

**SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT:
A LEGACY FOR USERS
(SAFETEA-LU)**

Update: December 12, 2005

On August 10, 2005, SAFETEA-LU was signed in to law. The bill – HR3 – is a funding bill for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Encompassed in the bill are a number of sections related to transportation of school children by schools. In addition, there is a section regarding 15-passenger van safety. While the bill specifically refers to 15-passenger van use and schools, the camp industry needs to be informed of the issues related to schools – as it might indicate future changes for the use of 15-passenger vans for any industry.

Specifically, Section 10309b of the bill prohibits:

“...A school or school system may not purchase or lease a new 15-passenger van if it will be used significantly by, or on behalf of, the school or school system to transport preprimary, primary, or secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school unless the 15-passenger van complies with the motor vehicle safety standards prescribed for school buses and multifunction school activity buses under this title.”

In addition, the bill describes a 15-passenger van in Section 10309a2 as:

“...a vehicle that seats 10 to 14 passengers, not including the driver.”

To view the details of SAFETEA-LU, access: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/legis.htm>