

Oregon Department of Transportation Requirements for 15-Passenger Vans

This report does not address vehicles designed to carry more than 15 persons.

ODOT's current initiative of increased inspections on commercial carriers is primarily geared towards motor coaches. They have warned, however, that they may/will be checking any commercial vehicle designed to carry more than eight passengers. They specifically identified Maupin and State Parks as areas they intend to increase enforcement.

Commercial motor vehicle means any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property when the vehicle—

- (1) Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
- (2) Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- (3) Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- (4) Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C

Most 15-passenger vans have a GVWR of about 9000 lbs. and do not meet the requirement above. However, when you add a trailer (a typical raft trailer is about 2500 GVWR) the combined gross weight or GCW exceeds 10001 lbs. and the vehicle/trailer is subject to inspection and equipment requirements. If you do not pull trailers with your vans and the GVWR is less than 10001 lbs. then you don't have to do anything.

ODOT has identified outfitters who operate solely within Oregon's borders and provide transportation services which are incidental to the activity as Intrastate Private Motor Carriers. They have exempted such carriers from many of the regulations found in the Federal Motor Carrier Requirements. Exemptions include requirements for drivers (medical cards, driver logs, etc...), displaying DOT identification and annual compliance reviews. Vehicles can be inspected, however, and will be checked for safety, mechanical issues and required equipment.

NOTE: Charitable organizations are exempt from inspection and review in Oregon.