

Chapter 3

Operating Authority

Interstate commerce is trade, traffic, or transportation **involving** the crossing of a State boundary. Either the vehicle, its passengers, or cargo must cross a State boundary, or there must be the intent to cross a State boundary to be considered an interstate carrier.

If your operations include **interstate** commerce, you must comply with the applicable Federal safety regulations **and** Operating Authority rules (commonly referred to as a MC number), in addition to State and local requirements. You must notify the State in which you plan to register your vehicle(s) of your intentions to operate in interstate commerce to ensure that the vehicle is properly registered for purposes of the International Registration Plan (IRP), and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). The base State will help you by collecting the appropriate fees and distributing a portion of those fees to the other States in which you operate commercial motor vehicles.

In order to operate in Interstate Commerce (*your vehicle or your cargo cross State lines*) you will need to register with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The following applications must be registered with the FMCSA:

- **Private** and **Exempt For-Hire** motor carriers with vehicles with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more must submit:
 - The Motor Carrier Identification Report (MCS-150)
- **Authorized For-Hire** motor carriers must submit:
 - The Motor Carrier Identification Report (MCS-150)
 - Proper application for Motor Carrier Operating Authority, (OP-1 series): \$300.00

In addition to the OP-1 Application, you must also submit the following to complete the application process **before Operating Authority will be granted**:

- BOC-3 (Process Agents)
- Proof of Liability and/or Cargo Insurance
- Certain **Hazardous Material** motor carriers must submit:
 - The Combined Motor Carrier Identification Report and HM Permit Application (MCS-150B)

More information can be found at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration-licensing/online-registration/onlineregdescription.htm>

For “Frequently Asked Questions” regarding Registration and Licensing, access FAQ’s at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/other/fag/fags.aspx>