

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.)

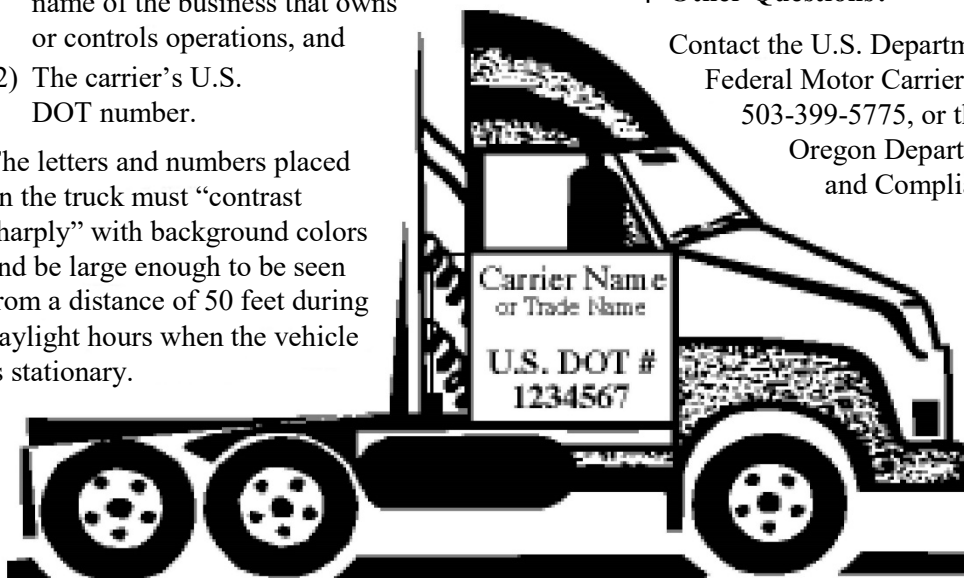
With all carriers identified by a U.S. DOT number it's possible to accurately link them with safety inspection and accident data in a national databank of information.

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 website](https://li-public.fmcsa.dot.gov/LIVIEW/PKG_REGISTRATION.prc_option) — 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, Commerce and Compliance Division - 503-378-6963.