This info comes from the DOT/FTA web site relating to Altoona testing

Q. I am trying to purchase two E-350 vans from Ford. The grant person who is my contact wants the Altoona testing certificate from the Ford dealer but the dealer cannot find this information. Does this testing requirement apply to this type of vehicle?

A. The requirement for Altoona testing would depend on the extent (if any) to which the vans are modified from the stock configuration. If these are unmodified Ford E-350 vans, or they have had only limited modifications (e.g., adding a lift or raised roof) performed in strict compliance with Ford's Vehicle Modification Guidelines, then the Bus Testing Regulation (49 CFR Part 665) would consider them to be "unmodified mass-produced vans" and they would be exempt from Bus Testing ("Altoona testing") requirements if offered in the 4-year/100,000-mile service life category. It sounds as if you would buy the vehicles directly from Ford. If that's the case, these vehicles would likely qualify as unmodified mass-produced vans.

From the FTA Bus Testing page:

Unmodified mass-produced van means a van that is mass-produced, complete and fully assembled as provided by an OEM. This shall include vans with raised roofs, and/or wheelchair lifts, or ramps that are installed by the OEM, or by a party other than the OEM provided that the installation of these components is completed in strict conformance with the OEM modification guidelines.

FTA wishes to clarify that this exemption historically assumed that unmodified mass-produced vans would only be offered in the 4-year, 100,000-mile service life category. Unmodified mass-produced vans are categorically exempted from testing by the Bus Testing Regulation only in the 4-year, 100,000-mile service life category; unmodified mass-produced vans offered in the 5-year, 150,000-mile (or higher) service life category are subject to testing.

Feel free to follow up with Gregory Rymarz if you have any additional questions.

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