



Section 14: Vehicle Identification Requirements

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Vehicle Identification Requirements

49 CFR Part 390 and Minn. Stat. § 221.031

Vehicle Identification Requirements (49 CFR Section 390.21T and Minn. Stat. § 221.031 subd. 6)

The following carriers shall comply with the requirements for marking of commercial motor vehicles as required by Minnesota Statute section 221.031 subd. 6 and the Code of Federal Regulations, title 49, section 390.21, which is incorporated by reference:

- Interstate carriers operating vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds;
- Intrastate for-hire motor carriers, regardless of the weight of the vehicle, except this requirement does not apply to a limousine as defined in section 168.002, subd.15, that is equipped with “LM” license plates;
- Intrastate private carriers operating vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds; and
- Vehicles providing intrastate transportation described in Minn. Stat. § 221.025 with a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds except those providing transportation described in Minn. Stat. § 221.025, clauses (1), (3), or (4). (See Section 14, Types of Carriers – Exemptions)

A farm truck not used in interstate commerce, a vehicle not used in intrastate or interstate commerce and a vehicle owned/used by a federal, state or other government entity is not required to comply with the vehicle identification rule.

USDOT Number (49 CFR Section 390.21T and Minn. Stat. § 221.031 subd. 6)

Interstate and intrastate carriers subject to the vehicle identification requirements are required to mark every self-propelled CMV with the carrier’s USDOT number on both sides of the CMV in addition to their legal name or single trade name. The letters “USDOT” must precede the number. If the name of a person other than the operating carrier appears on the vehicle, the words “operated by” must precede the name of the operating carrier.

The markings must be displayed in letters that contrast sharply with the vehicle's background color and must be readily legible from 50 feet during daylight hours while the vehicle is stationary.

US DOT numbers are issued by the US DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Carriers can apply for a US DOT number by visiting the United Registration System (URS) website at: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration>. For more information contact the FMCSA at 651-291-6150.

The owner of a truck or truck tractor having a gross vehicle weight* of more than 10,000 pounds, shall report to the Commissioner of Public Safety at the time of registration its US DOT carrier number. This requirement does not apply to a farm truck that is not used in interstate commerce, a vehicle that is not used in intrastate or interstate commerce, or a vehicle that is owned and used solely for official business by the Federal government, the state or a political subdivision (Minn. Stat. § 168.185).

What is Toward Zero Deaths?

TZD uses a data-driven, interdisciplinary approach that targets areas for improvement and employs proven countermeasures, integrating application of education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services (the “4Es”). A combination of strategies from different focus areas is often most effective for solving a particular problem.

Minnesota TZD is the state’s cornerstone traffic safety program, employing an interdisciplinary approach to reducing traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths on Minnesota roads. While individual disciplines have a long history of successful traffic safety programs, TZD aims to tie these together with a common vision and mission for even greater success. The TZD program uses data to target areas for improvement and employ proven countermeasures.

The TZD program team works in partnership with community and corridor groups to improve the traffic safety of a designated area. Toward Zero Deaths provides technical assistance, materials, and guidance to local groups that are committed to reducing crashes and the fatalities and severe injuries that result from them.

For more information on TZD, please visit their website at <http://www.minnesotatzd.org/>.

