

## Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)

UCR is the Unified Carrier Registration program. Created by federal legislation, it replaces the former system for registering the operators of vehicles engaged in interstate travel – the Single State Registration System (SSRS).

The UCR applies not only to for-hire motor carriers (as was the case under SSRS) but rather to all operators of Commercial Motor Vehicles. That would include all Commercial Motor Vehicle carriers carrying their own goods and products across state lines. It also includes carriers transporting interstate goods even if your vehicles do not leave the state.

The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Plan and Agreement are part of a Federally-mandated, State-administered program that went into effect September 10, 2007. Under this program, States collect fees from motor carriers, motor private carriers, freight forwarders, brokers and leasing companies, based on the number of qualifying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in their fleets.

Motor carriers, motor private carriers, freight forwarders, leasing companies and brokers based in the United States, Canada, Mexico, or any other country that operate in interstate or international commerce in the United States must register under the UCR program, through which, carriers pay UCR fees through their base states on behalf of all participating states. If you are an interstate carrier based in a non- participating state, you still must comply, and a base state will be assigned to you.

Trailers are not counted as vehicles. The number of commercial motor vehicles for purposes of determining carrier UCR fees is the number of self-propelled commercial motor vehicles the carrier reported in the most recent Form MCS-150 filed with the FMCSA. Carriers must update their MCS-150 record at least every two years.

All motor carriers, freight forwarders, brokers, and leasing companies that operate in interstate commerce\* are required to pay Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) fees on an annual basis.

Each participating state has authority to enforce registration compliance through roadside enforcement checks (and subsequent citations/fines) and through comprehensive business audits. Business audits allow participating states to ascertain, among other things, if companies indeed declared their proper fleet size regarding interstate business. Failure to do so carries severe penalties in certain states.

The registration information is being kept in a national database that can be accessed by law enforcement personnel as part of routine roadside checks.