

FACT SHEET

PENNSYLVANIA-BASED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Pennsylvania is one of 59 jurisdictions in North America who are members of the International Registration Plan (IRP). Except for Alaska and Hawaii, all other states and the District of Columbia are members of the IRP. In addition, the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan are members of IRP.

The IRP applies to vehicles that operate through (interstate) or within (intrastate) any of the member jurisdictions and that are used for the transportation of persons for hire or are designed, used or maintained for transportation of property. The plan covers motor vehicles with a gross weight or registered gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, combinations with a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds and motor vehicles having three or more axles, regardless of weight.

A Pennsylvania-registered vehicle must possess one of the following credentials in order to operate in any of the other member jurisdictions:

1. An IRP registration plate with other jurisdictions listed on the cab card and the corresponding weight.
2. An IRP temporary registration issued by a company on an official form.
3. A wire service telegram.
4. A trip permit issued by the other jurisdiction or its agents.
5. Full registration issued by the other jurisdiction.

For more information, contact PennDOT's Commercial Registration Section, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 68284, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8284 or call (717) 346-0608.

FUEL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Effective Jan. 1, 1996, Pennsylvania implemented the provisions of the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), which resulted in two significant changes:

- (1) Vehicles subject to Motor Carrier Road Tax and IFTA are those operated through or within Pennsylvania that are used for the transportation of persons for hire or are designed, used or maintained primarily for transportation of property. The plan covers vehicles having a gross weight or registered gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, combinations with a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds and vehicles having three or more axles, regardless of weight.
- (2) Carriers will operate under a "base state" (jurisdiction) concept for tax registration and reporting purposes. For example, a Pennsylvania carrier operating a qualifying vehicle in Pennsylvania and another IFTA jurisdiction will obtain its decals from Pennsylvania to operate in all IFTA jurisdictions, and the carrier will report to Pennsylvania all road taxes due to any IFTA jurisdictions. Pennsylvania, in turn, will be responsible for distributing the taxes due to other IFTA jurisdictions. The carrier will benefit since the amount due is the net tax due or credit due to all IFTA jurisdictions. Also, only one set of decals, from the carrier base state, is required to operate in any IFTA jurisdiction.

May 2009

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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
www.dmv.state.pa.us

TEMPORARY FUEL MARKER PERMIT

When a motor carrier vehicle will be traveling through Pennsylvania for five days or less, the carrier may purchase a temporary Fuel Permit for that vehicle for \$50. To obtain a temporary permit, the carrier should contact one of the following companies: Comdata, Interstate Permit, Nova Permit, Tewel Corporation, Transcom or Xero Fax. The driver must carry a copy of the telegram sent from the Department of Revenue identifying him/herself, the vehicle and the 5 day period for which the permit was issued.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, Bureau of Motor Fuel Taxes, Department 280646, Harrisburg, PA 17128-0646 or calling (717) 783-9361.

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

All owners and operators of commercial motor vehicles operating for hire in interstate or intrastate operations in Pennsylvania must register for Gross Receipts Tax reporting with the Bureau of Corporation Taxes, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8911, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8199. The Gross Receipts Interstate/Intrastate Motor Transport Tax is an 8 mil tax on total gross receipts derived from hauling passengers or property across or through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For additional information, call (717) 787-8211.

OPERATING AUTHORITY

All vehicles must be correctly registered and equipped in accordance with laws of their home state and/or Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations. For additional information regarding intrastate operating authority in Pennsylvania, contact the Public Utility Commission, Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 3 East KYST, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0203 or call (717) 787-3834. For interstate operating authority, contact the Federal Highway Administration at 820 First Street, Northeast, Washington, D.C. 20002 or call (202) 523-0163.

WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT/TOLERANCE

All vehicles must comply with the Pennsylvania law regulating maximum size and weight. When a vehicle is axle-weighed, the axle weights and the sum of the same (gross weight) will be adjusted by 3 percent, except when a vehicle is axle-weighed on a stationary scale on an interstate highway. No single vehicle with a gross weight exceeding 73,280 pounds may be operated on a highway, nor may a combination exceed 80,000 pounds without a special oversize/overweight permit. In addition, there are limitations concerning distribution of the weight over the axles of the vehicle or combination.

For additional information regarding maximum size and weight limitations or oversize/overweight permit information, contact the Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering, Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0041 or call (717) 787-4680.