

# FMCSA Registration

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## What is the difference between USDOT and MC Numbers?

This article on [Layover.com](#) states the following in the 6th paragraph:

*"The MC number indicates compliance with economic regulations by for-hire carriers, while use of the USDOT number was developed within the context of safety compliance."*

## FMCSA USDOT

Companies that operate commercial vehicles transporting passengers or hauling cargo in interstate commerce must be registered with the FMCSA and must have a USDOT Number. Also, commercial intrastate hazardous materials carriers who haul quantities requiring a safety permit must register for a USDOT Number. The USDOT Number serves as a unique identifier when collecting and monitoring a company's safety information acquired during audits, compliance reviews, crash investigations, and inspections.

See: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration-licensing/registration-USDOT.htm>

## FMCSA Operating Authority

FMCSA operating authority is also referred to as an "MC," "FF," or "MX" number, depending on the type of authority that is granted. **Unlike the USDOT Number** application process, a company may need to obtain multiple operating authorities to support its planned business operations. Operating Authority dictates the type of operation a company may run and the cargo it may carry.

See: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration-licensing/registration-OP.htm>

## Application of USDOT or Operational Authority data

FMCSA assigns a USDOT for carriers who move freight between states (Intrastate) as well as one or more Operational Authorities which designate what type of freight they are classified/authorized/registered to transport; Each operational Authority can be resolved to a single Carrier.

- FMCSA requires the Carrier to use their Name, Address, and potentially their USDOT (pending proposed rules) on an HOS Log.
- States require the Operational Authority to be provided for Fuel Tax purposes

This diagram illustrates this situation:



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## How can I find a companies USDOT or Operating Authority numbers?

Direct Link to Company Snapshot: <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/CompanySnapshot.aspx>

FMCSA SAFER main page: <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/>