

Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations Fact Sheet

Motor Carrier of Passengers

There are two classifications of for-hire passenger service:

- **Motor Carrier of Passengers**
Use vehicles *designed* to transport 8 or more passengers, including the driver; and
- **Small Vehicle Passenger Service**
Use vehicles *designed* to transport 7 or fewer persons, including the driver.

Does the State Regulate Both Types of Carriers?

No. The state only regulates Motor Carrier of Passengers. Small Vehicle Passenger Services are regulated by cities, municipalities, and townships, if they elect to do so, by ordinance.

New Carrier Requirements

- Register your business with the Minnesota Department of Transportation by filing a Federal Motor Carrier Identification Form (MCS-150);
- Pay a registration fee of \$75 per vehicle;
- Meet the minimum levels of financial responsibility:
 - \$1.5 million for any vehicle with a seating capacity of 15 passengers or less; or
 - \$5 million for any vehicle with a seating capacity of 16 passengers or more.
- Conduct criminal background checks on drivers before driving and every 3 years;
- Have a Mn/DOT audit within 90 days of receiving a certificate;
- Attend an Initial Motor Carrier Contact (IMCC) training seminar within 90 days of receiving a certificate; and
- Have vehicle(s) inspected or file proof that the vehicles were inspected within the previous year by a Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commercial Vehicle Inspector or Certified Inspector per Minnesota Statute, Section 169.781 (M.S. § 169.781).

US DOT Number

The Federal MCS-150 form ensures that all carriers have a US DOT number. A US DOT number provides a single uniform identifier for carriers, whether they operate in intrastate or interstate commerce.

Vehicle Inspections

Vehicles operated by a Minnesota intrastate Motor Carrier of Passengers that are used for the transportation of passengers must pass an annual safety inspection. This inspection must be conducted by:

- A Transportation Program Specialist of Mn/DOT;
- A Commercial Vehicle Inspector of the Department of Public Safety (State Patrol); or
- An inspector certified by the Commissioner of Public Safety under M.S. § 169.781 (Minnesota's annual mandatory inspection program).

Vehicle Documents

In addition to other documents that may be required, a copy of the Motor Carrier of Passengers certificate and the vehicle identification card must be in the vehicle.

Suspension

Mn/DOT will suspend the registration of a carrier that:

- Receives an unsatisfactory safety rating following a 90 day audit; *
- Fails to maintain required insurance coverage;
- Fails to obtain/renew cab cards; or
- Fails to pay an administrative penalty order.

* A carrier can appeal an unsatisfactory rating. Within 30 days of receiving a written request of appeal from the carrier, a follow-up compliance audit will be conducted by Mn/DOT to determine if the safety rating should be changed or suspension rescinded.

Business Records

Carriers must designate a physical location in Minnesota where business records will be available for examination.

Note: *M.S. § 221.178 requires Motor Carriers of Passengers to conduct criminal background checks on their drivers. Background checks are conducted through Minnesota's Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), Criminal Justice Information Section. A carrier may not use a driver if the driver has been convicted of a background check crime defined in M.S. § 299C.67, subd.2 (a) or (b). The BCA is located at 1430 Maryland Avenue East, St. Paul, MN 55106-2802. The phone number is: (651) 793-2400.*

This Fact Sheet is intended as a resource. It is not intended to explain all the requirements of Minnesota or Federal law. The actual Statutes and Regulations are recommended as a resource, and can be purchased at the Minnesota Bookstore (phone number 651/297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757). For additional assistance contact the US DOT at 651/291-6150 or Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.



Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
395 John Ireland Boulevard, M.S. 420
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899
Phone: 651/215-6330
Fax: 651/366-3719
Web: www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo