

RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN
ORGANIZATION OF Self-Insured Schools
(OSS)

To: JPA Liaisons
Contact People
Servicing Agents

From: Henry C. Brock III
Risk Manager

Subject: VAN LEGISLATION

Most districts at one time or another have utilized 15 passenger vans (owned or rented) to transport students or staff. Beginning 1 January 2005, these vans must only be driven by staff possessing a commercial drivers' license. AB-626 adds section 39800.5 to the Education Code: **“Any school district and any owner/operator of a private school that provides transportation for pupils and that owns, leases, or otherwise has possession or control of a 15-passenger van, may not, on or after January 1, 2005, authorize the operation of that van for the purpose of transporting passengers unless the person driving or otherwise operating the van has both of the following: (1) a valid class B drivers' license and (2) an endorsement for operating a passenger transportation vehicle.”**

The bill does not allow for passenger vans that have been converted to carry less than 15 passengers to be exempt. In summary, any van manufactured to carry 15 passengers, disregarding the existing seating capacity, is affected. Apparently the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found that 15-passenger vans were involved in more single vehicle roll-over accidents than other passenger vehicles.