New DOT Number Requirements for Vehicles Rated Over 16,000 Lbs.

What is a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)?
For a single vehicle, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the vehicle.
For a combination of vehicles, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the towing unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units.

Vehicles that will require a DOT number by June 30, 2012:

A combination of commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 16,001 lbs. or more inclusive of a towed unit.

Commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 16,001 lbs. or more.

Getting a DOT Number is Free. Not Having One Will Cost You!

Important information for intrastate commercial motor vehicle owners
Finding Your Vehicle’s GVWR

Where is the GVWR found?
The GVWR can be found in several places:
- A label on the inside frame of the driver’s door
- In the engine compartment
- In the owner’s manual or sales brochure
For trailers, you may find a label towards the front of the trailer on the left side.

What if I cannot find my GVWR?
If you are unable to locate your GVWR, contact the Washington State Patrol at (360) 596-3810.

What has changed?
Washington State law now requires commercial motor vehicles to have an intrastate DOT number. The number will be used to track the owner and the vehicle’s safety fitness rating. Owners of any vehicle that meets the definition of a commercial motor vehicle must register through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

What is the definition of a commercial motor vehicle?
Any motor vehicle or vehicle combination used to transport property or passengers for profit, or the use of which is deducted from taxes, or that involves corporate sponsorship.

When is an intrastate DOT number required?
By June 30, 2012, owners of intrastate commercial motor vehicles are required to have and display their DOT numbers on their vehicles. On the effective date shown, the Department of Licensing will begin to require DOT numbers to register vehicles.

Are farmers required to receive an intrastate DOT number?
Yes. Motor vehicles owned and operated by farmers in the intrastate transportation of their own farm, orchard, or dairy products, including livestock and plant or animal waste, from point of production to market or disposal are required to get an intrastate DOT number. However, they are exempt from safety audits and compliance reviews.

You are involved in intrastate commerce if:
- Neither your vehicle nor its load ever leaves the state.
- The load originated in and is destined for points within the state.

There are many additional safety regulations that must be complied with (e.g., tires, suspension, driver and vehicle files) that this pamphlet, due to space limitations, cannot cover. All motor carriers should obtain a copy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) to refer to for all of the safety regulations for operating intra- and interstate. A copy of the FMCSR may be viewed at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.

How do I apply for a DOT number?
Apply Online
To learn more and apply online, visit one of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration web sites:
  - www.fmcsa.dot.gov/online-registration
  - www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov

Register By Mail
To register through the mail, download the MCS-150 form from one of the web sites above.

Need Help?
For assistance with web site or mail registration, call (360) 596-3810.

Vehicle Licensing
For vehicle titling and registration questions, contact (360) 902-3770, option 5.