



What is a 15-Passenger Van?

Many churches are looking at alternatives to 15-passenger vans, but what is a 15-passenger van? Is it only a van that has 15 passengers in it? Does it have seats for only 15 passengers? Does it have room for seats for 15 passengers? Unfortunately, the term “15-passenger van” is just a descriptor, not a name, and creates confusion as we try to identify which vehicles we can or cannot use.

Vehicles identified by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church policy as suitable alternatives to 15-passenger vans include: *“minivans and SUVs, mini-school buses, 15-passenger buses with dual rear wheels.”* What many have discovered is that the passenger van models typically come in 8, 10, 12, and 15-passenger versions, leaving many to ask which of these configurations are safe for use?

Adventist Risk Management,® Inc. (ARM) has consistently presented that 15-passenger vans are not safe. A van that is designed by its length to be for 15 passengers meets the criteria of the ‘dangers’ of what are referred to as 15-passenger vans. ARM has often used the example of how taking the back row out of a 15-passenger van does not remove the risks associated and is not acceptable. Regardless of whether the owner or the manufacturer of a

15-passenger van takes out the last row, it is not shortening the overall length of the van and thus still has the dangerous attributes of what is known as a 15-passenger van.

A practical guide is that it should NOT be used if any of the following are present:

- it can be configured as a 15-passenger van
- it has a wheelbase over 135 inches
- it has an overall length over 225 inches

This is not to be considered an exhaustive list of all makes and models of vans as these vary by make, model, and year, however, these illustrations should serve to show how the configurations, wheelbase and overall length can be used as a general guide to determine if a van is a “15-passenger” van.



12-Passenger Vans

You could easily purchase a 12-passenger van that has the same wheelbase and all the same challenges as a 15-passenger model. These should not be used.

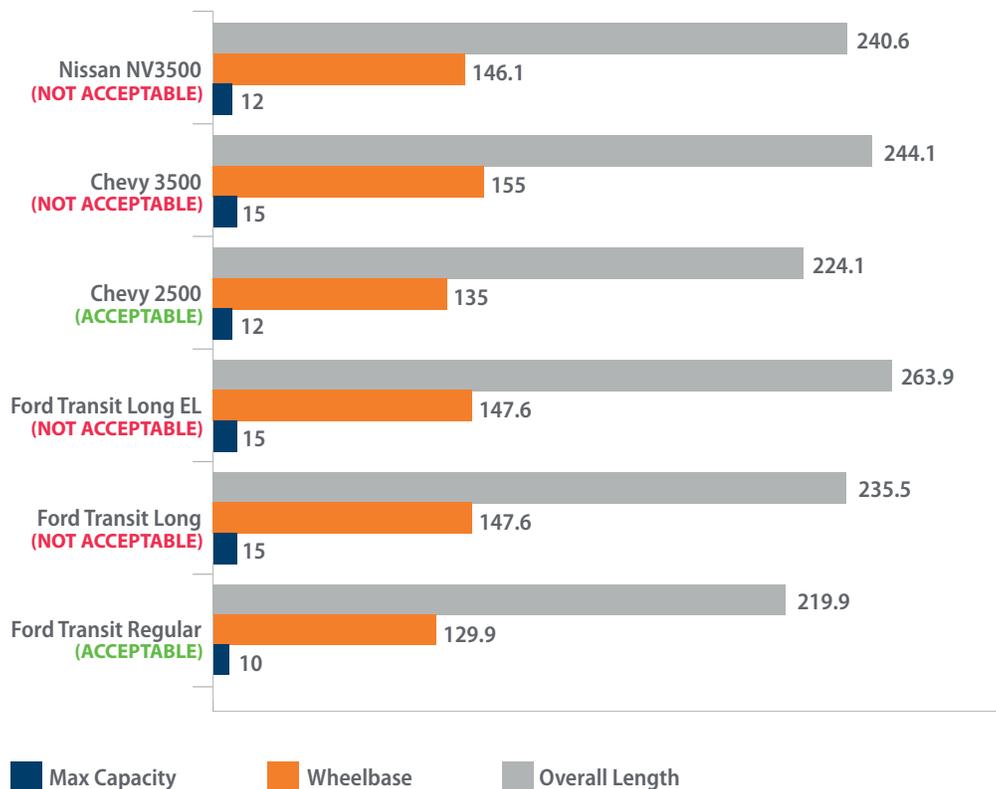
If you are considering a 12-passenger van please consider that even if it has a shorter wheelbase than the

15-passenger model, it is still only a small step removed and may be prone to many of the same challenges.

14-Passenger Vans

Some have asked about 14-passenger vans. These are 15-passenger vans. The number 15 refers to the total number of persons occupying the vehicle and does not distinguish between driver and passenger.

Examples of 2019 Passenger Vans*



*Specifications taken from the manufacturers' published documentation.

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