INFORMATION BULLETIN

November 1, 2016

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NUMBERS FOR MOTOR CARRIERS IN CALIFORNIA

As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 838 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Statutes of 2016), Section 34507.5 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) has been amended to require all motor carriers in California, subject to the California Carrier Identification (CA) number requirements, to obtain a United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) number prior to receiving a CA number. The statute prohibits the California Highway Patrol (CHP) from assigning a CA number unless the application includes the US DOT number assigned to and properly identifying the motor carrier. During the CA number application verification process, when it is determined the US DOT number identifies a different motor carrier entity than identified on the CA number application, assignment of the CA number will be delayed.

Each motor carrier required to obtain a US DOT number must ensure all data contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Motor Carrier Management Information System associated with the US DOT number is true and accurate. The data must be updated at least one time every two years, and within 15 days of any change or cessation of regulated activity by the motor carrier.

Section 34507.5 CVC requires motor carriers to display the CA number of the motor carrier under whose authority or permit the vehicle is operated, in a color that sharply contrasts the background color, and in a manner which renders it legible from 50 feet during daylight hours. The section also permits, but does not require, the display of a US DOT number in compliance with requirements contained in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 390.21, in lieu of a CA number. A US DOT number may be obtained by visiting the FMCSA Web site at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration.

Questions concerning this Information Bulletin may be directed to Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

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