

January 29, 2021

## Subject: Federal Operating Authority for Interstate Carriers

All motor carriers operating CMV's as defined in 390.5 must obtain a USDOT number.

Additionally, motor carriers operating:

**For-Hire in Interstate Commerce** hauling **Regulated Commodities**, must also obtain interstate operating authority (MC Number) from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).



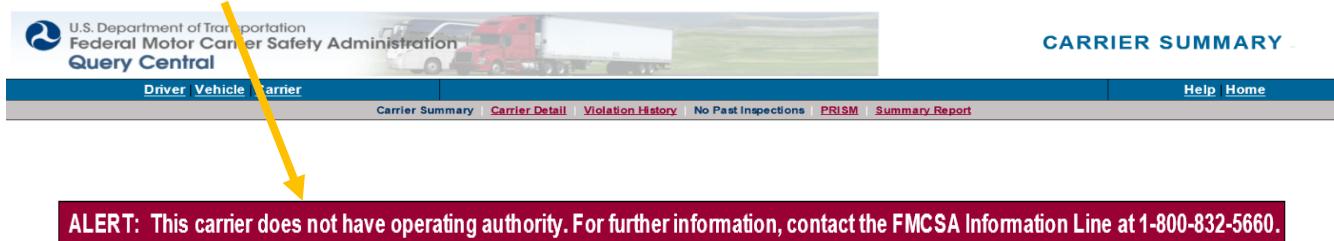
**Note:** [See Exempt Commodities List.](#)

An Out-Of-Service condition exists if the carrier is:

- **392.9a(a)(1)** Operating a CMV without the required operating authority.
- **392.9a(a)(2)** Operating beyond the scope of the carrier's operating authority.

Before placing a vehicle out-of-service, you must confirm the carrier does not have operating authority through one of the following methods:

### 1. Query Central



The screenshot shows the FMCSA Query Central interface. At the top, there's a logo for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the text "Query Central". Below the logo is a navigation bar with tabs for "Driver", "Vehicle", and "Carrier". The "Carrier" tab is selected. To the right of the navigation bar is a "CARRIER SUMMARY" section. Below the navigation bar, there's a sub-navigation bar with links to "Carrier Summary", "Carrier Detail", "Violation History", "No Past Inspections", "PRISM", and "Summary Report". A yellow arrow points from the text "ALERT: This carrier does not have operating authority. For further information, contact the FMCSA Information Line at 1-800-832-5660." to the "Carrier" tab in the main navigation bar. The main content area displays an alert message in a red box: "ALERT: This carrier does not have operating authority. For further information, contact the FMCSA Information Line at 1-800-832-5660."

### 2. SAFER website – may indicate Out-Of-Service or Not Authorized.



The screenshot shows a table from the SAFER website. The first row has a blue header with columns for "Entity Type" (set to "CARRIER") and "Operating Status". The second row has a white background with a blue border. The "Operating Status" column contains the text "OUT-OF-SERVICE" in red capital letters. A yellow arrow points from the text "ALERT: This carrier does not have operating authority. For further information, contact the FMCSA Information Line at 1-800-832-5660." in the previous screenshot to the "Operating Status" cell in this screenshot. The table also includes columns for "Out of Service Date" (set to "03/09/2020") and "Carrier Name" (which is empty).

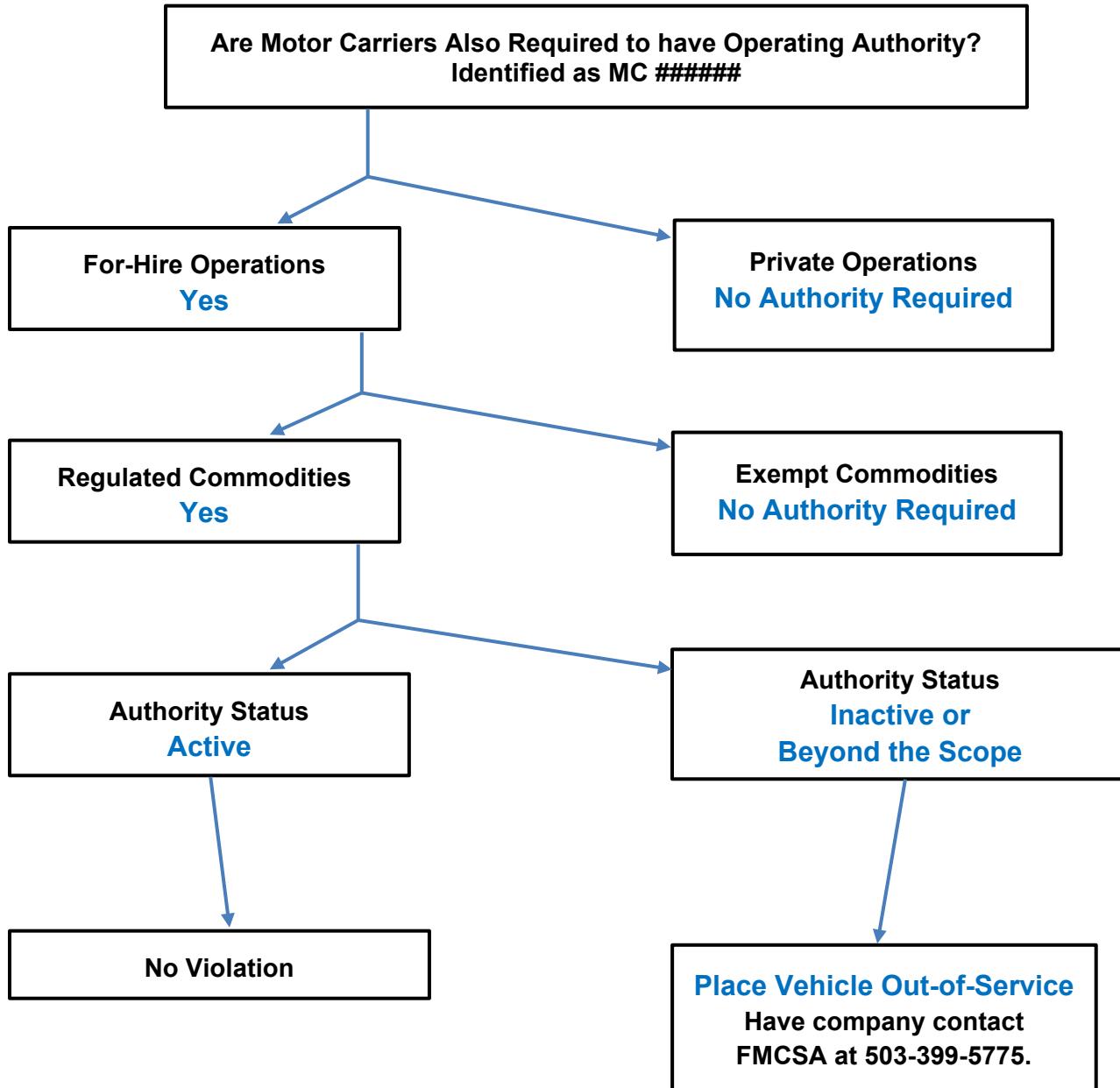
### 3. Or call the local FMCSA office at 503-399-5775.

**\*\* See flowchart below \*\***

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## Operating Authority Requirements for US and Canadian Carriers

Operation of a CMV, as defined in 390.5, requires  
all Motor Carriers to have a USDOT #.



If the carrier is operating as private, intrastate, hauling exempt commodities or empty **at the time of inspection**, no violation exists.