

Trucking Industry Licensing Requirements

[icon]

NAICs Code 484

Introduction

[Starting a Trucking Business](#). This is a great starting point.

General Business Licenses [Need icon for general business]

All businesses may require local business licenses, registration with the Secretary of State, and a Sales Tax license. Some employees may require professional licenses.

Point to a PDF that already exists:

<https://www.scbos.sc.gov/content/PDF/SCBOS/Resources/General-Business-License.pdf>

For a step-by-step walkthrough point to:

<https://scbos.sc.gov/starting>

Employment Requirements [Need icon for employment requirements]

If the business plans to have employees point to:

<https://scbos.sc.gov/starting/step5>

State and Federal Industry Permits [Need icon for state and federal permits]

Do drivers need a Commercial Driver's License CDL)?

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) contracted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provides the standard in which each state is to test commercial drivers.

The [South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles](#) administers the 2005 CDL Testing System commercial licensing standards required by FMCSA. The South Carolina CDL Manual can be [here](#).

Class A Any combination of vehicles with a Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more provided the GVWR of the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. May also operate a three-wheel vehicle (excluding a two-wheel motorcycle with a side car).

Class B Any single unit vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. May also operate a three-wheel vehicle (excluding a two-wheel motorcycle with a side car).

Class C Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that are not Class A or B vehicles, but either designed to transport sixteen or more passengers including the driver, or is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purposes of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR part 172, subpart F). May also operate a three-wheel vehicle (excluding a two-wheel motorcycle with a side car).

South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 56-1-2030, Item 16, defines gross vehicle weight rating as: **Gross vehicle weight rating** means the weight or the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or a combination vehicle. The gross vehicle weight rating of a combination vehicle (referred to as gross combination weight rating) is the gross vehicle weight rating of the power unit plus the gross vehicle weight rating of the towed.

The Medical Certification Requirements Form DL-405A can be obtained from the scdmvonline.com

Do drivers need a USDOT Number?

Apart from federal regulations, South Carolina requires commercial motor vehicle registrants to obtain a USDOT Number.

You are required to obtain a USDOT number if you have a vehicle that:

- Is used to transport the types and quantities of hazardous materials requiring a safety permit in intrastate commerce (see [49 CFR 385.403](#)).
- OR
- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
 - Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
 - Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation

You can register for a USDOT Number [here](#).

Do I need to file a Motor Carrier Property Tax Return?

Motor Carrier Property Tax is a tax on vehicles with a GVW greater than 26,000 pounds and buses for hire registered with a BC tag designed to carry 16 or more passengers including the driver. A [PT-441](#) should be filed and no less than half of the tax due paid no later than June 30 on vehicles owned December 31 of the preceding year, whether the vehicle is in use or not. More information can be found [here](#).

What is IFTA?

The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is a base state fuel tax agreement. Any person based in a member jurisdiction and operating a qualified motor vehicle(s) in two or more member jurisdictions is required to license under this agreement **or** purchase fuel trip permits for travel in member jurisdictions.

Once the SCDMV's Motor Carrier Services receives your completed [Application for International Fuel Tax Agreement Credentials \(SCDMV Form IFTA-1\)](#), your IFTA license and decals will be issued. This allows you to travel in all IFTA member jurisdictions. You may find more information in the [MCS Manual](#).

More information can be found [here](#).

Do I need to apply for an International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) License?

Any motor carrier whose [base jurisdiction](#) is South Carolina and operates one or more qualified motor vehicles in **at least** one other International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) member jurisdiction, **must** apply for South Carolina IFTA credentials **or** fuel trip permits must be obtained to travel through member jurisdictions, according to the regulations of each member jurisdiction.

For a license, complete the [IFTA Application \(SCDMV Form IFTA-1\)](#). The application requests basic information about you. The application does not require vehicle descriptions. However, the SCDMV reserves the right to request the description of the vehicle before any application is processed. The description must be kept on file at your business.

You may mail your completed [IFTA Application \(SCDMV Form IFTA-1\)](#) to Motor Carrier Services (MCS) at the address below:

SCDMV
Motor Carrier Services
PO Box 1498
Blythewood, SC 29016-1498

Do I need to file Heavy Use Tax IRS Form 2290 related to the heavy use of U.S. roads?

More information can be found [here](#).

Do I need to file a BOC-3 filing with FMCSA related to designation of persons upon whom process may be served are prescribed at 49 CFR 366?

Information can be found [here](#)

Disclaimer

This industry analysis is shared you as is with no guarantees of accuracy or relevance. It provides a starting point but is not a substitute for performing requirements research and due diligence on your own.