorative or finished surfaces shall not be considered wood-free unless the substrate behind them is also non-wood.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- ■ No plywood subfloor
- ■ No wood-backed cabinetry
- ■ No wood wall substrates
- ■ No wood beneath seating structures
- ■ Interior substrate schedule provided

3. Non-Porous Materials in High-Exposure Areas

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

Materials used in areas routinely exposed to cleaning solutions, fluids, and splash shall be non-porous and corrosion-resistant. Bidders shall identify the aluminum, stainless steel, or other non-porous materials used at floor transitions, lower walls, cabinet faces, splash zones, and other high-contact surfaces.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Non-porous splash-zone materials
- Corrosion-resistant metal surfaces
- Cleanable floor transitions
- Material types clearly identified
- No exposed absorbent substrate

4. Cleaning, Access & Infection-Control Considerations

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

Module construction shall support routine cleaning and decontamination by minimizing exposed porous materials and unnecessary moisture traps. The design shall provide practical access to areas that require inspection or cleaning. Any disinfection system offered shall supplement, not replace, the agency's established infection-control procedures.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Smooth, cleanable surfaces
- Accessible inspection areas
- Reduced hidden moisture traps
- Compatible with agency cleaning protocols
- Disinfection options clearly documented

5. Structural Durability & Verification

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

The manufacturer shall provide documentation describing the module's structural materials, joining methods, exterior skin attachment, and applicable structural testing. Any claims regarding load performance, crashworthiness, or durability shall be supported by manufacturer-approved test documentation.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Structural alloy/material identified
- Joining method documented
- Skin attachment method documented
- Applicable structural test records available
- Performance claims supported by documentation

6. Remountability & Long-Term Module Support

SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

The module shall be designed with future service and remount evaluation in mind. The manufacturer shall explain its remount inspection process, structural eligibility criteria, warranty terms, and long-term support available for the module. Remount eligibility shall be based on the condition of the specific module and applicable chassis/configuration requirements.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- Formal remount inspection process
- Eligibility criteria documented
- Warranty terms provided
- Long-term parts/service support
- Module condition evaluated before remount

PROCUREMENT EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Use these questions during vendor demonstrations, factory visits, and proposal reviews.

Category	Evaluation Verification Items
Structural Frame	■ What material forms the roof, walls, and base structure? ■ Is any wood used as structural reinforcement? ■ Are structural drawings or material specifications available?
Hidden Substrates	■ What is underneath the flooring, wall finish, cabinets, and seating? ■ Are plywood, OSB, particleboard, or other wood products used anywhere in the patient module? ■ Will the bidder provide a complete substrate/material schedule?
Cleaning & Sanitation	■ Which interior surfaces and substrates are non-porous? ■ How are floor transitions and splash zones constructed? ■ Can areas exposed to fluids be inspected and cleaned without removing absorbent material?
Durability	■ How are aluminum skin and structural members joined? ■ What structural testing applies to this module design? ■ Can the manufacturer provide documentation for performance claims?
Remount Planning	■ Is the module designed to be evaluated for future remounts? ■ What conditions can make a module ineligible for remount? ■ What warranty and factory support apply over the module's service life?

KEY PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- ■ Materials hidden beneath finished surfaces
- ■ Use of wood-based substrates anywhere in the patient module
- ■ Cleanability and resistance to fluid absorption
- ■ Corrosion-resistant materials in high-exposure areas
- ■ Structural documentation and supported test claims
- ■ Long-term serviceability and repair access
- ■ Compatibility with future remount evaluation
- ■ Warranty terms and factory support after delivery

PROCUREMENT NOTES & COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS