



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

December 30, 2009

Jeff Johnson, General Manager of Direct Operations  
Hopelink  
14812 Main Street  
Bellevue, Washington 98007-5245

**Re: Request for Waiver of Marking Requirements – TN-091887**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Hopelink has petitioned the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) for a waiver of the vehicle marking requirements in WAC 480-31-110 – Identification of motor vehicle equipment.<sup>1</sup> Staff of the commission's Motor Carrier Safety section recently informed Hopelink of a change in marking requirements relating to intrastate US Dept. of Transportation (USDOT) numbers, which prompted Hopelink's request for exemption.

Hopelink holds a certificate from the commission as a private, non-profit transportation provider. The commission's rules relating to vehicle marking requirements for such providers state, in part:

**WAC 480-31-110 – Identification of motor vehicle equipment**

The markings must include the name of the provider as registered with the commission and the certificate number. Provided however, providers holding both intrastate and interstate authority may display either the U.S. Department of Transportation certificate number, commission certificate number, or both.

When identification of the provider would create an embarrassment to the persons with special transportation needs, the name of the provider may be omitted when authorized by letter from the secretary of the commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Hopelink referenced both WAC 480-31-100 and 480-31-110 in its request for waiver. The marking requirements are contained in WAC 480-31-110.

Jeff Johnson  
December 30, 2009  
Page 2

You informed our staff that Hopelink is not currently providing any for-hire transportation solely to special needs passengers under its certificate. Instead, Hopelink operates Dial-a-Ride Transit (DART), Medicaid transportation brokerage and interpreter services under a contract with King

County Metro. DART is available to the general public and operates as a deviated fixed route service.

The commission does not have jurisdiction over the transit services currently being provided by Hopelink for King County Metro. Therefore, the vehicles used to provide this service are not subject to the marking requirements in WAC 480-30-110 and no rule exemption is needed.

Be advised, however, that the Washington State Patrol now requires companies that operate commercial motor vehicles to display a USDOT number on the vehicles by January 2010. The commission cannot exempt a company from a State Patrol requirement. For more information, please refer to the enclosed information sheet and contact the State Patrol's Commercial Motor Vehicle division at (360) 596-3800.

If you have any questions related to your private, non-profit transportation provider certificate, please contact Betty Young, Compliance Specialist, Transportation Safety at 360-664-1202, or by e-mail at [byoung@utc.wa.gov](mailto:byoung@utc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



David W. Danner  
Executive Director

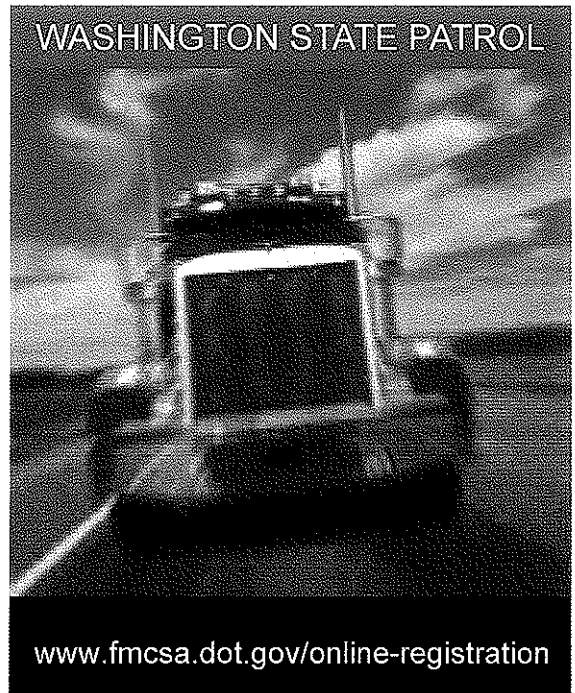
Enclosure

# New Intrastate DOT Number Requirements for Commercial Motor Vehicles

Important information for intrastate commercial motor vehicle owners

## What has changed?

Washington State law now requires commercial motor vehicles to have an intrastate DOT number. The number will be used to track the owner and the vehicle's safety fitness rating. Owners of any vehicle that meets the definition of a commercial motor vehicle must register through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).



- What is the definition of a commercial motor vehicle?**  
Any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles used in intrastate commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle meets any of the requirements listed.
- When is an intrastate DOT number required?**  
By June 30, 2009, or June 30, 2012, owners of intrastate commercial motor vehicles are required to have and display their DOT number on their vehicle. On the effective dates shown, the Department of Licensing will begin to require DOT numbers to register vehicles.
- Are farmers required to receive an intrastate DOT number?**  
Yes. Motor vehicles owned and operated by farmers in the intrastate transportation of their own farm, orchard, or dairy products, including livestock and plant or animal waste, from point of production to market or disposal are required to get an intrastate DOT number. However, they are exempt from safety audits and compliance reviews.

## Vehicles that will require a DOT number by June 30, 2009:

Commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 lbs. or more.



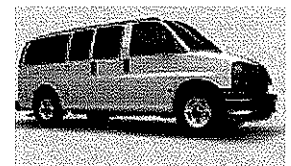
A combination of commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 lbs. or more inclusive of a towed unit with a GVWR of more than 10,000 lbs.



A commercial motor vehicle of any size used in the transportation of hazardous material.



Commercial motor vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.



A private school bus regardless of weight or size.



More vehicles on next page.

## Vehicles that will require a DOT number by June 30, 2012:

Commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 16,001 lbs. or more.



A combination of commercial motor vehicles with a GVWR of 16,001 lbs. or more inclusive of a towed unit.



### What is a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)?

For a single vehicle, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the vehicle.

For a combination of vehicles, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the towing unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units.

### Finding Your Vehicle's GVWR

#### Where is the GVWR found?

The GVWR can be found in several places:

- A label on the inside frame of the driver's door
- In the engine compartment
- In the owner's manual or sales brochure

For trailers, you may find a label towards the front of the trailer on the left side.

MFD. BY: _____
DATE OF MFR: MO _____ YR _____
INC. VEH. MFD. BY: _____
DATE OF INC. VEH. MFR: MO _____ YR _____
<b>GVWR: _____</b>
GAWR-FRONT: KG ( _____ LB)
WITH _____ KG ( _____ LB)
TIRES, _____
RIMS @ _____ KPA,
( _____ PSI) COLD
GAWR-REAR: KG ( _____ LB)
WITH _____ KG ( _____ LB)
TIRES, _____
RIMS @ _____ KPA,
( _____ PSI) COLD
THIS VEHICLE CONFORMS TO ALL APPLICABLE U.S.A. FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS IN EFFECT IN: MO _____ YR _____
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____
VEHICLE TYPE: _____

#### What if I cannot find my GVWR?

If you are unable to locate your GVWR, contact the Washington State Patrol at (360) 596-3810.

### How do I apply for a DOT number?

#### Apply Online

To learn more and apply online visit one of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration web sites:

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov/online-registration](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/online-registration)

[www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.safer.fmcsa.dot.gov)

#### Register By Mail

To register through the mail, download the MCS-150 form from one of the web sites above.

#### Need Help?

For assistance with web site or mail registration, call (360) 596-3810.

#### Vehicle Licensing

For vehicle titling and registration questions contact (360) 902-3770, option 5.

