

**NHTSA strongly recommends that only vehicles meeting Federal school bus safety standards be used to transport school children.**



Highway Safety Program Guideline 17, Pupil Transportation Safety, specifically recommends that any vehicle designed to carry more than 10 persons and which is used as a school bus comply with all Federal safety standards applicable to school buses at the time the vehicle was manufactured. Some states do allow the use of non-school bus vehicles to transport students. This is of great concern because students being transported in these vehicles are not receiving the level of protection they are provided in a vehicle that meets all school bus safety standards.

\*\*New vehicles that carry 11 or more persons that are sold for transporting students to or from school or school related events are required to meet all FMVSSs for school buses. A vehicle is regarded as being sold for use as a school bus if, at the time of sale, it is evident that the vehicle is likely to be significantly used to transport students to or from school or school related events. This applies to school buses sold to public as well as private schools. Thus, a dealer selling a new 12 or 15-passenger van to be used for school transportation must ensure that the van is certified as meeting all school bus FMVSSs. Additional regulations specify the content and location of and other requirements for the label or tag to be affixed to motor vehicles and items of motor vehicle equipment manufactured after August 31, 1969. This certificate will provide the consumer with information to assist him or her in determining which of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards are applicable to the vehicle or item of vehicle equipment, and its date of manufacture. An amendment effective January 1, 1972, required gross vehicle weight (GVWR) information on the certification label.

As a result of the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and the School Bus Safety Amendments of 1974, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has 35 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) that apply to school buses. Four standards are unique to school buses and six standards have unique requirements specific to school buses.

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