

**Division Of State Patrol
Informational Memorandum**

6-99-5

**Tab 4
School Bus Inspection Manual**

TOPIC: Definition of Van Type Vehicle

Background: Terminology in Trans 300.39 refers to a van type vehicle and exempts them from having a lower glass panel in the rear emergency exit doors. The situation arose where the lower panel of a single center mounted emergency exit door did not have a lower glass panel on a typical A-II school bus. Referencing the national school bus standard one will find that the A-II school bus is exempt from the lower glass panel. The question then asked was, "Is the typical A-II school bus required to have a lower glass panel in the rear emergency exit door"?

Decision: The terminology used in Trans 300.39 to exempt the van type bus refers to school buses which have two swing out emergency exit doors hinged on the outside. A window in the lower panel of these doors would place them under the seats and provide no visibility to the driver at all. One can also relate to this type of vehicle as it normally utilizes the original right front door as the service door by connecting a control arm to it. It was the intent of Trans 300 to require this lower panel of glass in the center mounted emergency exit doors to provide a view for the driver to the rear of the bus when backing up. This window is more effective in the smaller A-II school buses than in any other school bus. Therefore it is decided that this window is required and the vehicle in question will have to be retrofitted. **Issued May 1, 1999/BA**

Typical A - II



Van Type

