

NJ Council on Special Transportation Community Transportation and Paratransit Agencies and Providers

Who needs a US DOT Number and Inter-State (crossing state borders) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Operating Authority MC Number?

Government Agencies

If you are a government agency (county, municipal or state) operating and dispatching your own vehicles you **DO NOT** need to obtain a US DOT Number or an FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number.

There are 2 Exceptions for Government Agencies.

Exception #1. If you are a government agency and you contract with a third-party company to operate your government owned vehicles and the company you contracted with also does your dispatching, the third-party contractor's US DOT number must be placed on your vehicles. (this information was clarified after the NJ COST meeting ended and a phone call was made to an FTA expert)

Exception # 2. If you are a government agency and paid (or solicit a donation) to provide transportation which is outside your normal everyday services (Example 1: a group of non-seniors charter your vehicle to go to a baseball game in New York), you must obtain an FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number. (Example 2: A requested fare or donation for an out of state trip that you would normally not provide.)

Non-Government Agencies

If you are a non-governmental agency, social service, not-for profit, nursing, adult day care, private agency providing transportation services using a vehicle that is 9-passengers (including the driver) or larger, **YOU MUST OBTAIN** a US DOT Number. **There are no exceptions.**

In addition, if you travel outside the state of New Jersey (even once), you need to also obtain an FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number.

By What Date Do I Need to Obtain a US DOT Number?

January 1, 2017

How to Apply for a US DOT Number

Follow the FMCSA link below to obtain a US DOT number:

<https://cms.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/getting-started>

See button "To Get Started Click Here"

You will need the required information and documents in order to complete your application:

- Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Social Security Number (SSN)
- Dun and Bradstreet Number (if available)
- Company Officers with Titles

How to Apply for an Operating Authority MC Number

Follow the FMCSA link to obtain an Operating Authority MC Number:

<https://cms.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/get-mc-number-authority-operate>

Directions to complete this application are on the web page. There is a \$300 cost for the Operating Authority MC Number.

Please Note: If you are required to have a FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number and are found not to have one, there is a possible \$25,000 fine for each time you cross a state border.

Warning: Once you apply for a Federal DOT Number (and if you need one, an) FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number, you will receive numerous solicitation phone calls and mails. You need not be interested in what they are attempting to sell you. All you need out of this entire process is the US DOT number (and if you need one, a) FMCSA Operating Authority MC Number.

FMCSA is aware that motor carrier officials and new entrant applicants often receive confusing or misleading solicitations from service providers or third party administrators by telephone, e-mail, text and US Mail. These businesses are able to get your company's information because when you submit an application or update your information with FMCSA, your basic carrier information is publicly available.

These companies often contact new carriers within minutes after they complete online transactions with FMCSA. Aggressive or fraudulent marketing complaints have included carriers being pressured to immediately enroll in:

- * Drug and Alcohol Supervisor training
- * General FMCSA regulatory and compliance support
- * Unified Carrier Registration Compliance
- * Biennial Update or Unified Registration System compliance

Once I receive my US DOT Number, What Do I do With It.

Your US DOT Number must be affixed on both sides of your vehicle. The Federal law only states that size of the decal numbers needs to be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of 50 feet (15.24 meters) while the vehicle is stationary; t and must be a contrasting color – meaning if your vehicle is white, the color of your decal numbers cannot be white.

SEE PAGE 5 for FMCSA Regulations for additional information.

It is suggested that you abide by NJ State law which says that each number decal should be 3” high.

New Jersey On-Road Vehicle Safety Inspections

Can My paratransit/community transportation vehicle be stopped for a safety inspection?

Yes, The New Jersey State Police are permitted to inspect any vehicle they deem necessary and without cause.

On March 2, 2015, the NJSP published and adopted safety regulations for Commercial Vehicles using the Federal Regulations. Vehicles operating as a paratransit or Omnibus 2 and are inspected under the federal standard at the Private Inspection Facility (PIF) or a Certified Inspection Facility (CIF) annually.

The real change to the program is that all vehicles weighing 10,001 lbs. or more, or able to carry 9 passengers (including the driver) or more are subject to the new regulations. This would require obtaining a US DOT number which must be marked on the vehicle or bus, regardless how it is plated. The Feds consider any vehicle weighing 10,000+ lbs. GVWR, or 9 passengers (including the driver) or more, a commercial motor vehicle. Paratransit, community transportation, boarding homes, nursing homes, etc. vehicles are subjected to safety inspections.

Can the NJ State Police Stop my vehicle if it does not have a US DOT Number on it?

Yes.

Will the NJ State Police Stop My vehicle if it is carrying passengers?

The NJ State Police can stop your vehicle anytime however, unless your driver has committed a driving infraction OR there is a clear vehicle safety violation, the State Police usually will not inconvenience the passengers you transport

Inspection / Weigh Stations and State Police Road Side Inspection Stops

The NJ State Police has indicated that if a weigh station or roadside inspection stop indicates that all commercial vehicles must be inspected, your vehicle **MUST** pass through the Weigh Stations or Road Side Inspection Stop. If the community transportation/paratransit vehicle has riders onboard, most times the NJ State Police will waive the vehicle through UNLESS there is a clear safety violation. It is a violation of the law if your drivers do not stop at the “opened” weigh station or roadside inspection stop. Your driver may receive a citation.

What can Happen the NJ State Police Find a Safety Infraction on the Vehicle?

Depending on the safety issue, a citation against your agency and/or driver can be written AND depending on the severity of the safety infraction, your vehicle may not be permitted to continue to drive and will need to be towed from the site. Proof of repair or violation correction must be later proven in an answer to the citation.

Will Driver Credentials Be Checked at the Weigh Station or Roadside Inspection Stop?

Yes, driver qualifications will be verified during any safety stops. The NJ State Police will check to make sure the driver meets CDL requirements (i.e. correct class and endorsements, medical certifications)

State Police Make Recommendation Concerning Your Drivers MVC Medical Certificate

How Long Does the Driver Have To Submit Their Medical Certificate to the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission?

Your driver has 60 days from receiving their new medical certificate to submit it to the NJ MVC. After 60 days, NJ MVC can DOWNGRADE their commercial license (Class A, B, or C) to a non-commercial Class D license if the new medical certificate is not received.

State Police recommends (even though not required) that drivers carry/maintain on themselves a copy of their medical certificate, especially if they just had a CDL physical performed and submitted their self-certification and medical certificate within 30 days of the expiration date and/or if the driver did not receive a confirmation letter of receipt from NJ MVC.

The issue is if the NJ MVC is delayed in updating their computer system with the driver's information, the NJ State Police has no proof that the driver is in compliance and will issue a summons. Carrying a copy of their medical certificate card would be their proof.

The following has been copied directly from the FMCSA Regulations

390.21 Marking of self-propelled CMVs and intermodal equipment.

Link to an amendment published at 78 FR 52653, Aug. 23, 2013.

Link to a delay published at 80 FR 63702, Oct. 21, 2015.

Link to an amendment published at 80 FR 63712, Oct. 21, 2015.

(a) General. Every self-propelled CMV subject to subchapter B of this chapter must be marked as specified in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, and each unit of intermodal equipment interchanged or offered for interchange to a motor carrier by an intermodal equipment provider subject to subchapter B of this chapter must be marked as specified in paragraph (g) of this section.

(b) Nature of marking. The marking must display the following information:

(1) The legal name or a single trade name of the motor carrier operating the self-propelled CMV, as listed on the motor carrier identification report (Form MCS-150) and submitted in accordance with § 390.19.

(2) The identification number issued by FMCSA to the motor carrier or intermodal equipment provider, preceded by the letters "USDOT."

(3) If the name of any person other than the operating carrier appears on the CMV, the name of the operating carrier must be followed by the information required by paragraphs (b)(1), and (2) of this section, and be preceded by the words "operated by."

(4) Other identifying information may be displayed on the vehicle if it is not inconsistent with the information required by this paragraph.

(c) Size, shape, location, and color of marking. The marking must -

(1) Appear on both sides of the self-propelled CMV;

(2) Be in letters that contrast sharply in color with the background on which the letters are placed;

(3) Be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of 50 feet (15.24 meters) while the CMV is stationary; and

(4) Be kept and maintained in a manner that retains the legibility required by paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(d) Construction and durability. The marking may be painted on the CMV or may consist of a removable device, if that device meets the identification and legibility requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, and such marking must be maintained as required by paragraph (c)(4) of this section.