

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 not apply to Special Transportation Services – please see mndot.gov/cvo/sts/sts.html.)

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 designed to transport 15 passengers or less; or
 - \$5 million for any vehicle designed to transport 16 passengers or more.
- Conduct criminal background checks on drivers before driving and every 3 years;
- Have a MnDOT 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 operating in intrastate or interstate commerce.

Vehicle Identification

Every vehicle must have the provider's business name and USDOT number on both sides of the vehicle. The name and numbers must be marked in sharply contrasting colors compared to the background. Also, they must be legible during the daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is stationary. The markings may be shown on a magnetic sign or removable device.

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 MnDOT;
- 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).
- Vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers must be inspected by a certified inspector from MnDOT, State Patrol or certified by the 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

MnDOT will suspend the registration of a carrier that:

- Receives an unsatisfactory safety rating;
- Fails to maintain required insurance coverage;
- Fails to obtain/renew cab cards;
- Fails to pay an administrative penalty order; or
- Comply with an audit.

Business Records

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

Background Check Crime means (Minnesota Statute, Section 299C67, Subd. (2)):

- (1) a felony violation of section 609.185 (first-degree murder); 609.19 (second-degree murder); 609.20 (first-degree manslaughter); 609.221 (first-degree assault); 609.222 (second-degree assault); 609.223 (third-degree assault); 609.25 (kidnapping); 609.342 (first-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.343 (second-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.344 (third-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.345 (fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.561 (first-degree arson); or 609.749 (stalking);
- (2) an attempt to commit a crime in clause (1); or
- (3) a conviction for a crime in another jurisdiction that would be a violation under clause (1) or an attempt under clause (2) in this state; or

- b) (1) a felony violation of section 609.195 (third-degree murder); 609.205 (second-degree manslaughter); 609.21 (criminal vehicular homicide and injury); 609.2231 (fourth-degree assault); 609.224 (fifth-degree assault); 609.24 (simple robbery); 609.245 (aggravated robbery); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.52 (theft); 609.582, subdivision 1 or 2 (burglary); 609.713 (terroristic threats); or a nonfelony violation of section 609.749 (stalking);
- (2) an attempt to commit a crime in clause (1); or
- (3) a conviction for a crime in another jurisdiction that would be a violation under clause (1) or an attempt under clause (2) in this state.

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, Rules 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 MnDOT’s Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-215-6330. Visit us at mndot.gov/cvo.