

FACT SHEET

Van/Mini-Van Titling and Registration Procedures

PURPOSE

This fact sheet explains the titling and registration procedures for van and mini-van type vehicles being titled and registered in Pennsylvania.

DEFINITIONS

Motor home: A motor vehicle designed or adapted for use as mobile dwelling or office; except a motor vehicle equipped with a truck-camper.

Passenger Car: A motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, designed primarily for the transportation of persons and designed for carrying no more than 15 passengers, including the driver and primarily used for the transportation of persons. The term includes motor vehicles, which are designed with seats that may be readily removed and reinstalled, but does not include such vehicles if used primarily for the transportation of property.

Truck: A motor vehicle designed primarily for the transportation of property. The term includes motor vehicles designed with seats that may be readily removed and reinstalled if those vehicles are primarily used for the transportation of property.

GENERAL RULE

Van and mini-van type vehicles are designed by vehicle manufacturers to be used in a multitude of different ways. Many vans are designed for the transportation of persons with seats much like a normal passenger car or station wagon, however, some are manufactured for use as a motor home, while others are designed simply for the transportation of property. Therefore, the proper type of registration plate depends on how the vehicle is to be primarily used.

The following rules should help clarify the proper procedures required to title and register a van/mini-van:

To register as a passenger car - The van/mini-van must be designed with seating for no more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and used for non-commercial purposes. The vehicle body type must be listed as a "sedan" or "station wagon" on the application. The van or mini-van must have windows on both sides and in the rear, and may not be separated by opaque areas wider than 12 inches. In addition, the vehicle must not be designed or adapted for use as a mobile dwelling or office. The completed title and registration application must be submitted to PennDOT along with a check or money order for all applicable fees.

To register as a motor home - Vans/mini-vans that were originally equipped for use as a mobile dwelling, recreational vehicle, camper, or office by permanent installation of such furnishings or equipment as carpeting and sleeping accommodations, kitchen appliances and facilities or office furniture affixed to the interior may be registered as a motor home. The vehicle may not be designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property. A Form MV-2, "Certificate of Compliance," must be completed and accompany the title and registration application, along with a check or money order for all applicable fees. The applicant must list the vehicle body type as a "motor home." NOTE: Vans/mini-vans that have been adapted, modified or retrofitted for use as a motor home must undergo an enhanced vehicle safety inspection and apply to change the body type to a motor home using Form MV-426B (See Modified Vehicle Titling Procedures Fact Sheet for more information).

April 2010

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To register as a truck - The van/mini-van must be designed, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property. The title and registration application must simply indicate that the vehicle body type is a “truck” and be accompanied by a check or money order for all applicable fees.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any van/mini-van registered at the present time as a truck that would qualify to be registered as a passenger car, may do so by the vehicle owner submitting the following documents to PennDOT for processing.

1. The certificate of title currently in the vehicle owner’s or lienholder’s possession.
2. A completed Form MV-41, “Application for Correction of Vehicle Record or Verification of Vehicle Identification Number.” Block 3 would be checked since the vehicle owner is correcting the body type listed on the title and the appropriate sections on the form would be completed.
3. A \$22.50 title fee is required. **NOTE:** If the van/mini-van truck plate is currently registered, no registration plate fee would be required. If the plate currently on the van or mini-van is expired or needs to be renewed, an additional \$36.00 passenger registration renewal fee would be required to be submitted along with the vehicle registration renewal application or completed Form MV-140, “Request for Registration.”