



Do I need A DOT or MC Number For My trucking Business?

Entering the trucking industry, there are several requirements that you need to take care of as a motor carrier with the FMCSA before you can hit the road. The determination of what you need can largely depend on the type of operation you are running. This is referring to the type of work you will be taking on such as if you intend to transport passengers or strictly cargo, be it hazardous materials or acting as a power unit for private carriers.

MC and USDOT numbers are among those but many are not entirely sure what these are or the difference between them. Do you need both of them, or just one? Here we will be taking a closer look and putting some answers to these popular questions such as, what is a DOT number? And, What is an MC number? The big difference here is a determination between interstate and intrastate carrier operations.

What is a USDot Number?

So just what is this USDOT number for trucking we keep hearing about? Also known as a Department of Transportation (DOT) number, this is a number assigned to you by the FMCSA operating authority. All commercial motor vehicles that weigh more than a certain amount or carry specific amounts of paying passengers or paid freight are required DOT numbers. One major thing to consider is that a DOT number is needed no matter if your company operates within a single state or travels between multiple state lines.

What is an MC number?

Now that we have covered what a DOT number means for your trucking company, now it's time to jump ahead to what an MC number is. So, an MC number (Motor Carrier number) is a unique identifier assigned by the FMCSA to commercial motor vehicles that transport interstate cargo both inside their state and crossing over state lines as well.

Understanding the Differences Between the Two

If you are still a bit confused about which operating authority is right for you from the federal motor carrier safety administration, or if you need both we will focus on the differences between the two here. As we touched upon in the above definitions, one of the major differences between the two is the need in or outside of the confines of the home state that your company, or for-hire carriers operates in. A USDOT number is required both with interstate commerce and intrastate operations within the United States. However, if you are only operating within your state lines without crossing any borders, you can usually get away with only having a DOT. On the other hand, an MC number is only needed for interstate operations in which you will be crossing borders from one state to another.

DOT Number	MC Number	
Needed for interstate commerce	Yes	Yes
Needed for intrastate commerce	Yes	No
Needed to haul your property	Yes	No
Needed to haul your own construction equipment	Yes	No
Working for-hire to haul someone else's property	Yes	Yes

Interstate means to move freight from one State to another and would require a DOT and MC Number. As well as IRP and IFTA accounts.

Intrastate means to move freight within one State only. IFTA account could be required depending on which STATE you operate.

Who needs IFTA?

Here are the criteria that define whether or not you need an IFTA license:

- Are you based in a member jurisdiction? (The above-mentioned list of US states or Canadian provinces)
- Do you operate across two or more member jurisdictions?
- Do you operate a qualified motor vehicle?

If your answer is yes, then you need an IFTA license.