

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Smart Series

Smart Motor Carrier

Tips for Compliant Operations as a Texas Intrastate Motor Carrier

Overview

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is committed to serving, protecting, and advancing the citizens and industries we serve. This includes informing the Texas-based motor carrier industry on how to stay compliant with intrastate motor carrier regulations.

Intrastate motor carriers control, operate, or direct the operation of one or more vehicles that transport persons or cargo over the public highways of this state. Prior to commencing operations in Texas, a motor carrier must have proper operating authority granted by the department (TxDMV Certificate Number), adequate commercial liability insurance on file with the state, and complete records that verify the motor carrier's operations. The information outlined below will provide guidance on staying compliant while operating in Texas.

Registration Requirements

When is Registration Required?

- Transport household goods for compensation, regardless of vehicle size/weight;
- Operate a vehicle or combination (truck and trailer) with a gross weight, registered weight or gross weight rating exceeding 26,000 pounds;
- Operate a vehicle designed to transport more than 15 passengers (including the driver);
- Operate a commercial school bus;
- Operate a farm vehicle or combination (truck and trailer) with a gross weight, registered weight or gross weight rating exceeding 48,000 pounds; or
- Transport hazardous materials in a quantity that requires placarding.

How to Register

- Obtain a valid USDOT number from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) at: [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Registration Link](#) or 1(800)832-5660.
- After obtaining a USDOT number, apply for a TxDMV Certificate number online at: www.txdmv.gov/elinc. This process requires submission of documents online. Call 1(800)299-1700 (option 3 and 4) if you require assistance.
- NOTE: The information provided to both FMCSA and TxDMV must match in order to complete the application process.



Insurance Requirements

Texas law requires all intrastate motor carriers to file and maintain evidence of insurance with the department in order to maintain active operating authority. Evidence of insurance is provided online by your insurance provider, however, it is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance filing remains in effect in order to maintain an active TxDMV number.

Intrastate Household Goods motor carriers are also required to file and maintain evidence of cargo insurance with the department.

Automobile Insurance Requirements

Description		Minimum Insurance
Transporters of Hazardous Materials (that require placarding)	Hazardous substances, as defined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §171.8, transported in cargo tanks, portable tanks or hopper-type vehicles, with capacities in excess of 3,500 water gallons; or any quantity of Division 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 materials, any quantity of Division 2.3, Hazard Zone A, or Division 6.1, Packing Group I, Hazard Zone A material; in bulk Division 2.1 or 2.2; or highway route controlled quantities of a Class 7 material, as defined in 49 CFR §173.403	\$5,000,000
	Oil listed in 49 CFR §172.101: hazardous waste, hazardous materials and hazardous substances as defined in 49 CFR §171.8 and listed in 49 CFR §172.101, but not mentioned in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this subsection and petroleum products that are lubricants or fuels	\$1,000,000
Foreign Carriers	Domiciled outside of the U.S.A. and transporting cargo other than cargo listed above	\$750,000
Household Goods Movers	Household goods carriers with a gross weight, registered weight or gross weight rating less than 26,000 pounds	\$300,000
Commercial School Bus Operators	For-hire school buses operating within the boundaries of a municipality and transporting preprimary, primary or secondary school students on a route between the students' residence and a public, private or parochial school or day-care facility	\$500,000
Bus Operators	Vehicles designed or used to transport > 15 passengers (including driver) but < 26 passengers (not including driver)	\$500,000
	Vehicles designed or used to transport 26+ passengers (not including driver)	\$5,000,000
All Others	Private or for-hire motor carriers with a gross weight, registered weight or gross weight rating in excess of 26,000 pounds	\$500,000

Cargo Insurance Requirements for Household Goods Carriers

Description	Insurance
Loss of or damage to total cargo carried on any one motor vehicle	\$5,000
Aggregate loss of or damage to multiple shipper cargo carried on any one motor vehicle	\$10,000

Record Requirements

All Intrastate motor carriers are required to prepare and maintain complete and accurate records that verify their operations for a period of not less than two years at their principal place of business. Driver's time cards and logs may be retained for a period of no less than six months.

Record Contents:

- Operational logs, insurance certificates, documents to verify the carrier's operations, and proof of registration fee payments;
- Records of services performed;
- All certificate of title documents, weight tickets, permits for oversize or overweight vehicles and loads, dispatch records, or any other document that would verify the operations of the vehicle to determine the actual weight, insurance coverage, size, and/or capacity of the vehicle; and
- The original certificate of registration and registration listing, if applicable.

Supporting documents are critical to verify the services being provided in order for the department to determine compliance.

Please contact us at the address listed below for any additional information or questions.

Contact Us

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Please see other topics in the Smart Series to help you make the best decision possible. The department is always interested in new ideas or tips that will make this tool more useful for consumers. If you have a suggestion on how to make this topic more helpful for consumers, or if you have an idea for a topic, please send your suggestion to: Enforcement@TxDMV.gov.