



Section 16: Obtaining Interstate For-Hire Operating Authority

Section 16

Obtaining Interstate For-Hire Operating Authority

49 CFR Part 365

Interstate operating authority is required to transport property (regulated commodities) or passengers for-hire in interstate commerce. To obtain interstate operating authority, contact the USDOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration at 800-832-5660 or visit their website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.

Unified Carrier Registration Program (UCR)

Motor Carriers and Private Carriers

The Unified Carrier Registration Agreement (UCR) applies to you or your business if you operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate or international commerce. A CMV is defined under Part 49 USC Section 31101, and means a self-propelled vehicle used on the highways in commerce principally to transport passengers or cargo if the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater;
- Is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, including the driver; or
- Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under Section 5103 of this title and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under Section 5103.

The UCR requires ALL (private and for-hire) individuals and companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate or international commerce to apply and register with the State of Minnesota, and pay an annual fee based on the size of their fleet not including trailers. The revenues generated are used for the enforcement of motor carrier safety programs.

Registrations for 2019 were accepted as of December 27, 2018. State enforcement of the UCR registration requirements commonly begins January 1. Since the 2019 registration has been delayed, enforcement of this year's UCR will begin at 12:01 AM on April 1, 2019. For further information, please check our website at www.mndot.gov/cvo/unifiedcarrier.html.

The fee brackets are as follows:

Fleet Size (does NOT include trailers)		Fee Per Entity
Bracket	Number of Vehicles	
B1	*0-2	\$62.00
B2	3-5	\$185.00
B3	6-20	\$368.00
B4	21-100	\$1,283.00
B5	101-1,000	\$6,112.00
B6	1,001 or more	\$56,689.00

The “0” vehicle count exists for any motor carrier, who has filed a MCS-150 to obtain a USDOT number and designated themselves as an INTERSTATE carrier, but have no vehicles crossing state lines, or do not meet the definition of a Commercial Motor Vehicle as defined above that wish to retain their interstate authority. Those carriers are to pay the flat fee of \$62.00. If you do NOT want to keep your interstate authority, you must contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and change your status to INTRASTATE.

Note: There are very few exemptions under the UCR. Agricultural carriers (farmers) are NOT exempt. However, private motor carriers of passengers as defined by FMCSA (www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/passenger-carrier-guidance-fact-sheet) are exempt. You can be ticketed in Minnesota for not having filed your UCR if you are an INTERSTATE carrier regardless if you cross state lines or not. Some types of farm products being dropped off at river, or rail terminals, are considered INTERSTATE movements even if you never leave the state, and you are an INTRASTATE carrier. For clarification, contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. As of the 2010 UCR registration year, interstate charitable and non-profit organizations operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined by the UCR are NO LONGER EXEMPT.

Notice For All Freight Forwarders, Brokers and Leasing Companies

If you offer services as a freight forwarder, broker or leasing company that is NOT combined with a motor carrier entity, and you make arrangements for the transportation of cargo and goods in interstate or international commerce, the federal Unified Carrier Registration Agreement applies to your business. The UCR collects an annual flat fee of \$62.00.

UCR Filing

In filing your UCR application, you have the following options:

1. The preferred method and the highly recommended one is that you register with the national UCR online system. Go to www.ucr.gov and follow the step-by-step instructions. Payments may be made online using MasterCard, Visa or e-Check.
2. You may also complete the UCR application (and UCR 2 if applicable), calculate your fees and mail or deliver your application and check. Your check should be made payable to “Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation” and mailed or delivered to the address below. Please show your USDOT Number or MC Number on the face of your check. Your application will be returned to you and the processing delayed if it is incomplete or incorrect.

If you choose to deliver your application and check for processing, the office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

If you would like to learn more about UCR or have questions please go to <https://plan.ucr.gov> or www.mndot.gov/cvo/unifiedcarrier.html

Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 420
St. Paul, MN 55155