

# How to Find the Responsible Carrier and Correct U.S. DOT Number



## SIDE OF THE VEHICLE

In most cases, this is good for name and number. Look for a number preceded by the letters: USDOT.



## DON'T STOP

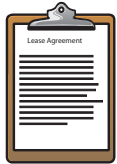
...keep on looking...

The information on the side of the truck may not be the U.S. DOT number, name, or address of the responsible motor carrier.



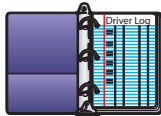
## DRIVER INTERVIEW

1. Is the vehicle leased or rented?
2. Who is the motor carrier responsible for this load?
3. Who is directing and controlling the movement of this vehicle?
4. Where is the motor carrier's principal place of business?



## LEASE AGREEMENT

identifies the name of the lessee and their U.S. DOT number.



## DRIVER'S LOG

contains the name of the motor carrier and the city and State for the carrier's principal place of business.



## SHIPPING PAPERS

provide the name of the motor carrier responsible for the load, but not the carrier's U.S. DOT number.

## NOTE: VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Generally good for identifying owner or registrant.  
CAREFUL: This may not be the responsible carrier!

**FMCSA WEB SITE:** <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/CompanySnapshot.aspx>

is an excellent source for verifying a motor carrier's U.S. DOT number, legal name, "doing business as" name, physical address, and phone number.

Revised 06/05

# How to Find the Responsible Carrier and Correct U.S. DOT Number?

**EXAMPLE 1:** John Smith owns his own truck tractor, operating under John Smith Trucking. He contracts with White Manufacturing to take one of its trailers loaded with its goods from New York to Los Angeles.

**Who is the Motor Carrier:**

- A. John Smith?
- B. White Manufacturing?

**John Smith is the motor carrier, because he is the entity that has agreed to carry this particular load.**

**EXAMPLE 3:** John Smith, driving his truck tractor, leases his services to Polyester Chemical Company. Polyester directs Smith to deliver a semi-trailer from New York to St. Louis.

**Who is the Motor Carrier:**

- A. John Smith?
- B. Polyester?

**The lease agreement between Polyester and Mr. Smith makes Polyester the motor carrier responsible for the load.**

**EXAMPLE 5:** John Smith is driving a tractor owned by ABC Trucking, which has been leased to XYZ Trucking. XYZ uses the tractor to pull XYZ trailers in its regular shipping service.

**EXAMPLE 2:** John Smith, driving his truck tractor, utilizes a cargo broker, K&S Trucking, to obtain goods from Intermodal Inc. shipping company for his return trip back to New York.

**Who is the Motor Carrier:**

- A. John Smith?
- B. K&S Trucking?
- C. Intermodal Inc.?

**John Smith is the motor carrier, because K&S transferred the responsibility of the load to John Smith.**

**EXAMPLE 4:** John Smith is driving a tractor/semi-trailer owned and operated by ABC Trucking.

**Who is the Motor Carrier:**

- A. John Smith?
- B. ABC Trucking?

**ABC Trucking is the motor carrier. John Smith is just a driver for ABC Trucking.**

**Who is the Motor Carrier:**

- A. John Smith?
- B. ABC Trucking?
- C. XYZ Trucking?

**In this case XYZ is the motor carrier, because XYZ is directing the carrying of the load.**