

## Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services' Fourth Quarter 2016 Newsletter

Commercial vehicle titles  
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Travel authority  
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December 2016



### International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

**IFTA Fourth quarter  
2016 tax return deadline  
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017**

**Online processing is required** for all IFTA quarterly tax returns.

Supported Internet browsers are Microsoft® Internet Explorer® (IE) Google Chrome™, or Mozilla® Firefox® – newer IE versions may need to run in the compatibility mode. You must allow **pop-up windows for the online IFTA/IRP applications to work**.

Use the same Account ID (client ID) and password you use to file your IRP renewal and supplements online. **Don't wait until the last minute to request a password – all you have to do is** email [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us) and provide your Client ID number, your email address where a temporary password can be emailed, and your telephone number.

To file online: 1) Go to [www.iowadot.gov/iftairp](http://www.iowadot.gov/iftairp); and 2) The next window to appear is the “hub” of the online application where you will sign in to the application and find the “IFTA online reference guide.” It is recommended you go through the reference guide and FAQs for any questions you may have. Detailed steps on completing the IFTA tax return begin on page 6 and end on page 11 of the guide. Follow each step until you have entered all of your information, once complete, proceed until you come to the **payment collection screen**, once you have reached this screen, your tax return has been successfully filed. If you are sending payment in, you will select “Quit” at the bottom of the screen. If you are paying online with Dwolla, you will select “pay with Dwolla” located on the lower right hand side. If you are paying with escrow, you will select “payment type – Escrow”, enter the amount being paid and proceed.

Payments should be made in full and in a timely manner to avoid penalty and interest. Acceptable methods of payment:

- Dwolla (online payment option).
- Escrow account (online payment option).
- Check, money order, or cashier check.
- \*Credit card (\$2.50 or 3.75 percent fee added, whichever is greater).
- \*T-check, Comcheck, or electronic funds source (EFS) check number.

\*Call 515-237-3268 to use these options.

**IFTA 2017 Renewal:** Your IFTA renewal application and payment need to be submitted prior to Dec. 31, 2016. If you have **not** received your IFTA renewal form, please contact us at [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us), or call 515-237-3268.

When renewing your IFTA, please note, Jurisdictions have the right to cancel or deny your renewal if you do not leave Iowa and report zero or base jurisdiction distance only, for three or more consecutive quarters.

**Important Notice:** There is a delay in processing the 2017 IFTA renewals, as we await shipment of decals. 2016 decals are valid through Feb 28<sup>th</sup> for carriers who have submitted their renewal by 12/31.

**IFTA RECORD RETENTION:** Distance and fuel documents must be kept for four years from the tax return due date or filing date, whichever is later.

### International Registration Plan (IRP)

**Motor Carrier Responsible for Safety (MCRS):** All IRP commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) registered within a Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) State must have a MCRS assigned to it.

- If you indicated the MCRS is not going to change during the registration period, the MCRS information will be printed on the cab card.
- If the MCRS changes during the registration period, the changes must be made with our office within ten days, on the vehicle(s) affected, and a current lease agreement provided.
- If you indicated the MCRS is going to change during the registration period, the MCRS information will not be placed on the cab card. This means the driver must have in his or her possession appropriate documentation (a current cab card, lease agreement and shipping document) to present if stopped at roadside.
- If the MCRS changes are due to a Federal out of service order, you must make the change with our office immediately, and provide a current lease agreement between you and the company with whom you are leasing.

### IRP Reporting periods and credential information

1. The distance reporting period for registrants whose IRP renewal is September 2016 or after, is **July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016**.
2. The 2290 reporting period is **July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017**.
3. 2017 credentials must be displayed on/before your current credentials expire. If the 2016 credentials are displayed prior to your current credentials expiring, both the 2016 **and** 2017 cab cards must be carried in the vehicle.
4. If you are deleting a unit from your fleet at renewal time, and you have permanent plates, those plates **must** be returned or postmarked on or before the last day of your renewal expiration month. Failure to return the permanent plates could result in losing your ability to obtain permanent plates. If you have annual plates, they do not need to be returned during renewal time unless you are storing your unit. If you are deleting a unit anytime during the year other than your renewal month, you **must** return the annual **and/or** permanent plates.

**IRP RECORD RETENTION:** Distance documents must be kept for the distance reporting period of July 1 through June 30 that corresponds to the current registration year, plus the three previous registration years.

### Oversize/Overweight (OS/OW) Permits

**Effective July 1, 2016** vehicles operating under an OS/OW permit may have a tandem axle weight up to 46,000 lbs. on a single tandem axle of the truck and also a single tandem axle of the trailer. A maximum of two axles at the 46,000 lbs. will be allowed for each permitted load (one each on the truck and trailer). The previous limit of 20,000 lbs. per axle will apply after the new tandem limit is reached. Any axle of a tandem group cannot exceed 24,000 lbs. gross weight.

## Unified Registration System (URS) – DELAYED

**Continue to check our website for updated information.**

**Federal rule making** created the URS system to be implemented in stages through Dec. 31, 2016. The purpose of the URS is to replace certain existing federal systems with a single, online, federal system. Below are some of the changes that have gone into effect and will go into effect at a later date:

**All carriers need a Portal account with FMCSA to access URS. For training and information go to:**  
<https://portal.fmcsa.dot.gov/training/Company>

- If your USDOT number has not been updated according to the FMCSA biennial schedule, you may be subject to a citation at roadside, and your registration denied. You will receive an update letter from FMCSA, once received it is recommended the update process be completed at that time.

Effective Dec. 12, 2015: A new MCSA-1 form has replaced the current MCS-150 form for **new applicants**.

- **Any paper applications received after 12/11/15 will be sent back to the applicant.**
- Existing entities will continue to use the current process.

### **TIME IS FAST APPROACHING!**

- **DATE TO BE DETERMINED:**

- URS will be fully operational.
- The USDOT number is the sole identifier, Docket (MC, FF, and MX) numbers will no longer be issued.
- Electronic applications only – paper forms will no longer be accepted.
- Registration will cost \$300 per registration requested on an application, including a separate fee for safety registration. See below for an example:

**Fees: All new applications for USDOT Numbers and operating authority will be \$300 each.** For example, if the applicant registers for a USDOT No., and registers as both a motor carrier and a broker, the fee will be \$300 each, or \$900 total.

(USDOT numbers for **INTRASTATE** carriers will remain at no charge).

- **DATE TO BE DETERMINED:**

- Insurance filings for existing private HAZMAT and exempt-for hire carriers must be on file.
- Service of process agent filings for existing private and exempt-for hire carriers (BOC-3) must be on file. (A process agent is an entity that is identified for the purpose of serving legal papers. It is a legal presence in each state the carrier operates).

### **FMCSA Electronic Logging Device (ELD) rule.**

The ELD rule is intended to help create a safer work environment for drivers, and make it easier, faster to accurately track, manage, and share records of duty status (RODS) data.

For carriers using AOBDRs (automatic onboard recording devices) before the rule compliance date of Dec., 18, 2017, the rule will replace AOBDRs with ELDs over a four-year implementation period.

An ELD synchronizes with a vehicle engine to automatically record driving time, for easier, more accurate hours of service recording.

The rule applies to most carriers and drivers who are required to maintain RODs.

Carriers and drivers who are using paper logs or logging software must transition to ELDs no later than Dec., 18, 2017.

Carriers and drivers who use AOBDRs prior to the compliance date must transition to ELDs no later than Dec., 16, 2019.

Although ELD devices can be great, not all are created equal, as with anything, you must ensure the ELD you choose will meet **all** of your record keeping requirements.

For more information please visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/elds](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/elds).

## Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)

Each year, interstate carriers, leasing companies, brokers, and freight forwarders who cross the state lines while operating a self-propelled or towed vehicle on highways in commerce that meets one of the conditions listed below are required to obtain a UCR.

- It has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater.
- It is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, including the driver.
- It is transporting USDOT-regulated hazardous material that requires placarding.

The enforcement date to register for a 2017 UCR is: **Jan. 1, 2017**. Failing to file and pay the registration fee can result in a citation and fine.

### **Filing for UCR**

In as little as 10 minutes, carriers can renew and pay for their UCR from any computer or smartphone with Internet access at [www.ucr.in.gov](http://www.ucr.in.gov). Before you start, be sure you:

- Know the USDOT number.
- Have a credit card or checkbook available.
- Be aware that the computer session will timeout if there is significant idle time. If that happens, close the Internet window and begin the process again.

If a carrier is no longer in operation or never crosses state lines and wishes to avoid further UCR renewal notices, the carrier must inactivate or update its USDOT number.

**Note:** Any power units registered under IRP are subject to UCR fees

## Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services Contact Information

- **Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 10382, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
- **Physical address:**  
6310 SE Convenience Blvd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021 (exit 89 on Interstate 35)
- **Counter hours:** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
New registrant customers must arrive by 2 p.m.
- **Email:** [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us)
- **Website:** [www.iowadot.gov/iftairp](http://www.iowadot.gov/iftairp)
- Commercial vehicle titles 515-237-3110  
515-237-3056 Fax
- Motor carrier audits 515-239-1030  
515-239-1874 Fax

For questions regarding OS/OW, Fuel & Trip Permits, IFTA, IRP, UCR and Travel Authority, visit our website at [www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov). If your questions are not answered you may either email us at [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us) or call us at one of the numbers below.

- Fuel and trip permits, and  
Oversize/Overweight permits 515-237-3264  
515-237-3257 Fax
- IFTA fuel tax, IRP registration,  
UCR and Travel authority 515-237-3268  
515-237-3225 Fax

# Zero<sup>®</sup> Fatalities

*A Goal We Can All Live With*

### USDOT biennial updates and filing schedule

All persons with an active USDOT number are required to file a biennial update according to the schedule below, by the last day of the month. The FMCSA will issue a warning letter at least 30 days in advance of a biennial update deadline. Failure to complete biennial updates will subject entities to civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day with a maximum penalty of \$10,000. FMCSA may also deactivate the USDOT number for anyone that fails to comply with updating requirements.

It is recommended that a biennial update is done as soon as the FMCSA letter is received, and prior to renewing your IRP. **If a biennial update is not completed timely all transactions will come to a stop.**

### USDOT Biennial Update Filing Schedule

If your USDOT number ends in:	You must file by the last day of:
1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August
9	September
0	October

If the next-to-last digit of your USDOT number is odd, file your update every odd-numbered calendar year.

If the next-to-last digit of your USDOT number is even, file your update every even-numbered calendar year.

### URGENT: Safety Recall Initiated by Volvo Trucks

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is issuing this bulletin based upon a safety recall initiated by Volvo Trucks affecting nearly 20,000 Class 8 motor vehicles, with more than 17,000 affected vehicles in the United States ([click here to view Volvo Trucks' "Safety Recall Alert"](#)). FMCSA has become aware of a critical safety defect that could severely affect the safe operation of these vehicles due to a faulty two-piece steering shaft. This condition can lead to separation of the steering shaft without warning and an immediate loss of steering ability and control which may lead to a vehicle crash. Operators of vehicles affected by the Volvo recall should **take the vehicles out of service as soon as possible**. FMCSA is publishing this advisory bulletin to raise awareness of this issue in order to prevent serious crashes.

FMCSA and State inspectors are advised that certain 2016 and 2017 Volvo and Mack Titan model trucks may be affected by the recall. Volvo has advised that carriers contact the Volvo Customer Support line below to determine what, if any, action is necessary. If FMCSA or State inspectors identify a potentially affected vehicle, the driver should be directed to call the number below *prior* to proceeding, and to follow the instructions provided by Volvo.

**Volvo Customer Support  
1-877-800-4945: Option 1**

In addition to being a serious safety issue, continuing to operate these vehicles could be considered a violation of 49 C.F.R. § 3.6.7, which prohibits operation of a vehicle in a condition likely to cause an accident or a breakdown. Safety demands that operators of these vehicles take prompt and appropriate action to ensure this issue is addressed. Motor carriers that violate applicable regulations may face enforcement action including, but not limited to, civil penalties and a finding that the defect constitutes an out-of-service condition.

## Truckers Against Trafficking

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) ® began in March 2009 as an initiative of Chapter 61 Ministries to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking industry on the critical role they can play in fighting one of the most lucrative and destructive crimes in the United States and globally.

Today, TAT is a 501c3 organization with three main goals to accomplish our mission:

- Have our TAT materials made a regular part of training/ orientation for members of the trucking industry, so when they suspect human trafficking, they'll call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 and report what they know.
- Partner with law enforcement to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
- Marshal the resources of the trucking industry to combat this crime.

We provide a website,

[www.truckersagainstafficking.org](http://www.truckersagainstafficking.org); a trucking-industry-specific training DVD; webinars; human trafficking presentations; wallet cards truckers can carry with information to help them recognize trafficking and call the NHTRC number when it is suspected; posters and other materials the trucking industry can use for publicity and promotion; and the Freedom Drivers Project — a 48' mobile exhibit designed to educate audiences about the realities of domestic sex trafficking and how the trucking industry is combating it.

TAT also works to build coalitions between members of law enforcement, anti-trafficking organizations and key industry stakeholders, including general managers of truck stops and travel plazas, large carriers and state trucking associations, to further the apprehension of traffickers and the recovery of victims. We interact with appropriate state and national agencies to have our materials used in all venues involving trucking and strategize with state and local law enforcement and government on additional ways the trucking industry can provide invaluable help. And we continually strive to help the trucking industry develop its unique contribution and leadership in the fight against human trafficking.

**UPDATE:** The Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement Unit conducted five outreach events in August 2016. MVE worked with Loves Travel Center, Davenport, The Flying J Truck Stop, Williams, Loves Truck Stop, Clive and held two events at the Iowa 80 Truck Stop in Walcott Iowa to educate the public on human trafficking.

MVE has trained two Motor Carriers and registered them with "Truckers Against Trafficking" as TAT trained, and Chief Lorenzen presented two programs to groups in the metro.

For more information on Truckers Against Trafficking,  
or to find out how you can help, contact

**tat.truckers@gmail.com** or visit our website  
[www.truckersagainstafficking.org](http://www.truckersagainstafficking.org).

**Make the Call, Save Lives.**  
**1-888-3737-888**



### Why involve the trucking industry in the fight against human trafficking?

Ongoing sting operations by the FBI and other law enforcement personnel reveal that criminals and crime syndicates sell their wares at a number of locations frequented by truckers. Only in this case, their product isn't drugs, its people – victims of human trafficking. Since 2004, these sting operations have rescued hundreds of children, recovered millions of dollars and arrested numerous perpetrators.

Whether at schools, malls, online sites, streets or neighborhoods, traffickers target our children – boys and girls, teens and young women – drugging, coercing, beating, threatening, and selling them for sex, as well as labor, and making millions. Some of these victims are as young as 11 years old ... some are even younger.

Traffickers targeting truckers as consumers continually move their "goods" along circuits that each covers multiple states.

But truckers, in the course of their daily work – and because they're continually on the move – can help stop this ... through observation, overhearing conversations, being trained in what to look for and by tools and instruction on what to do.