



Interstate Commerce Requirements

The "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21) provides a number of exemptions to farmers doing business in and near their home state. **However** there still are some registrations you may need to do if operating across state lines, even with those exemptions under MAP-21. Below is a list with hyperlinks for more information of those that may apply.

USDOT NUMBER

Companies that operate commercial vehicles transporting passengers or hauling cargo in interstate commerce must be registered with the FMCSA and must have a USDOT Number. Also, commercial intrastate hazardous materials carriers who haul quantities requiring a safety permit must register for a USDOT Number.

The USDOT Number serves as a unique identifier when collecting and monitoring a company's safety information acquired during audits, compliance reviews, crash investigations, and inspections. **Farm vehicles that operate in interstate commerce must have a USDOT number.** More Information here: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration>

Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)

Motor carriers, motor private carriers, freight forwarders, leasing companies and brokers based in the United States, Canada, Mexico, or any other country that operate in interstate or international commerce in the United States must register under the UCR program.

The UCR program is similar to SSRS in that UCR is a Base-State system, under which a carrier pays UCR fees through its Base State on behalf of all participating states. **Farm vehicles that operate in interstate commerce must carry a Unified Carrier Registration.** More information here:

<http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/commercial/#mcs/programs/ucra/index.asp>

International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

Vehicles meeting the following criteria are tax liable and need motor fuel road tax credentials to be operated in all jurisdictions:

- have two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds; OR
- have three or more axles regardless of weight; OR
- are used in combination, when the combined weight is more than 26,000 pounds gross or registered gross vehicle weight at any time

IFTA is the International Fuel Tax Agreement, an agreement between all states and Canadian provinces, which allows a carrier to register and pay motor fuel road taxes in the carrier's home or base state for all participating jurisdictions. IFTA is beneficial to motor carriers because it eliminates the need for a motor carrier to contact every jurisdiction he intends to operate in to get a motor fuel road tax permit. It also eliminates the need for a motor carrier to file a quarterly motor fuel road tax return with every jurisdiction in which he has traveled. It allows a motor carrier to take advantage of all over-purchase fuel tax credits because one tax return is filed for all jurisdictions. **The first two trucks or tractor trucks that are licensed in Virginia and are used for farm use only (as defined by Va. Code Section 46.2-698) and are not licensed in another state are exempt from IFTA licensing in Virginia, but these exemptions may not apply in other IFTA jurisdictions requiring the payment of road tax for these vehicles.**

More Information here: <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/commercial/#mcs/programs/ifta/index.asp>

International Registration Plan (IRP)

IRP is a cooperative agreement for registering vehicles that travel interstate (between states). Commercial vehicles based in Virginia will register with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle and are issued one apportioned plate (or set of plates) and one cab card that list all of the states for which the vehicle is authorized to travel. IRP covers apportioned vehicles used for transportation of persons for hire or designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and: is a power unit having two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 lbs.; is a power unit having three or more axles, regardless of weight; or is used in combination, when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 lbs. **Commercial vehicle displaying restrictive plates, such as farm plates, should be exempt from IRP – HOWEVER, you should check with those states you plan to travel to/through to make sure they do not require it. Example, we have learned Pennsylvania requires an IRP for those F-tag trucks over 26,000 lbs.** More information here: <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/commercial/#mcs/programs/irp/index.asp>

Visit the Virginia DMVs Commercial Services for additional information on each of these programs. [More information here](#)

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Requirements

A CDL is required if your farm vehicle is operated 150 miles or more from your Virginia-based farm and meets the following definition of a commercial vehicle.

- has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more; or
- is a combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more if the vehicle(s) being towed has a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds; or
- can carry 16 or more passengers including the driver; or
- requires hazardous material placards; or
- the vehicle is used in the operation of a contract or common carrier; or
- used in another state. (Additional licensing requirements may be required for out- of-state operation.)
(Va. Code § 46.2-341.4)

Based on federal and state law, these vehicles require a pre-trip inspection. For additional information refer to the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Manual. <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#cdlmanual.html>

Medical Certificate (Medical Card)

While if you are operating within the 150 mile exemption of MAP-21 (F-tag) you are exempt from the requirement of a medical card. If you are traveling beyond that distance, please refer to the FMCSA Medical Program Division page to learn more: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical>

NOTE: If you do not have a “covered farm vehicle” (F-tag) you do not need a medical card when operating under the general 150 mile exemption (**§383.3**) when driving a “**straight**” truck intrastate. **However, if you are driving an “articulating/combination truck” then you need to have a medical card even intrastate. (§391.67)**