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Friday Safety Brief

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Getting Started with Registration:

FMCSA monitors and ensures compliance with motor carrier safety (all carriers) and commercial (for-hire, non-exempt carriers) regulations. Companies may be subject to registration requirements for both safety (safety registration) and commercial regulation (operating authority registration). Companies subject to the safety requirements are also required to obtain a [USDOT Number](#).

The FMCSA registration process requires companies to define their type of business operation: Motor Carrier, Broker, Intermodal Equipment Provider (IEP), Cargo Tank Facility, and Freight Forwarder. This determination is **based on self-classification** using criteria such as cargo, operation, and company type.

Accordingly, the Agency administers the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations \(FMCSR\)](#) and Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) that govern interstate - and some intrastate - commercial trucking and bus industries





Do I Need a USDOT Number?

What is a 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 types and 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.

You are required to obtain a USDOT number if you have a vehicle that:

Is used to transport the types and quantities of hazardous materials requiring a safety permit in intrastate commerce (see [49 CFR 385.403](#)).

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
 - Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation.