



**CANADIAN COUNCIL OF MOTOR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATORS
CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ADMINISTRATEURS EN TRANSPORT MOTORISÉ**

Evaluation of 15-Passenger Vans

FAQs

Why did the report get commissioned?

In 2007 and 2008, fatal collisions involving 15-passenger vans led to increased public awareness of the use of these vehicles to transport passengers and of their potential safety issues. In 2010, CCMTA was directed by the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety to address concerns relating to the regulation and use of 15-passenger vans in provinces and territories. Specifically, CCMTA was to lead a review of 15-passenger van safety and develop a national approach on the use of 15-passenger vans, especially when used to transport pupils.

What was done and who participated?

CCMTA is a membership based organization with members from all Canadian government (Provincial/Federal/Territorial). Members of CCMTA worked together, in collaboration with Transport Canada researchers, to conduct the review of 15-passenger vans and to develop a national approach for their use.

What did the review entail?

The safety review included:

- Research related to vehicle safety testing;
- Manufacturing standards / design and collision statistics;
- Safety and collision data for 15-passenger vans vs. other similar vehicles;
- Recommendations/actions that have resulted from this data;
- Current safety standards and guidelines for the use of 15-passenger vans in Canadian jurisdictions;
- Alternative vehicles that may be used for school purposes; and
- Identification and analysis of possible options for a national approach to the use of 15-passenger vans in Canada.

Transport Canada completed the physical testing of 15-passenger vans :

- Stability Testing;
- Dynamic Manoeuvres; and

- Limited Crashworthiness Testing.

What were the results of the review and testing?

- 15-passenger vans were generally found to be as safe as other highway vehicles when maintained, equipped and operated properly;
- Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and correctly applied tire inflation significantly improves the stability of this class of vehicle;

What were the outcomes of the review?

The review led to the conclusion that owners and operators of 15-passenger vans would benefit from guidelines highlighting key items that improve the safety of the vehicle. These safety guidelines include tips addressing:

- tire maintenance
- passenger/cargo loading from front to back
- compliance with the requirements of the National Safety Code for 15 passenger vans, if used for commercial purposes.

Also, 15-passenger vans, excluding those for personal use, are included in the definition of a commercial vehicle – requiring semi-annual inspections, daily inspections, hours of service requirements and a Class 4 driver's licence or higher.

Why did CCMTA not recommend banning the vehicles?

The role of CCMTA was to review the research and testing done and recommend a national approach. The evaluation of 15-passenger van safety shows that they are generally safe for road and highway usage provided that they are maintained, loaded and driven properly. This is the information that was provided to the Council of Ministers.

What is Canada's national approach to 15-passenger van use?

Since 2006, various makes/models of 15-passenger vans, like other vehicles, have voluntarily added safety features as standard equipment including:

- Side (thorax), and side curtain (head protection) air bags;
- 3-point seatbelts, head restraints;
- Electronic Stability Control; and
- Low tire pressure warning systems.

The evaluation of 15-passenger van safety shows that they are safe for road and highway usage provided that they are maintained, loaded and driven properly. Therefore, an important component to the safe use of this vehicle is ensuring that owners and operators of the vehicles are aware of the safety features and of safety guidelines that can enhance its safety. As a result, Canada's approach regarding 15-passenger vans is to communicate the Safety Guidelines for the use of 15-passenger vans to all current and potential owners and operators of these vehicles.

Canadian provinces/territories are responsible for all matters relating to road safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and taxation and commercial vehicle regulations and enforcement. The federal government is responsible for road safety, new vehicle standards, transportation of dangerous goods and plays a complimentary role in motor transport administration.

As a member of the general public, should you have inquiries regarding the above please contact the appropriate province/territory listed below.

- British Columbia
Ministry of Justice (Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles)
Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Alberta
Alberta Transportation
- Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI)
- Manitoba
Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI)
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Ontario
Ministry of Transportation
- Québec
Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ)
Transports Québec
- New Brunswick
Department of Public Safety
- Nova Scotia
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
- Prince Edward Island
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
- Newfoundland & Labrador
Service NL
- Northwest Territories
Department of Transportation
- Yukon
Department of Highways and Public Works

- Nunavut
Department of Economic Development and Transportation