



MOTOR CARRIER NEWS

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Oregon again requires weight receipts in trucks

New federal legislation that President Bush signed into law in June allows Oregon to once again require that heavy trucks traveling in the state must carry a paper Oregon weight-mile tax credential, called a Weight Receipt and Tax Identifier.

In the past year, Oregon has been requiring motor carriers to obtain the credential, but not requiring that it be carried in trucks. Legislation passed by Congress in 2005, called SAFETEA-LU, prohibited all states from requiring the "display" of credentials except those associated with the International Registration Plan (IRP), the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), and other approved forms of identification.

But in May, Congress passed a SAFETEA-LU Corrections Bill that made technical and major changes to the 2005 law. The key change for Oregon was to Chapter 145 of Title 49, related to exceptions for the identification of vehicles, so that now a state may require a motor carrier, private carrier, freight forwarder, or leasing company to display identifying credentials on or in a commercial vehicle if on October 1, 2006, the state had a form of highway use taxation not subject to collection through IFTA. This change is intended to assist Oregon's enforcement of its weight-mile tax. It could also help Kentucky, New Mexico, and New York, which use variations of the weight-mile tax in combination with fuel tax for their highway use taxation.

Having the credential in the truck cab will also help Oregon safety inspectors and law enforcement officers identify motor carriers, particularly when they can't access a computer to look up records.

Oregon has been charging heavy trucks a weight-mile tax since 1947. Motor carriers operating trucks in Oregon with a combined weight over 26,000 pounds must set up an Oregon account for purposes of paying the tax. Participation in IFTA doesn't apply because Oregon doesn't collect a fuel tax from heavy trucks. When carriers set up an account, they receive a permanent or temporary Oregon Weight Receipt and Tax Identifier, or a Temporary Pass, that

proves the truck is paying the weight-mile tax and does not need to pay a fuel tax when buying fuel in Oregon.

There's been some confusion in the past year as carriers learned they didn't need to carry the Oregon weight-mile tax credential, but then learned that Oregon truck stops and other fuel providers needed to see it before selling fuel without tax. Oregon law requires proof of registration in the weight-mile tax system in order to buy fuel without paying fuel tax. Restoring the requirement to carry the Oregon credential should result in less confusion at the pump.

See Entry Policy for Tax and Registration Credentials on page 2.

Change to U.S. Code — Chapter 145, Title 49

§ 14506. Identification of vehicles

(a) Restriction on Requirements.— No State, political subdivision of a State, interstate agency, or other political agency of two or more States may enact or enforce any law, rule, regulation standard, or other provision having the force and effect of law that requires a motor carrier, motor private carrier, freight forwarder, or leasing company to display any form of identification on or in a commercial motor vehicle (as defined in section 14504a), other than forms of identification required by the Secretary of Transportation under section 390.21 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) Exception.— Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State may continue to require display of credentials that are required—

- (1) under the International Registration Plan under section 31704;
- (2) under the International Fuel Tax Agreement under section 31705 or under an applicable State law if, on October 1, 2006, the State has a form of highway use taxation not subject to collection through the International Fuel Tax Agreement;
- (3) under a State law regarding motor vehicle license plates or other displays that the Secretary determines are appropriate;
- (4) in connection with Federal requirements for hazardous materials transportation under section 5103; or
- (5) in connection with the Federal vehicle inspection standards under section 31136.

OREGON ENTRY POLICY FOR TAX AND REGISTRATION CREDENTIALS

Oregon charges heavy trucks a weight-mile tax for road use, rather than a fuel tax. Motor carriers operating vehicles in Oregon with a combined weight over 26,000 pounds must carry either a valid temporary pass or an Oregon Weight Receipt and Tax Identifier in each power unit.

Drivers entering Oregon

Drivers entering Oregon must obtain and carry Oregon weight-mile tax and registration credentials before entering the state unless the following applies:

- Arrive Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and not on a state-observed holiday.*
- Arrive on Interstate 5 from the north and proceed directly to the Portland Bridge Office at Jantzen Beach, or from the south and proceed directly to the Ashland Port of Entry.
- Arrive on Interstate 82 or US730 from the north and proceed directly to the Umatilla Port of Entry.
- Arrive on Interstate 84 or OR201 from the east and proceed directly to the Farewell Bend Port of Entry.

Drivers who meet the above criteria can get tax and registration credentials when they arrive in Oregon.

1st Time Offenders

Drivers without operating credentials are issued a warning ticket and told to get credentials at the first available facility if they: Enter Oregon on I-5 or I-205 and arrive at the Cascade Locks or Woodburn Ports of Entry, or enter Oregon on northbound US97 and arrive at the K-Falls Port of Entry, or arrive at the Ashland, Farewell Bend, or Umatilla Ports of Entry when their Registration Office is closed. This applies if the driver has never before received a credentials-related ticket.

WARNING: Drivers without credentials who enter Oregon at other locations in the state, or when their company is suspended or the vehicle's registration is suspended, are subject to citation and a fine of up to \$427.

***State-observed holidays** — New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Drivers starting in Oregon

Drivers originating in Oregon must obtain and carry weight-mile tax and truck registration credentials before starting operations. **WARNING:** Drivers who operate in Oregon without credentials or when their company's file is suspended or the vehicle's registration is suspended, are subject to citation and a \$427 fine.

Portland Interstate Bridge
I-5 South, Jantzen Beach
12348 N Center Avenue
Portland OR
Phone: 971-673-5900
Fax: 971-673-5893
8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri

Umatilla Port of Entry
Interstate 82 South
Umatilla OR
Phone: 541-922-3761
Fax: 541-922-2979
Registration Office Open
8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri

Salem Headquarters
ODOT Motor Carrier
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem OR
Fax: 503-378-6880
Phone Service Center
503-378-6699
24 hours, 7 days a week
Registration Office Open
8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri

Farewell Bend Port of Entry
Interstate 84 West
Huntington OR
Phone: 541-869-2293
Fax: 541-869-2021
Registration Office Open
8 am - 5 pm, Mountain Time
Mon - Fri
(7 am - 4 pm Pacific Time)

Ashland Port of Entry
Interstate 5 North
Ashland OR
Phone: 541-776-6117
Fax: 541-776-6018
Registration Office Open
8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri

Oregon Offices for Truck Tax and Credentials Service

How to Get Oregon Credentials

Call the Salem Service Center at 503-378-6699. Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Use Trucking Online. Most trucking companies operating in Oregon can use a home or office computer to get certain credentials via the Internet. Go to the Trucking Online Web site for more info: <http://www.OregonTruckingOnline.com>

Visit an office for counter service from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday at Salem, Portland Bridge at Jantzen Beach, or the Ports of Entry at Ashland, Farewell Bend, and Umatilla. Offices are closed on state-observed holidays.* Before calling or visiting an office for credentials, please be ready with carrier name and/or Oregon file number, vehicle registration (base plate number and complete VIN), lease documents (if applicable), fax number where credential can be sent if not picking up in person, and U.S. DOT number. Pay with credit card, guaranteed check, or a pre-approved charge to account.

This policy does NOT authorize trucks that exceed legal size and/or weight to operate in Oregon or enter Oregon before obtaining a Variance Permit. For information about the Entry Policy for Over-Dimension Loads, contact the Over-Dimension Permit Unit at 503-373-0000 or access that policy on the Internet: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/docs/enforcement_policy.pdf