

Catholic Mutual's Guidelines for 11-15 Passenger Vans

Catholic Mutual recommends the following guidelines for the purchasing and usage of 11-15 passenger vans.

- ◆ An 11-15 passenger van should not be used to transport children ages preschool to grade 12 to or from any school or parish function. "School or parish function" is defined as any function related to school or parish operations (including religious education programs).
- ◆ New or used 11-15 passenger vans should no longer be purchased or leased (including short-term leases such as 1-2 weeks) for the transportation of people.
- ◆ Organizations that currently own or lease (on a long-term basis) 11-15 passenger vans for the transportation of adults should develop a realistic plan for replacement of these vehicles with other transportation.
- ◆ Seats should not be removed from an 11-15 passenger van to reduce capacity. Also, nine passengers or less should not be transported in a 12 or 15 passenger van.
- ◆ Serious consideration should be given to completely eliminating the usage of 11-15 passenger vans for the transportation of adults.
- ◆ 11-15 passenger vans should be replaced with either a school bus or a Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB). An MFSAB is a vehicle which complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) applicable to school buses for crash survivability and mirrors. If used for the transportation of children, these vehicles **must** meet FMVSS 111; FMVSS 220; FMVSS 221; and FMVSS 222 (see below). Catholic Mutual recommends that these guidelines also be followed when selecting vehicles for adult transportation.
- ◆ Although MFSAB's are preferred, mini-vans may continue to be used to transport children or adults.

When selecting a replacement vehicle for the 11 to 15 passenger vans, the following Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards should be included in the vehicle when used for the transportation of children and adults:

FMVSS 111	Fulfills the safety requirement for the rear-view and cross-view visibility.
FMVSS 220	Establishes requirements for the school bus body structure in rollover accidents.
FMVSS 221	Regulates the strength of body panel joints in school buses.
FMVSS 222	Establishes occupant protection requirements for school bus passenger seating and barriers.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to dioceses, parishes or schools that belong to CUP or CUP II. They should follow their applicable policy.