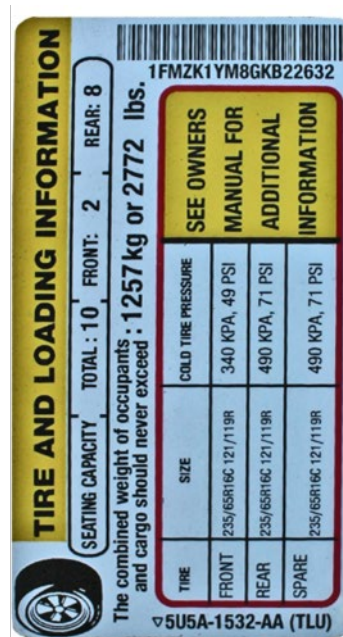




## 12 and 15 Passenger Vans

**The use of 12 and 15 passenger rated vans for student transportation violates federal and state law.** Federal and state law prohibits the use of any passenger vehicle for student transportation which is rated for more than 10 passengers plus the drivers by the manufacturer. Federal law also contains substantial penalties for schools, rental agencies, and vehicle dealerships.

The rated capacity can be found on the Tire and Loading Information sticker which is normally located on the inside driver's door. The passenger rating is determined by the vehicle manufacturer and cannot be changed by anyone other than the manufacturer. It is illegal for the school district or anyone other than a manufacturer to remove seats from the van to meet the mandated passenger requirement for student transportation. This would apply to both the school district and/or dealership if the intention is to circumvent the mandated passenger rating school transportation.



### Van vs Bus

This is a Van	These are buses
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A van will have sliding or a cargo style door for additional passenger entry</li> <li><b>12 &amp; 15 Passenger Rated Vans are illegal for student transportation</b></li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A bus will have a service door and a stepwell for passenger entry</li> <li>Buses are rated for more than 10 passengers in addition to the driver.</li> </ul>

### Tire and Load Stickers

Any **VAN** used for student transportation shall have a legible tire and load sticker applied by the manufacturer indicating a passenger rating of 10 passengers or less. **12 and 15 passenger rated vans are illegal for student transportation.**

The vehicle shall not have any attachment/access points and/or tracks for additional passenger seats. This excludes vans designed for wheelchairs.

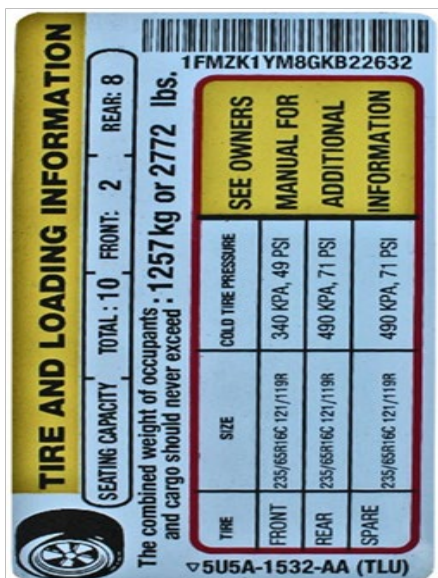
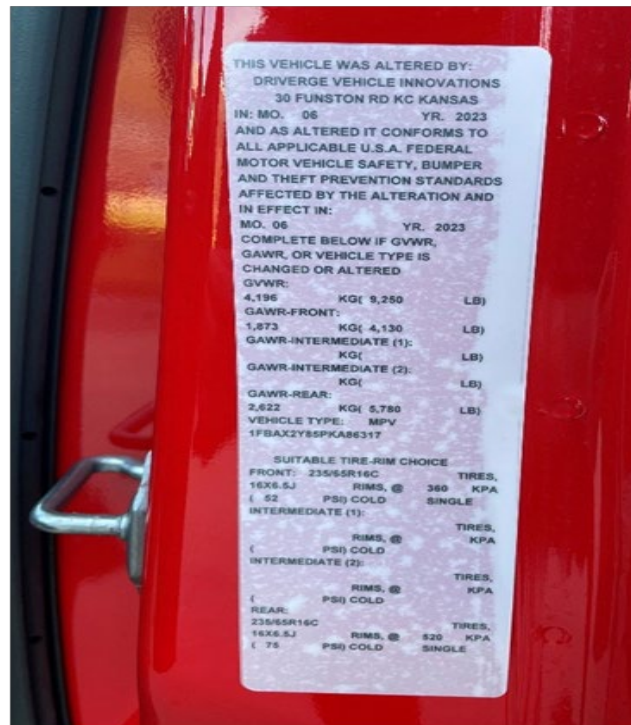
		
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### Second Stage Manufacturer/Converter

Presently, no new vehicle manufacture is producing a gas powered, 10 passenger rated van. An available option for schools to purchase a 10-passenger rated van is by using a reputable, licensed, second stage manufacturer.

The second stage manufacturer takes a NEW VAN, still on a Manufacturers Certificate/Statement of Origin, which may or may not have a passenger rating, altering the vehicle per ALL applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, Federal and State Laws necessary to produce a 10-passenger rated van. The second stage manufacturer then certifies the passenger rating and applies the appropriate Tire and Load sticker. The school SHALL NOT purchase or take possession of any van until the second stage manufacturer completes the work and applies the appropriate Tire and Load sticker with the 10-passenger rating.

Keep in mind that federal and state laws pertain to the passenger rating necessary for legal and safe transportation of students. The requirements for reputable stage manufacture is paramount in the event the vehicle is involved in a crash.



Sources: [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-41-27](#), 49 U.S.C. §30112