

Vehicle (Body Type) ClassificationBODY_TYP by NHTSA vehicle category

NHTSA has precise definitions for several vehicle categories, such as passenger cars, pickups, buses, etc. For some categories, one will also need the data element TOW_VEH.

NHTSA's Vehicle Body Type Classification			
Classification (BODY_TYP)	Data Year and Code		
	1975-1981	1982-1990	1991-Later
Passenger Cars	01-09	01-11, 67	01-11, 17 (since 2010)
Light Trucks & Vans (⁴)	43, 50-52, or (60 and tow_veh=0)	12, 40, 41, 48-51, 53-56, 58, 59, 68, 69, or (79 and tow_veh=0 or 9)	14-22, 24 ^(1,6) , 25 ^(2,6) , 28-41, 45-49, or (79 and tow_veh=0 or 9)
Large Trucks	53-59, or (60 and tow_veh=1)	70-72, 74-76, 78, or (79 and tow_veh in 1-5 ⁽⁸⁾)	60-64, 66, 67 ⁽⁵⁾ , 71, 72, 78, or (79 and tow_veh ⁽⁷⁾ in 1-4)
Motorcycles	15-18	20-29	80-89
Buses	25-29	30-39	50-59 (55 van-based >10k lbs since 2011)
Other/Unknown Vehicles	35-42, 44, 45, 99	13, 14, 42, 52, 73, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89, 90, 99	12, 13, 23 ⁽⁶⁾ , 42, 65, 73, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 ⁽³⁾ , 95 (since 2012), 97, 99 Also, since 2004 (79 and tow_veh ⁽⁷⁾ =5 or 6) or 98 (since 2010)
Passenger Vehicles	01-09, 43, 50-52, or (60 and tow_veh=0)	01-12, 40, 41, 48-51, 53-56, 58, 59, 67-69, or (79 and tow_veh=0 or 9)	01-11, 14-22, 24 ⁽¹⁾ , 25 ⁽²⁾ , 28-41, 45-49, or (79 and tow_veh=0 or 9), or 17 (since 2010)
Utility Vehicles (a.k.a. On/Off Road)	43	12, 56, 68	14-16, 19
Pickups	50	50, 51	30-39
Vans	51	40, 41, 48, 49	20-22, 24 ^(1,6) , 25 ^(2,6) , 28, 29
Medium Trucks	53, 54, 56	70, 71, 75, 78	60-62, 64, 67 ⁽⁵⁾ , 71
Heavy Trucks	55, 57-59, or (60 and tow_veh=1)	72, 74, 76, or (79 and tow_veh in 1-5 ⁽⁸⁾)	63, 66, 72, 78, or (79 and tow_veh ⁽⁷⁾ in 1-4)
Combination Trucks	((53-56, 60) and tow_veh=1) or 57-59	((70-72, 75, 76, 78, 79) and tow_veh in 1-5 ⁽⁸⁾) or 74	((60-64, 71, 72, 78, 79) and tow_veh ⁽⁷⁾ in 1-4) or 66
Single Unit Trucks	(53-56, 60) and tow_veh =0	(70-72, 75, 76, 78, 79) and tow_veh in (0,9)	(60-62,63,64,67,71,72,78,79) and tow_veh in (0,5,6 ⁽⁷⁾ ,9)

(1) Body type code 24 (van-based school bus) was added in 1993. When solely defining School Buses be sure to include body type code 24.

(2) Body type code 25 (van-based transit bus) was added in 1993. When solely defining Transit Buses be sure to include body type code 25.

(3) Body type coded 94 (motorized wheelchair) was added in 1997 and deleted in 1998.

(4) "Light Trucks & Vans" is frequently referred to as just "Light Trucks."