

Truck cab marking requirements — Questions & Answers

Q: What do motor carriers need to put on the sides of their trucks?

A: A motor carrier displays two things on both sides of each power unit: (1) the carrier's legal name or a single trade name of the business that owns or controls operations, and (2) the carrier's U.S. DOT number.

Exceptions: The requirements don't apply to vehicles 26,000 lbs. or less (gross combination weight rating) if used only in intrastate private carriage, except vehicles hauling hazardous materials of a type or quantity requiring placarding, or passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 15 or more including the driver. Carriers conducting for-hire operations with passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 9 to 15, including driver, are only required to display the U.S. DOT number.

Q: Do these vehicle identification requirements apply to everybody around the country?

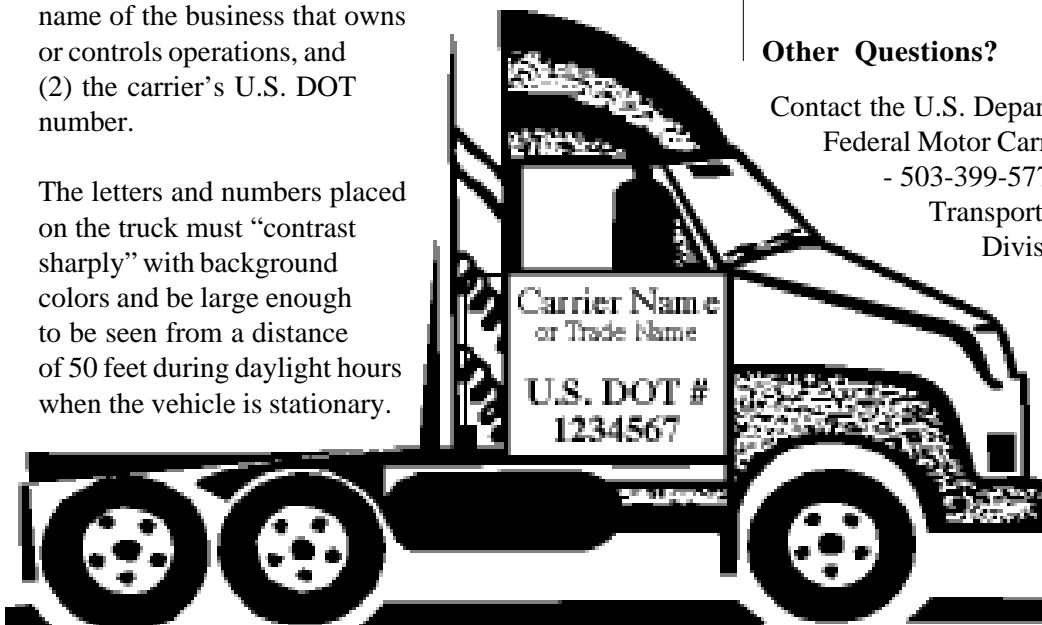
A: Yes, the U.S. DOT set these requirements in July 2000 and they apply to interstate carriers who operate throughout the country. They also apply to intrastate carriers who operate within a state because most states adopt and follow federal commercial vehicle regulations. (See 49 CFR 390.21, Marking of Commercial Motor Vehicles.)

With all carriers identified by a U.S. DOT number it's possible to accurately link them with safety inspection and accident data in a national databank of information.

THE RULES

Motor carriers operating in Oregon must display two things on both sides of each power unit: (1) the carrier's legal name or a single trade name of the business that owns or controls operations, and (2) the carrier's U.S. DOT number.

The letters and numbers placed on the truck must "contrast sharply" with background colors and be large enough to be seen from a distance of 50 feet during daylight hours when the vehicle is stationary.



Q: How do carriers get a U.S. DOT number?

A: Carriers get a U.S. DOT number by completing an MCS-150 registration form. Register online at the following Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Web site — https://li-public.fmcsa.dot.gov/LIVIEW/PKG_REGISTRATION.prc_option

Carriers already assigned a DOT number can also go online to update information, which they're required to do every two years.

Q: What if an intrastate carrier changes and starts operating interstate?

A: The carrier needs to complete a new MCS-150 form and update its information.

Q: What are the marking requirements if someone other than the operating carrier is operating the vehicle?

A: If someone other than the operating carrier is operating a commercial motor vehicle, the vehicle must be marked like the following example:

Joe Smith (name of lessor, owner-operator)
Operated by
John Doe Trucking
USDOT# 1234567

Q: How large should truck markings be?

A: Letters and numbers must "contrast sharply" with background colors and be large enough to be seen from a distance of 50 feet during daylight hours when the vehicle is stationary.

Other Questions?

Contact the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration - 503-399-5775, or the Oregon Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Transportation Division - 503-378-6963.