

QUICK GUIDE

USDOT and Motor Carrier (MC) Number

USDOT NUMBER AND MOTOR CARRIER (MC) NUMBER

- The USDOT Number is issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and is used to track safety information for commercial motor carriers.
- It is required for companies that operate commercial vehicles transporting passengers or hauling cargo in interstate commerce.
- The Motor Carrier (MC) Number is also issued by the FMCSA and grants the authority to transport regulated commodities across state lines for hire.
- The MC Number is essential for for-hire Haulers, freight forwarders, and brokers engaging in interstate commerce.
- The USDOT Number focuses on safety and compliance, while the MC Number establishes operating authority.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN (IRP) AND TEMPORARY TRIP PERMITS

- The IRP is a cooperative agreement among the U.S., Canada, and the District of Columbia that facilitates the collection and distribution of commercial vehicle registration fees.
- It allows commercial Haulers to operate across multiple jurisdictions with a single registration plate and cab card.
- Fees are allocated based on the number of miles traveled in each jurisdiction.
- Temporary trip permits allow out-of-state Haulers who are not registered under IRP to operate legally in another jurisdiction for a short period (usually 72 hours to 30 days).
- These permits are useful for occasional or short-term operations without needing full IRP registration

COMPARISON: USDOT/MC NUMBERS VS. IRP

ASPECT	USDOT/MC Numbers	IRP & Temporary Trip Permits
Primary Focus	Federal safety tracking and operating authority	Multijurisdictional vehicle registration & fee apportionment
Issuing Authority	FMCSA (U.S. Department of Transportation)	Participating states/provinces under IRP agreement
Scope of Use	Establishes legal authority to haul freight (MC) and monitors safety (USDOT)	Allows single registration plate for operations across borders
Fee Structure	No mileage-based fees; flat registration/filing fees for USDOT/MC	Fees apportioned based on miles in each jurisdiction
Renewal Cycles	Biennial (USDOT) / as-needed filings (MC)	Annual / As-Needed renewal with updated mileage reports

CAN A TEMPORARY TRIP PERMIT REPLACE A MOTOR CARRIER NUMBER?

- No, a temporary trip permit does not replace the need for a Motor Carrier (MC) Number.
- Temporary trip permits only address vehicle registration requirements for limited-time travel across jurisdictions.
- If a Hauler is performing for hire work outside of its registered state, the Hauler still requires an MC Number to operate legally.
- Haulers must comply with both registration (IRP or permits) and operational authority (USDOT/MC) requirements.

WHAT DOES THE TRUX PLATFORM DO?

- The Trux Platform validates a Hauler’s USDOT number with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. During this validation process, if a Hauler has a Motor Carrier Number, then this will be retrieved and inputted into the Trux Platform for use.
- The Trux Platform performs a two stage validation: Stage 1 – At the time work is being assigned; and Stage 2 – At the time of Punch In. The two stage validation is to ensure that the Hauler has the right credential at the time of assignment, and at the time of punch-in.
- The validation logic used by Trux for Stage 1 and 2.

Validation Rule	Is the hauler operating in a State that uses the USDOT Number?	Is the hauler performing intrastate work?	Logic Result	US DOT Number Needed?	Motor Carrier Number Needed?
Scenario #1	Yes	Yes	Intrastate Work	Yes	No
Scenario #2	Yes	No	Interstate Work	Yes	Yes
Scenario #3	No	Yes	Intrastate Work	Not Applicable	No
Scenario #4	No	No	Interstate Work	Yes	Yes

- Trux validates all Haulers’ USDOT Numbers weekly on a Sunday.
- Validation is based on the Hauler’s registered state. Any work conducted outside of the Hauler’s registered state is considered Interstate work.
- For further information on USDOT & Motor Carrier Number, the Trux Knowledge Base article can be found [here](#).
- States that do not use the USDOT Number as part of their Operating Authority are AR, IL, LA, MS, NH, NM, ND, RI, SD, TN, VT, and VA.
- For IRP, The Trux Platform does not validate or store Cab Cards or Temporary Permits on the Trux Platform.