



# Before You Start

## A Guide for Those Interested in Operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle in Nebraska

There are several state and federal agencies to contact before you begin operation of your commercial motor vehicle in Nebraska. This guide is designed to help you determine which government agencies you need to contact "Before You Start".

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### **Do I need a Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) number?**

Yes, if your vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) exceeds 10,000 lbs. and you are operating interstate (across state lines). The Federal DOT also deals with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and Hazardous Material Regulations.

**Call Federal DOT:**

**402-437-5986**

**Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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### **What is the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax, and do I need to pay it?**

The Heavy Vehicle Use Tax is a tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on vehicles registered in excess of 55,000 lbs. The IRS collects this tax and also handles the issuance of Federal Identification (ID) numbers.

**Call the IRS at:**

**800-829-1040 for taxpayer assistance**

**Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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### **Do I need a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA-formerly ICC) number?**

Yes, if you are operating interstate (across state lines), hauling regulated commodities for hire and are over 10,000 lbs. The FHWA also deals with insurance, rates, processing agents and undercharge information.

**Call the FHWA:**

**402-437-5986**

**Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



## **Do I need to file fuel tax returns?**

Yes, if your vehicle(s) are operating interstate (across state lines) and meet the following conditions:

- have two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 lbs.;
- have three or more axles regardless of weight;
- are used in combination when the weight of the combination exceeds 26,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight.

If you meet this criteria, you must become licensed under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). Contact the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Motor Carrier Services Division, for more information on licensing and reporting requirements.

**Call Nebraska DMV  
Motor Carrier Services Division:  
402-471-4435 or 888-622-1222  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



## **Do I need to get my vehicle(s) registered?**

Yes, your vehicle(s) must be properly registered to operate in Nebraska. If you operate interstate (across state lines) and your vehicle(s) meet the following conditions, you should contact the DMV, Motor Carrier Services Division:

- have two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 lbs.;
- have three or more axles regardless of weight;
- are used in combination when the weight of the combination exceeds 26,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight.

The Motor Carrier Services Division also deals with:

- obtaining vehicle titles;
- temporary vehicle registration;
- Heavy Vehicle Use Tax; and,
- sales tax and tire fee collection.

The DMV deals with Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and driver records.

**Call the DMV:  
for apportioned/prorate information  
402-471-4435 or 888-622-1222  
for CDL information:  
402-471-3668  
for driver record (MVRs):  
402-471-3918  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## INTRASTATE OPERATORS:

If your vehicle will never leave the state, then you need to contact your local county clerk, treasurer and assessor's office for vehicle title and registration information.

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### **Do I need to have Single State Registration System (SSRS) authority?**

If you are a FHWA regulated carrier operating interstate (across state lines), over 10,000 lbs. and hauling for hire anything other than:

- grain, livestock and produce.

You **MUST** have SSRS authority. Please contact the DMV, Motor Carrier Services Division for more information on SSRS registration.

**Call Nebraska DMV  
Motor Carrier Services Division:  
402-471-4435 or 888-622-1222  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

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### **Do I need an Interstate Application (Bingo Card)?**

You will need to have an Interstate Application on file, if you meet the following criteria:

- private carrier who haul their own goods;
- exempt carrier who haul grain, livestock or produce for hire;
- vehicle(s) over 10,000 lbs. GVWR.

Nebraska residents need to contact the DMV for more information regarding the Interstate Application. Non-resident carriers will need to contact the Nebraska Interstate Registration Agent.

**Nebraska Residents call:  
Nebraska DMV  
Motor Carrier Services Division:  
402-471-4435 or 888-622-1222  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Non-residents call:  
Interstate Registration Agent  
Nebraska Trucking Association at:  
402-476-7672  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## **8** How can Carrier Enforcement help me?

The Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Division can answer your questions on a variety of motor carrier-related subjects such as:

- ◆ *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations* -- safety fitness procedures; minimum levels of financial responsibility; driver qualifications; driving of commercial motor vehicles; parts and accessories required for safe operation; hours of service for drivers; inspection, repair and maintenance; transportation of hazardous materials; annual safety inspections; and driver drug testing.
- ◆ *Weight, dimensions and regulations for trucks* -- maximum legal weight for axles and groups of axles; maximum length and width; where to obtain all types of permits; and where to obtain fuel and apportioned trip permit.
- ◆ *Safety review/compliance audits* -- Information on safety/compliance reviews; explanation of who is subject to review; information on how to prepare for a safety/compliance review.

**Call the Nebraska State Patrol  
Carrier Enforcement Division:  
402-471-0105  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## **9** Where do I go to get overweight and over-dimensional permits?

- Overweight (Conditional Safety Permit) - this allows a carrier to run on the interstate system over 80,000 lbs. -- divisible loads.

**Call Nebraska DMV  
Motor Carrier Services Division:  
402-471-4435 or 888-622-1222  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Note:** Permits may also be obtained at the Nebraska Department of Roads 402-471-0034.

- Over-dimensional and overweight permits for non-divisible loads.

**Call Nebraska Department of Roads:  
402-471-0034  
For very heavy loads or unusual situations  
call: 402-479-4536  
Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

