

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PENALTIES INCURRED AND DUE FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAWS AND RULES

PENALTY ASSESSMENT: TV-170038

PENALTY AMOUNT: \$6,100

MVP Moving and Storage LLC
19219 68th Avenue South #M111
Kent, WA 98032

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) believes that you have committed violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-15-570 Driver Safety Requirements, which adopts Title 49 C.F.R. Part 391 Qualifications of Drivers and Longer Combination Vehicle Driver Instructions, 49 C.F.R. Part 395 Hours of Service of Drivers, and WAC 480-15-555 Criminal Background Checks for Prospective Employees.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.04.405 allows penalties of one hundred dollars for each violation. In the case of an ongoing violation, every day's continuance is considered a separate and distinct violation.

On December 20, 2016, Commission Motor Carrier Investigator Sandi Yeomans conducted a compliance review of MVP Moving and Storage LLC (MVP Moving) and documented the following violations:

- **Fifty-five violations of CFR Part 391.45(a) – Using a driver not medically examined and certified.** MVP Moving allowed its employees to drive without having been medically examined and certified on 55 occasions during the six months prior to the compliance review. Employee Kiel Hinrichs drove ten times in July, fifteen times in August, and seven times in September, 2016. Grady Silook drove nine times in October, ten times in November, and twice in December, 2016. Sean Scholes and Andrew Davis drove one time each in October, 2016.
- **One violation of CFR 395.8(a) – Failing to require driver to make a record of duty status.** MVP Moving allowed its employees to drive 58 times during the six months prior to the compliance review without making record of duty status.
- **Five violations of WAC 480-15-555 – Failing to acquire criminal background checks on prospective employees.** MVP Moving failed to acquire criminal background checks on employees Drew Charlie, Keil Hinrichs, Grady Silook, Justin Zinn, and David Morrow.

The Commission considered the following factors in determining the appropriate penalties for these violations:

1. **How serious or harmful the violation is to the public.** The violations noted are serious and potentially harmful to the public. Companies that use drivers not medically examined and certified and that fail to require drivers to report their hours of service put the

traveling public at risk. An undetected medical condition or fatigued driver present serious safety concerns. An employee with an unknown criminal history raises concerns about the security of the customer's belongings, as well as their personal safety.

2. **Whether the violation is intentional.** Considerations include:
 - Whether the company ignored Commission staff's (Staff) previous technical assistance; and
 - Whether there is clear evidence through documentation or other means that shows the company knew of and failed to correct the violation.

In the company's April 2015 application for household goods moving authority, Aaron Sumil, operations manager and part-owner of MVP Moving, acknowledged his company's responsibility to understand and comply with applicable motor carrier safety rules. In addition, on July 29, 2015, Mr. Sumil attended household goods movers' compliance training provided by Commission staff. The company knew, or should have known about these requirements.

3. **Whether the company self-reported the violation.** The company did not self-report these violations.
4. **Whether the company was cooperative and responsive.** MVP Moving was not completely cooperative with the investigation. Staff had difficulty obtaining required records from the company.
5. **Whether the company promptly corrected the violations and remedied the impacts.** To date, staff is not aware of any efforts by the company to correct these violations.
6. **The number of violations.** For a company this size, the number of critical violations noted is significant.
7. **The number of customers affected.** The company traveled 34,000 miles and reported \$611,266 in gross revenue for 2015. A significant number of customers as well as members of the traveling public were likely affected by these safety violations.
8. **The likelihood of recurrence.** The Commission does not know if the company is likely to repeat these violations, however it does not appear that the company has taken any steps taken to correct the violations or prevent future occurrences.
9. **The company's past performance regarding compliance, violations, and penalties.** This is the company's first compliance review. The company has no history of previous violations or penalties.
10. **The company's existing compliance program.** MVP Moving has no formal compliance program.
11. **The size of the company.** MVP Moving is a small company, with four drivers and three commercial vehicles. In 2015 the company reported \$611,266 in gross revenue and 34,000 miles traveled.

These are first-time violations, but the Commission's Enforcement Policy provides that some Commission requirements are so fundamental to safe operations that the Commission will issue mandatory penalties for each occurrence of a first-time violation.¹ The Commission generally will assess penalties per type of violation, rather than per occurrence, for other first-time violations of critical regulations that do not meet the criteria for mandatory penalties. The Commission will assess penalties for any repeat violations of critical regulations found in future compliance investigations, including for each occurrence of a repeat violation.

The Commission has considered these factors and determined that it should penalize MVP Moving \$6,100 for violations of WAC 480-15-570 Driver Safety Requirements, which adopts Title 49 CFR Parts 391 and 395 and also WAC 480-15-555 Criminal Background Checks for Prospective Employees, calculated as follows:

- Fifty-five violations of CFR Part 391.45(a) – Using a driver not medically examined and certified. The Commission assesses a penalty of \$100 for each of these critical violations, for a total of \$5,500.
- One violation of CFR 395.8(a) – Failing to require driver to make a record of duty status. The Commission assesses a penalty of \$100 for one critical violation of this type.
- Five violations of WAC 480-15-555 – Failing to acquire criminal background checks on prospective employees. The Commission assesses a penalty of \$100 for each of five violations of this Commission rule, for a total of \$500.

This information, if proved at a hearing and not rebutted or explained, is sufficient to support the penalty assessment.

Your penalty is due and payable now. If you believe any or all of the violations did not occur, you may deny committing the violation(s) and contest the penalty assessment through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. The Commission will grant a request for hearing only if material issues of law or fact concerning the violation(s) require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. Any contest of the penalty assessment must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that contest. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the contest.

If there is a reason for any or all of the violations that you believe should excuse you from the penalty, you may ask for mitigation (reduction) of this penalty through evidence presented at a hearing or in writing. The Commission will grant a request for hearing only if material issues of law or fact require consideration of evidence and resolution in a hearing. Any request for mitigation must include a written statement of the reasons supporting that request. Failure to provide such a statement will result in denial of the request. See RCW 81.04.405.

If you properly present your request for a hearing and the Commission grants that request, the Commission will review the evidence supporting your dispute of the violation(s) or application

¹ Docket A-120061 – Enforcement Policy of the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission – Section V.

for mitigation in a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding before an administrative law judge. The administrative law judge will consider the evidence and will notify you of his or her decision.

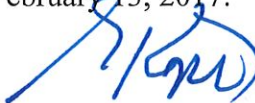
You must act within 15 days after receiving this notice to do one of the following:

- Pay the amount due.
- Contest the occurrence of the violations.
- Request mitigation to contest the amount of the penalty.

Please indicate your selection on the enclosed form and send it to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Post Office Box 47250, Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, **within FIFTEEN (15) days** after you receive this notice.

If you do not act within 15 days, the Commission may take additional enforcement action, including but not necessarily limited to suspending or revoking your certificate to provide regulated service, assessing additional penalties, or referring this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for collection.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 13, 2017.



GREGORY J. KOPTA
Administrative Law Judge

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PENALTY ASSESSMENT TV-170038

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete and sign this document, and send it to the Commission within 15 days after you receive the penalty assessment. Use additional paper if needed.

I have read and understand RCW 9A.72.020 (printed below), which states that making false statements under oath is a class B felony. I am over the age of 18, am competent to testify to the matters set forth below and I have personal knowledge of those matters. I hereby make, under oath, the following statements.

1. **Payment of penalty.** I admit that the violation occurred and enclose \$ _____ in payment of the penalty.
2. **Contest the violation.** I believe that the alleged violation did not occur for the reasons I describe below:

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

3. **Application for mitigation.** I admit the violation, but I believe that the penalty should be reduced for the reasons set out below:

a) I ask for a hearing to present evidence on the information I provide above to an administrative law judge for a decision

OR b) I ask for a Commission decision based solely on the information I provide above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing, including information I have presented on any attachments, is true and correct.

Dated: _____ [month/day/year], at _____ [city, state]

Name of Respondent (company) – please print

Signature of Applicant

RCW 9A.72.020:

“Perjury in the first degree. (1) A person is guilty of perjury in the first degree if in any official proceeding he makes a materially false statement which he knows to be false under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and the actor’s mistaken belief that his statement was not material is not a defense to a prosecution under this section. (3) Perjury in the first degree is a class B felony.”