

Vehicle Definitions: Buses and 9- to 20-Seat Passenger Vans

Buses

School Bus or Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB)

This describes either a school bus or a bus with the same construction and safety features as a school bus except for the yellow paint, flashing lights, and stop arm. (See photo 1 to the right.)



Features include rollover and roof strength, windows with special glazing to protect occupants, emergency exits, high-back padded seats, and seatbelts. The sidewalls are made with reinforced panels for crash protection.

Bus (Non-MFSAB)

This describes a bus that is built on a major manufacturer's chassis and includes safety features such as roof strength, emergency exits, and seatbelts. (See photo 2.)

These buses are not as safe as an MFSAB or a school bus, but they are considered a safer alternative than a 15-passenger van. The vehicle Identification Plate identifies this vehicle as a "BUS."





Vehicle Definitions 2

Vans

Body Type S

These are passenger vans of standard length. (See photo 3.) The typical seating capacity of these vans is 12. Models as of 2004 have the following overall body lengths (in inches):

Model:	FORD	DODGE	CHEVROLET/GMC
Overall length (inches):	211.9	208.5	224.1



Body Type E

These are passenger vans with extended bodies. (See photo 4.) Models as of 2004 have the following overall body lengths (in inches):

Model:	FORD	DODGE	CHEVROLET/GMC
Overall length (inches):	231.9	234.5	244.1



Wheel Base S

These are passenger vans with extended bodies. (See photo 3 above.)

For Dodge and Ford models, this includes both the standard body van and the extended body van. Chevrolet and GMC vans extend the wheelbase on their extended body version so that the standard wheelbase is only used on the standard length van. Models as of 2004 have the following overall wheelbase lengths (in inches):

	FORD	DODGE	CHEVROLET/GMC
Wheelbase (inches)	138	127.2	135

Wheelbase E

These are passenger vans with an extended wheelbase length. (See photo 5.) Currently, Chevrolet and GMC are the only manufacturers that extend their wheelbase for their extended body van. Models as of 2004 have the following overall wheelbase length (in inches):

	FORD	DODGE	CHEVROLET/GMC
Wheelbase (inches)	N/A	N/A	155





Vehicle Definitions 3

Electronic Stabilization

This is an intricate system of speed, pitch, and yaw sensors tied into a computer system that calculates the vehicle's intended path of travel and utilizes the braking system to slow the appropriate wheels to prevent rollover accidents.

This system is

- Standard on Chevrolet and GMC extended body vans for model year 2004 and newer; and
- Standard on Ford extended body vans for model year 2006 and newer.

Dual Rear Wheels

This is accomplished by adding a second set of wheels outboard of the factory-installed wheels. (See photo 6.)

The needed parts to modify an existing van are available commercially and must be installed by a qualified dealer. Some vans cannot be modified due to a clearance problem if the van is equipped with a sliding door.



Sprinter Vans

These vans are relatively new to the United States auto market. (See photo 7.) Dodge, Freightliner, and Mercedes distribute them.

Sprinter vans with seating configurations of 9 or 10 are vehicle type V, wheelbase S. Any seating configuration greater than 10 is considered a bus.

