

## TOW TRUCK & VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY REGISTRATION

For tow truck or vehicle storage facilities registration and information, contact the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) at 800-803-9202 or 512-463-6599; by email: [CStowing@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:CStowing@tdlr.texas.gov); or visit the TDLR website at: [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov).



## PROOF OF HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX (HVUT) PAYMENT

TxDMV requires proof of HVUT payment to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) when licensing vehicles with a gross weight or combined gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more. For specifics regarding this requirement, call 800-299-1700 and select option 5.



HVUT is filed with the IRS on IRS Form 2290. To file Form 2290, you must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Questions regarding HVUT Form 2290 or to obtain an EIN, tax forms and instructions, contact the IRS at 866-699-4096 or visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

## STATE FUEL USE TAX (IFTA)

All interstate motor carriers are required to pay state fuel use tax and have the option to obtain an International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) license that provides for the consolidated reporting of fuel taxes. For details, contact:



Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts  
111 East 17th Street  
Austin, TX 78774  
Toll-free: 800-252-1383  
Website: [www.comptroller.texas.gov](http://www.comptroller.texas.gov)

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORT AND HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMITS

Motor carriers hauling hazardous materials must obtain operating authority from TxDMV (see MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION section).



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires registration for transportation of certain hazardous waste. Contact TCEQ-Registration and Reporting at 512-239-6833; by email: [wasteval@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:wasteval@tceq.texas.gov); or visit [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov) (search "Waste Registration").

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration requires registration for transporting certain hazardous materials. For information call 800-467-4922 or visit their website at: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/registration>.

To obtain information on hazardous cargo routing, visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website at: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) (search "HM Route") or TxDOT's website at [www.TxDOT.gov](http://www.TxDOT.gov) (search "NRHM Route").

For general (non-routing) questions regarding hazardous materials, contact DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Service at 512-424-2051.



*TxDMV • Motor Carrier Division  
4000 Jackson Ave. • Austin, Texas 78731  
[www.TxDMV.gov](http://www.TxDMV.gov)*

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

# T RUCK I P S

## A Guide for Operating Commercial Trucks in Texas



October 2024

Prepared by the  
TxDMV Motor Carrier Division

# Commercial Truck Operation in Texas

## MOTOR CARRIER RESPONSIBILITIES

Motor carriers operating in Texas must comply with federal and state operating requirements. A number of agencies are involved in the motor carrier program and regulations.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) provides information about requirements from other governmental agencies as a courtesy. Carriers may need permits or other authorization from other governmental agencies not listed in this guide.

## MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

Motor carriers are required to follow specific safety regulations. A Texas Motor Carrier's Guide to Highway Safety is available on the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) website at: [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov) (search "MCS-9"). DPS is responsible for safety enforcement in Texas.



For federal safety information and enforcement, visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

## COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE

Most commercial vehicle operators are required to have a Commercial Driver License (CDL). To determine if a driver is required to have a CDL, contact DPS, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Service, at 512-424-2000 or visit the DPS website at: [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).

For a copy of The Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook, medical exam forms, or drug and alcohol reporting forms, visit the DPS website and select DPS Forms in the "Top DPS Links" section.



## MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION

Operators of commercial motor vehicles that meet the following criteria, and those transporting household goods for-hire, must register their operations with TxDMV:

- A vehicle (or combination of vehicles) with a gross weight, registered weight, or gross weight rating exceeding 26,000 pounds, that is designed or used for transportation of cargo in furtherance of any commercial enterprise;
- A commercial motor vehicle owned or controlled by someone who is not a U.S. citizen or does not live in the U.S.

To register online or to obtain more information:

- Visit: [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov) and select "TxDMV Number" under the Motor Carriers heading.
- For assistance with the online process, call 800-299-1700 and select option 3.

All motor carriers, brokers, freight forwarders and leasing companies who operate in interstate or international commerce are required to comply with the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Program. For UCR information, visit [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov) and select "Unified Carrier Registration" under the Motor Carriers heading.

## VEHICLE REGISTRATION (LICENSE PLATES)

All commercial vehicles must be registered. When registering for intrastate movement (traveling only in Texas), visit your county tax office to obtain Combination license plates.

Interstate operators (traveling across state lines) may participate in the International Registration Plan (IRP) and apply for Apportioned registration. Apply online through TxFLEET at [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov) (search "Apportioned").

Vehicles not authorized to operate on Texas highways due to lack of registration or registration reciprocity, may be issued 72-hour or 144-hour temporary permit. Contact your county tax assessor collector or visit [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov) and click on "Vehicle Registration" under the Motorists heading and then "Temporary Permits".

For additional vehicle registration information or regional office location information, contact TxDMV at 888-368-4689 or visit [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov).

## OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT LOAD

**PERMITS** Operators of vehicles and/or loads that exceed Texas legal size and weight limits must obtain an oversize and/or overweight permit from the TxDMV.

- Legal Width - 8 feet, 6 inches
- Legal Height - 14 feet
- Legal Length - Varies based on vehicles and combinations
  - Truck and trailer combination - 65 feet
  - Truck-tractor - unlimited
  - Truck-tractor combination - overall length unlimited but trailer is limited to 59 feet
  - Semi-trailer (single unit) - 59 feet (double trailer) - 28 1/2 feet
- Legal Gross Weight - 80,000 pounds
- Legal Axle/Axle Group Limits: single axle - 20,000 pounds, tandem - 34,000 pounds, triple - 42,000 pounds, etc.



For detailed information on legal length and weight limits, additional information on permit requirements, visit [www.TxDmv.gov](http://www.TxDmv.gov) (select the "Motor Carriers" heading) or call TxDMV at 800-299-1700 and select option 2.



Select permit types may be self-issued through the online permit system, Texas Permitting and Routing Optimization System (TxPROS). Sign up to order and self-issue oversize/overweight permits through TxPROS, visit <http://TxPROS.TxDmv.gov>.