



SUBJECT: Passenger Van Safety	Effective Date: 01-3-23	Policy Number: 4.1.8	
	Supersedes: 09-20-16	Page 1	Of 3
	Responsible Authority: Vice President, Administrative Affairs Director, Environmental Health and Safety		

APPLICABILITY:

This policy is applicable to all members of the University community, including all trustees, faculty, staff, students, volunteers, contractors, and other users of University-owned, leased, loaned, or rented 12-person and 15-

DEFINITIONS:

12-Person Van: Commonly referred to as a 12-passenger van. This is a van that has an official capacity of no more than 11-passengers and a van driver.

15-Person Van: This is a van that has an official capacity of no more than 14-passengers and a van driver. Pursuant to this policy, no more than 10 passengers will be permitted to accompany an authorized driver in a 15-person van.

Authorized Driver: As defined by [University Policy 4.1.4](#).

Pre-Departure Vehicle Inspection: Prior to departing on the trip, the vehicle driver will conduct a visual inspection including the areas of tire pressure, passenger and cargo weight distribution, seat belts, and driver road visibility.

Van Occupant Observer: The individual designated by the driver to be seated in the front passenger seat of a van who will monitor passenger activity to ensure adherence to occupant safety requirements. The front seat passenger must be at least 14 years of age if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger-side air bag.

Van Safety Training: An online training covering basic safety when operating vans.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The University recognizes the unique safety measures required to maintain the safe operation of Passenger Vans. This policy set forth the guidelines, responsibilities, and procedures for the safe use of Passenger Vans. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring department to determine authorized travel and drivers. This policy is intended to be consistent with the requirements of University Policy 4.1.4,

C. Pre-Departure Vehicle Inspection

- " Prior to loading the van, an interior and exterior inspection shall be conducted by the driver utilizing the 15-Passenger Van Driver Checklist & Reference Guide to ensure van safety before departure. Once the trip is completed, the form shall be maintained by the respective department for a time period of four (4) years following the inspection date.

D. Occupant Safety

- " The van occupant observer shall advise the driver to stop the vehicle if passengers become a driver distraction or any passenger removes their seatbelt while the vehicle is in motion.
- " No single driver shall operate the vehicle for more than 4 hours continuously. One 15-minute driver break is required on any travel of 4 hours or greater.
- " Driving time more than 8 hours will require a secondary driver to be designated by the department before the trip begins. The designated secondary driver must have completed all training requirements for Passenger Vans.
- " Travel shall not occur between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. If extenuating circumstances occur, approval to travel during this time must be received from the Department Director, or designee.
- " Drivers should be well rested and focused on their driving duties.
- " The headlights shall be on at all times when the vehicle isadlights shall be on at3orver ection