



## When do you need a special permit to enter Washington?

Some commercial vehicles<sup>1</sup> may require certain permits when entering Washington State from Oregon or Idaho.

These requirements come from **Washington State RCW [46.85.060](#)**

### **Declarations of extent of reciprocity, when—Exemptions, benefits, and privileges—Rules.**

In the absence of an agreement or arrangement with another jurisdiction, the department may examine the laws and requirements of such jurisdiction and declare the extent and nature of exemptions, benefits and privileges to be extended to vehicles properly registered or licensed in such other jurisdiction, or to the owners of such vehicles, which shall, in the judgment of the department, be in the best interest of this state and the citizens thereof and which shall be fair and equitable to this state and the citizens thereof, and all of the same shall be determined on the basis and recognition of the benefits which accrue to the economy of this state from the uninterrupted flow of commerce. Declarations of exemptions, benefits, and privileges issued by the department shall include at least the following exemptions:

- (1) Nonresident persons not employed in this state may operate a vehicle in this state that is currently licensed in another jurisdiction for a period not to exceed six months in any continuous twelve-month period.
- (2) Nonresident persons employed in this state may operate vehicles not to exceed twelve thousand pounds registered gross vehicle weight that are currently licensed in another jurisdiction if no permanent, temporary, or part-time residence is maintained in this state for a period greater than six months in any continuous twelve-month period.
- (3) A vehicle or a combination of vehicles, not exceeding a registered gross or combined gross vehicle weight of **twelve thousand pounds**, which is properly base licensed in another jurisdiction and registered to a bona fide business in that jurisdiction, is not required to obtain a Washington vehicle license registration except when such vehicle is owned or operated by a business or branch office of a business located in Washington.

### **Oregon Vehicle License Plates/Registrations**

Oregon allows several different license plates for commercial vehicles, depending on several things. For example, Oregon-based motor carriers that only operate within Oregon and have trucks over 26,000 pounds combined weight will display a truck license plate marked "Commercial" and begin with the letters "YC". These vehicles only operate in the state of Oregon (intrastate).

**Oregon commercial trucks with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 10,000 to 26,000 pounds that have a plate that begins with the letter "T" (T12345), would need a Washington trip permit if the registered gross or combined gross vehicle weight exceeded 12,000 pounds per RCW 46.85.060, as Washington does not have a reciprocity agreement with any other states.**

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<sup>1</sup> The definition of a commercial motor vehicle per federal requirements means any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property when the vehicle—

- (1) 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
- (2) Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- (3) Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- (4) Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C.



Oregon commercial trucks with a GVW of 26,001 pounds or more, which have a plate that begins with the letters "YA" (YA12345), are IRP apportioned commercial plates and can operate out of the state of Oregon, as long as the registration for the vehicle has tonnage displayed for the state they will be traveling into, i.e. Washington (interstate). This plated vehicle would **not** need a trip permit for Washington.

Oregon commercial vehicles with a GVW of 26,000 pounds or less can have a plate that begins with the letter "Y" (Y12345). This vehicle may operate out of Oregon as an interstate carrier, as long as the registration for the vehicle has tonnage displayed for the state they will be traveling into, (i.e. Washington), and would be considered interstate.

Oregon registered vehicles can contact the following entities to learn more:

Oregon Department of Transportation - Salem  
Commerce and Compliance Division  
3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1166  
(503) 378-6699

Jantzen Beach/Portland Bridge  
I-5 and Oregon/Washington Border  
12348 N. Center Ave  
Portland, OR 97217-7871  
(971) 673-5900

## **International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA): When does a commercial motor vehicle operating in commerce need an IFTA or fuel permit?**

IFTA is an arrangement among U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Taxes are paid on motor fuels, and IFTA allows commercial motor carriers to register in one state and have these tax assessments paid out to all participating areas according to their fair share. This process standardizes the reporting of fuel taxes by motor carriers operating in more than one state or province. An IFTA license allows you to file only one tax return to your base jurisdiction and report miles traveled in all IFTA jurisdictions.

### **Who has to register for IFTA?**

- Commercial motor vehicles that have three or more axles regardless of weight;
- Commercial motor vehicles that have two axles and a gross vehicle or registered gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms;
- Commercial motor vehicles that are used in a combination that have a combined or registered gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms.
- Commercial motor vehicles that have two axles and a gross vehicle or registered gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms and traveling in two or more states;

Recreational vehicles do not qualify for the IFTA program.

IFTA licenses are valid for one year and expire on December 31. A copy of the IFTA license must be carried in each qualified vehicle.

IFTA applications for Washington State may be downloaded from the following website: [www.dol.wa.gov/forms/formsprft.html](http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/formsprft.html) or call (360) 664-1858 for an application.