

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

Oct. 27, 2003

## New Registration Requirements for Alabama Interstate Motor Carriers Aimed at Improving Motor Carrier Safety

Montgomery, Ala.—Soon motor carriers or commercial vehicle owners registering a vehicle in Alabama under the International Registration Plan (IRP) will be required to provide their U.S. Department of Transportation Numbers (US DOT #) and their federal Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN) to the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) before an IRP license plate can be issued or before a registration can be renewed under new IRP registration procedures adopted by the ADOR.

Beginning Nov. 1, 2003, the ADOR will join the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in a federal-state commercial vehicle safety verification program called “PRISM”—Performance and Registration Information Systems Management—aimed at improving commercial vehicle safety and reducing commercial vehicle accidents.

Using database information compiled by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, ADOR personnel will cross-reference a carrier’s US DOT Number and Taxpayer Identification Number with listings of carriers identified by the FMCSA as having poor safety compliance records. Those motor carriers that have been prohibited from operating in interstate commerce by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration may be denied registration by the ADOR.

“In the past, the department had no immediate way of knowing whether a particular carrier had been prohibited from operating by the FMCSA. PRISM gives us that capability. The use of registration sanctions provides a powerful incentive for unsafe carriers to improve their safety performance,” said State Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle.

—MORE—

New Registration Requirements...  
Add One  
Oct. 27, 2003

Also lending its support to ADOR's new IRP registration procedures is the Alabama Trucking Association.

"Members of the Alabama Trucking Association are all very concerned about highway safety and join with the Alabama Department of Revenue in requiring certain information to obtain registration," said Alabama Trucking Association Director of Safety and Member Services Gene Vonderau. "If a carrier is operating in an unsafe manner, that carrier has no business on the highways of Alabama or any other state. The PRISM program is a major step in improving carrier safety."

Beginning **Nov. 1, 2003**, motor carriers or commercial vehicle owners registering a commercial vehicle in Alabama for the **first** time under the International Registration Plan (IRP) will be required to provide the following information (in addition to other documents evidencing title of the vehicle and payment of property taxes, applicable sales and use taxes, federal heavy vehicle use taxes, etc.) to the ADOR before a commercial vehicle is registered:

- Documentation as to who is responsible for the safety fitness of the fleet(s) or vehicle(s) being registered.
- An updated motor carrier information report, and/or updated safety certification, as required.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation Number (USDOT#) of the motor carrier and of the fleet or vehicle(s), if different from the motor carrier.
- The Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the motor carrier and of the owner(s) of the fleet or vehicle(s) being registered.

**Beginning Jan. 1, 2004, these requirements will apply to all motor carriers or vehicle owner(s) who will be renewing the registrations of commercial vehicles in Alabama under the International Registration Plan (IRP).**

Participation in the PRISM program will allow the Alabama Department of Revenue to deny, suspend, or revoke IRP registrations when motor carriers have been

New Registration Requirements...  
Add Two  
Oct. 27, 2003

prohibited from operating by a federal and/or state agency responsible for motor carrier safety. Currently, 26 states, including Alabama, participate in the PRISM program.

For more information concerning registration requirements under the IRP, contact the ADOR Motor Vehicle Division at (334) 242-9000 or visit the department's Web site at [www.ador.state.al.us](http://www.ador.state.al.us).

For more information concerning the PRISM program, visit the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Web site at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

-30-

---

**Media contact for more information:** ADOR Media Affairs Office: Carla A. Snellgrove or Carolyn Blackstock: (334) 242-1390; FAX: (334) 242-0550  
[www.ador.state.al.us](http://www.ador.state.al.us)