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March 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM

2006-10

TO: ALL COUNTY LICENSE PLATE ISSUING OFFICIALS

FROM: Billy R. Phillips, Supervisor *B.R.P.* VIA FACSIMILE
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: Intrastate USDOT Number Memorandum

The Motor Vehicle Division has received several inquiries from county license plate issuing officials regarding registrants contacting their office pertaining to a **Department of Public Safety (DPS) Notice addressing Intrastate USDOT Numbers.**

This Notice is advising registrants of Intrastate Commerce and Commercial Vehicles that they are required to acquire a USDOT number and display both their company name and USDOT number on their vehicle(s), effective July 1, 2006. The affected vehicles have a reported gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,001 pounds or greater and are "not" used for recreational or non-business purposes.

I am attaching a copy of the notice that has been mailed to all affected registrants. A copy of this notice, along with frequently asked questions (FAQ's) is available for viewing at the Department of Public Safety's website: <http://www.dps.state.al.us/public/highwaypatrol/mc/>. This link may be used to apply for a USDOT number.

Additionally, registrants may access the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's website at www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov to apply for a USDOT number. Although there is no filing fee to obtain a USDOT number, the registrant must provide a valid credit card number for use as an electronic signature for application. Once the on-line application process is completed, the USDOT number is assigned immediately and displayed on the screen.

If the registrant does not have a credit card to apply on-line, he/she must complete the application process manually. The MCS-150 application form can be mailed to a registrant by calling the FMCSA information line at 1-800-532-5660 or (703)286-4001.

Any questions relating to this DPS notice should be directed to the Department of Public Safety at (334) 242-4395 or you may visit their website, which is provided above.

Attachment:

NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN INTRASTATE USDOT NUMBER.

The Alabama Department of Revenue records indicate you have registered one or more vehicles that have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 lbs.

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that if the vehicle(s) you have registered meet(s) the definitions provided below for Intrastate Commerce and Commercial Motor Vehicle, you are now required to obtain an Intrastate USDOT number for your business and properly display that number on your commercial vehicle(s) along with the name of your business as required by 49 CFR Part 390.21 and adopted by Alabama State Code 32-9A-2.

It is important to note that this requirement will not apply to you if:

1. The vehicle in question is strictly for recreational, or non-business use, OR
2. You have already been issued a USDOT number.

A **COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE** is defined as any self propelled or towed vehicle used on the highways in commerce to transport passengers or property if the vehicle meets any of the following:

1. It has a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) of more than 10,000 lbs., whether operated in interstate or intrastate commerce.
2. It is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation.
3. It is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver,
4. It is used to transport hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placards under regulation of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

COMMERCE is defined as:

1. Interstate - Any trade, traffic, or transportation within the jurisdiction of the United States between a place in a state and a place outside of the state including a place outside the United States.
2. Intrastate - Any trade, traffic, or transportation beginning and ending within the boundaries of this state.

Since 1987, the Alabama Department of Public Safety has enforced the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations that apply to the operation of commercial motor vehicles. These regulations require commercial vehicles operated in interstate commerce to have a USDOT number. In adopting these regulations as state law, the State of Alabama now requires commercial vehicles operated in intrastate commerce to have and display an intrastate USDOT number.

DATE OF COMPLIANCE

YOU MUST HAVE YOUR NEW INTRASTATE USDOT NUMBER AND YOUR COMPANY NAME DISPLAYED ON YOUR COMMERCIAL VEHICLE(S) BY JULY 1, 2006.

How do you obtain an Intrastate USDOT number? Log on to our website at www.dps.state.al.us/mc and click on NEW! Alabama Intrastate DOT Numbers - FAQ where application can be made to obtain your Intrastate USDOT number. It will be extremely helpful for you to visit the FAQ section, which includes a sample application as well as detailed instructions on how to complete the paperwork. You may also contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration directly at 1-800-832-5660 to obtain your Intrastate USDOT number. There is no fee to apply for and obtain an Intrastate US DOT number.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO APPLY FOR, AND RECEIVE YOUR INTRASTATE USDOT NUMBER.

The applicable regulations and laws pertaining to this requirement may also be found on our website through links to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and the Code of Alabama. Many of your questions can be answered by accessing this website.

Further questions may be addressed directly by calling the Motor Carrier Safety Unit offices in Montgomery at 334-242-4395.

Colonel W.M. Coppage
Director
Alabama Department of Public Safety