

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. Is anyone excepted from the intrastate USDOT number and marking rules?
A. Iowa based intrastate operators with vehicles that do not cross state lines and do not conduct interstate commerce are excepted from these rules if:
 - The carrier does not provide compensated transportation services, and
 - The power unit weighs and has a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less, and
 - The combination weighs and has a GCWR of 26,000 pounds or less, and
 - The vehicle is not transporting hazardous material requiring placards, and
 - The vehicle is designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver

2. Q. What types of operations are included in the USDOT number and marking rules?
A. Anyone using a vehicle for a commercial purpose that meets the gross weight, gross vehicle weight rating, placarded HazMat, or seating capacity requirements, including private (not for-hire) carriers.

3. Q. Am I required to update my USDOT Registration number and form MCS-150?
A. Yes. Carrier information must be updated at least once every 24 months by submitting a revised MCS-150. Check the requirements in 49CFR 390.19 to determine the month and year that your update is required. Be sure to safely secure the documents and PIN related to your USDOT account.

4. Q. What should I do if I have a USDOT number deactivated in the past?
A. Submit a new form MCS-150 and reactivate the USDOT number, while updating current motor carrier identification information.

5. Q. Is there a cost to obtain a USDOT number?
A. No. You may apply for a USDOT number online or by phone at no cost.

6. Q. How do I mark my vehicle?
A. The company name and USDOT number must be displayed on both sides of the power unit, in a contrasting color, and legible from at least 50 feet.

7. Q. If I already have an intrastate for-hire USDOT number, do I need to reapply for a new number?
A. No. The USDOT number you have should be displayed on your vehicles.

8. Q. Do I need different USDOT numbers for different vehicles?
A. No. All vehicles operated by you will be marked with your USDOT number.

9. Q. Am I required to obtain a USDOT number for my recreational vehicle or motorhome?
A. A recreational vehicle or motorhome will need a USDOT number only when operated in conjunction with a business or commercial purpose.