

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Penalty Assessment Against	DOCKET TV-230080
JOB4MOVERS LLC,	ORDER 01
in the amount of \$400	GRANTING MITIGATION TO \$200

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 22, 2023, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) assessed a \$400 penalty (Penalty Assessment) against Job4Movers LLC (Job4Movers or Company) for violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-530. The Penalty Assessment includes a \$400 penalty for four violations of WAC 480-15-530 for operating a motor vehicle without having in effect the required minimum levels of financial responsibility coverage.
- 2 On March 1, 2023, the Company submitted a response to the Penalty Assessment, admitting the violations and requesting mitigation of the penalty. In its response, the Company requested that the Commission make a decision based on the information provided.
- 3 On March 22, 2023, Staff filed a response recommending the Commission grant the request for mitigation, in part. Staff recommends the penalty be reduced by half to \$200.
- 4 On March 31, 2023, the Company paid \$200 of the penalty.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 5 Washington law requires household goods companies to comply with federal safety requirements and undergo routine safety inspections. Violations discovered during safety inspections are subject to penalties of \$100 per violation.¹ In some cases, Commission requirements are so fundamental to safe operations that the Commission will issue

¹ See RCW 81.04.405.

penalties for first-time violations.² Violations defined by federal law as “critical,” which are indicative of a breakdown in a carrier’s management controls, meet this standard.³

6 The Commission considers several factors when entertaining a request for mitigation, including whether the company introduces new information that may not have been considered in setting the assessed penalty amount, or explains other circumstances that convince the Commission that a lesser penalty will be equally or more effective in ensuring the company’s compliance.⁴

7 The Penalty Assessment includes a \$400 penalty for four violations of WAC 480-15-530 because the Company operated a motor vehicle on four occasions between December 17 and December 22, 2022, without the minimum levels of insurance coverage required. In its response, the Company admits the violations and provided evidence that the violations have been corrected. The Company further states that it has implemented calendar reminders for future insurance renewal deadlines to prevent recurrence of this violation.

8 Staff recommends that the Commission reduce the penalty to \$200. Because the Company has taken action to correct the violations and ensure future compliance, we agree and reduce the penalty for this violation category by half and assess a total penalty of \$200 for four violations of WAC 480-15-530.

9 Because the Company has paid \$200 toward the penalty, it is now considered paid in full and this docket should be closed.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

10 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington, vested by statute with authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including household goods carriers, and has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this proceeding.

11 (2) Job4Movers is a household goods carrier subject to Commission regulation.

² Docket A-120061, Enforcement Policy for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ¶12, 15 (Jan. 7, 2013) (Enforcement Policy).

³ 49 C.F.R. § 385, Appendix B.

⁴ Enforcement Policy ¶19.

- 12 (3) Job4Movers violated WAC 480-15-530 when it operated a motor vehicle without having in effect the required minimum levels of financial responsibility coverage on four occasions.
- 13 (4) The Commission should penalize Job4Movers \$200 for four violations of WAC 480-15-530.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) Job4Movers LLC's request for mitigation of the \$400 penalty is GRANTED, in part, and the penalty is reduced to \$200. Because Job4Movers has already paid \$200 toward the penalty, this Docket is now closed.
- 15 The Secretary has been delegated authority to enter this order on behalf of the Commissioners under WAC 480-07-904(1)(h).

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 4, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an order delegated to the Executive Secretary for decision. As authorized in WAC 480-07-904(3), you must file any request for Commission review of this order no later than 14 days after the date the decision is posted on the Commission's website.