

Who needs a DOT Number and Operating Authority?



Anyone who is participating in a business venture and has a vehicle or vehicles which meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle must have a USDOT number.

Commercial Motor Vehicle means any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property when the vehicle—

1. Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
2. Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
3. Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for

compensation; or

4. Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C.

This USDOT number must be obtained prior to operating in interstate commerce by filling out the forms MCS-150 and MCS-150A.

Example: A farmer has a 1/2 ton pickup that has a GVWR of 6000 lbs, and a bumper hitch stock trailer that has a GVWR of 4,500 lbs and he hauls a load of cows to South Dakota to an auction barn. The pickup GVWR added to the trailer GVWR is 10,500 lbs. He/she will need to have a USDOT number.

Companies that operate as “for hire” carriers (for a fee or other compensation) that transport passengers or federally regulated commodities, or arrange for their transport, in interstate commerce are also required to have interstate operating authority.

After you are issued a USDOT number, you will be put into the New Entrant Motor Carrier Program. After you have made a trip into interstate commerce, you will go through a New Entrant Safety Audit. This is an education and technical assistance

meeting to go over the regulations that apply to your business. You as a motor carrier are required to keep records and documentation and will be required to produce these documents at the New Entrant Safety Audit.

How to apply for a DOT Number and Operating Authority

There are two (2) ways to apply for a USDOT number and Operating Authority.

You can apply online or you can fill out a hand written application and send it in by mail.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online at www.fmcsa.dot.gov. It does not cost anything to get a DOT number, but you will need a credit card with the same mailing address of the business mailing address (debit cards do not work). The credit card is used to verify your information and to stamp an electronic signature on the application. The MCS-150 application consists of general mailing information, telephone numbers, tax ID number, number of vehicles, and number of drivers. The MCS-150A application consists of

safety certification questions. These questions go over everything that you will be required to have at the New Entrant Safety Audit. A DOT number will be assigned once the forms have been completed properly.

When applying for Operating Authority, you will be charged \$300.00 for each type of authority that you are applying for. The OP-1 form is used to designate which type of authority you are applying for. The three hundred dollars will be charged to a credit card.

If you choose to apply for the DOT number and Operating Authority by hand, you must also fill out the MCS-150, the MCS150A, and the OP-1 forms. These can be sent to:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Attention: USDOT Number Application
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

If you are going through this process and encounter problems, you can call:

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration
701-250-4346

Or

North Dakota Highway Patrol
701-328-2455

The North Dakota Highway Patrol symbol is a profile of Red Tomahawk, a Teton Dakotah (Sioux) Indian who lived on his land near the Cannonball River on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation near Mandan, North Dakota. Red Tomahawk, a subchief, served as a government policeman helping to create order in a time of turbulence. He was considered a champion of his people, a noble American, and a just man. Today his profile reminds travelers of the first people to roam the plains.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol officially adopted the profile of Red Tomahawk as the patrol vehicle door emblem and department symbol in 1951.



North Dakota Highway Patrol
Motor Carrier Operations

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www.nd.gov/ndhp

North Dakota
Highway Patrol



Motor Carrier
Operations

*Who
Needs a
USDOT
Number
and
Operating
Authority*

