

# VEHICLE & MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

## NEWSLETTER

### Dates to Remember



**International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)  
IFTA First quarter  
2020 tax return filing and payment  
Deadline is extended to Monday, June 1  
Only for first quarter 2020**

**NEW FOR 2020 IFTA DECALS:**

Iowa to enforce IFTA decal accountability. The number on the decal is carrier specific and registered as such. Decals must be accounted for and **only** used on a vehicle registered for the Iowa IFTA carrier it was issued to.

**April 2020**

**April 30:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**May 2020**

**May 25:** Iowa DOT offices are closed for Memorial day.

No movements of oversized loads will be permitted in Iowa from **Noon Friday, May 22 until 30 minutes prior to sunrise Tuesday, May 26.**

**May 31:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**June 2020**

**June 1:** IFTA First Quarter tax return filing & payment deadline. **ONLY for first quarter 2020.**

**June 30:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**July 2020**

**July 1:** Enforcement begins for UCR.

**July 2020 cont'd**

**July 3:** Iowa DOT offices are closed for Independence holiday.

No movements of oversized loads will be permitted in Iowa from **Noon Friday, July 3 until 30 minutes prior to sunrise Monday, July 6.**

**July 31:** Second quarter IFTA tax return filing and payment deadline.

IRP renewal filing deadline.

**August 2020**

**Aug 31:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**September 2020**

**Sept. 7:** Iowa DOT offices are closed for Labor Day.

No movements of oversized loads will be permitted in Iowa from **Noon Friday, September 4 to 30 minutes prior to sunrise on Tuesday, September 8.**

**Sept. 30:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**October 2020**

**Oct. 31:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

**November 2020**

**Nov. 2:** Third Quarter IFTA Tax return filing & payment deadline.

**Nov. 11:** Iowa DOT office are closed for Veterans Day.

**Nov. 30:** IRP renewal filing deadline.

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#### IFTA Quarterly Return Filing/Payment Deadline Dates

- **Q1 - April 30**  
**\*Extended to June 1**
- **Q2 - July 31**
- **Q3 - October 31**
- **Q4 - January 31**

#### 2020 UCR Registration

The 2020 UCR registration period is open.

**Enforcement date for 2020 registration is July 1, 2020.**

To register, go to [ucr.gov](http://ucr.gov).

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Apportion Plate Changes

Beginning with the release of the new IRP & IFTA system for the 2021 registration year, Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services (VMCS) will no longer issue apportioned plates that require an annual decal, and will only issue permanent apportioned plates that do not require decals. This change is being made in response to a ballot measure passed by the members of the International Registration Plan (IRP) requiring jurisdictions to accept an electronic image of a cab card.

By issuing only permanent plates that do not require an annual sticker, you, the customer, will no longer need to wait for credentials to arrive in the mail, unless a new plate, is being issued or you request the credentials be printed and mailed. You will also have the ability to reprint credentials from the system, instead of having to order duplicates and waiting for the new credentials to arrive in the mail.

Beginning immediately VMCS is issuing permanent plates to all new carriers and all new vehicles added to existing fleets. VMCS is also encouraging all existing carriers with nonpermanent plates to replace them with permanent plates during renewal time. Once payment and all necessary documents are received, the credentials will be emailed or faxed, unless a new plate is being issued.

All customers who renew at the time of the release or after and are still in possession of annual plates at their 2021 renewal period will automatically be converted to permanent plates by issuing a permanent decal to cover the space where the annual sticker would normally be placed. Customers will also have the option of requesting a new plate.

For more information on this, you can visit our website at: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers>

## Email addresses and the new ClearFleet System

- Everyone who currently has an IFTA and/or IRP account will **need** to have a valid email address. All new IFTA, IRP and Transit accounts will also need to have a valid email address. The new system will not allow the same email address on multiple accounts, and will send a confirmation email to validate the email that has been entered.

### What if I don't have an email address?

- If you do not have a valid email address, you will need to create one.

## Launch of the new IRP & IFTA System

### DELAYED

Due to COVID-19, the release of the new system has been delayed until later this year. As we get closer to the launch date we will reach out with training materials and dates of webinars that carriers and agents can participate in to learn more about the new system.

## There's a new IRP & IFTA system coming to Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services Bureau

Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services (VMCS) is getting a new IRP & IFTA processing system, and will also include Transit quarterly fuel tax reporting.

The new system, ClearFleet, will be hosted by Iteris. Iteris has more than two decades of experience assisting regional, state and national agencies plan, design, deploy, integrate and operate advanced transportation technologies in a manner that facilitates motor carrier safety. Iteris offers additional opportunities to scale the solution to meet Iowa DOT's long-term needs.

ClearFleet's anticipated go live date for all external customers is **2020**. VMCS anticipates holding training sessions prior to the go live date, but currently does not have any times set.

The Iowa DOT is excited to be working with Iteris on this new system, and has worked hard to make it user friendly for everyone who processes IFTA, IRP and Transit online.

For updates, please visit our website at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers>.

**ClearFleet's anticipated go live date is 2020**

## Reminders

### IRP credential information and reporting periods

1. If you have permanent or annual plates, they do not need to be returned during renewal time unless you are storing your unit.
  2. If you are deleting a unit anytime during the year other than at renewal time, you **must** return the annual and permanent plates and delete the vehicle(s). To apply for a refund of Iowa fees paid, complete a claim for refund form, (441021) and send it in with the plate.
  3. If you are deleting a unit during your renewal month, but have already paid your renewal, you will need to delete that unit in the current year, and return both the plate and the cab card for a refund.
  4. Display 2020 credentials on/before your current credentials expire. If the 2020 credentials are displayed prior to your current credentials expiring, both the 2019 and 2020 cab cards must be carried in the vehicle.
  5. **Distance reporting period through August 31, 2020 is July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.**
  6. **Distance reporting period beginning September 1, 2020 is July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.**
  7. 2290 reporting period: **July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 or July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.**
    - **If the October renewal is submitted October 1 or after, you **must** use the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 2290**
- \*For 2290 filing requirements & information visit [IRS Trucking Tax Center](#)*
8. IFTA tax return filing: To avoid penalty and interest, the tax return and payment must be filed and paid in full on or before the IFTA quarterly return filing deadline.

## Motor Carrier Responsible for Safety (MCRS)

All IRP commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) registered within a Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) state must have a MCRS assigned to it.

If you indicated the MCRS is not going to change during the registration period, the MCRS information will be printed on the cab card.

**If the MCRS changes during the registration period or due to a Federal Out of Service Order, you must make the change with our office immediately, on the vehicle(s) affected, and provide a current lease agreement between you and the company with whom you are leasing to receive updated credentials before operating.**

Updates are critical to keep information current to allow carriers to operate without interruption.

If you indicated the MCRS is going to change during the registration period, the MCRS information will not be placed on the cab card. This means the driver must have in his or her possession appropriate documentation (a current cab card, lease agreement, and shipping document) to present if stopped at roadside.

## Weight Limits for Transporting Raw Forest Products Effective July 1, 2019

- Allows permitted divisible loads of raw forest products with a maximum of no more than 20,000 lbs per axle.
- Permitted vehicles transporting raw forest products among the list of vehicles that may have at least one tandem axle on the truck tractor and one tandem axle on the trailer that does not exceed 46,000 lbs, provided each tandem axle has at least four tires and all other axles do not exceed the limits of 20,000 lbs per single axle.
- Deems containerized shipments of raw forest products as indivisible loads. This is significant because Ch. 321E only allows indivisible loads to be permitted for weights above 80,000 lbs.
- Establishes an annual overweight permit fee of \$175 for raw forest products.
- Authorizes Iowa DOT to issue annual overweight permits for vehicles transporting divisible loads of raw forest projects from fields to storage, processing, or to other commercial facilities. Also permits issued are valid on routes that are not on primary systems if the local authority that has jurisdiction over the route has approved the route for the permit.

# COVID-19 UPDATES & INFORMATION

## Are there changes to how Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services is conducting business during COVID-19?

Yes, Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services has added chat and made the following changes:

### Counter services:

- Closed on Monday
- Restricted to Oversize/Overweight **by appointment only**, although we encourage you to submit these online at <https://iowa.gotpermits.com/iaps/login.asp>
- You can drop off any work in the drop box outside the front office, this will be checked throughout the day every day and processed in the order received

### Contacting our office:

- Email at [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us)
- Chat at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers> and click on the red "Bubble" on the bottom left side of the page
- Phone 515-237-3268, although we encourage you to use either email or chat due to a limited number of staff in the office

### Submitting Transactions:

- Oversize/Overweight Trip Permits can be submitted online at <https://iowa.gotpermits.com/iaps/login.asp>
- Most IRP transactions can be submitted online at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/IFTA-IRP-filing>
- Most IFTA transactions can be submitted online at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/IFTA-IRP-filing>
- For any IRP and IFTA transactions that cannot be submitted online, you can email them to [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us) or fax them to 515-237-3225

## Is there a new emergency declaration permit?

Yes, the new emergency declaration permits will be good for 30 days or the end of the declaration, whichever comes first.

- **BEmergency 01** - This permit is valid for the movement of certain divisible loads on the interstate highway system in Iowa.
- **BEmergency 02** - Vehicles operating under this permit shall not exceed a maximum of 90,000 pounds gross weight, shall not exceed the maximum axle weight determined under the non-primary highway maximum gross weight table in Iowa Code 321.463(6)(b) by more than 12.5%, and shall not exceed the legal maximum axle weight of 20,000 pounds.
- **BEmergency 03** - This permit is valid for the following oversize/overweight loads: vaccines, antivirals, prescription drugs, protective equipment, other necessary medical assets, food, medical supplies, cleaning products, other household goods, agricultural supplies and commodities (including, but not limited to, livestock, raw milk, and crop supplies), or any other goods and supplies necessary to respond to this public health disaster and its economic effects.
- **BEmergency 04** - This permit shall be valid for the duration of the Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency, which expires on April 30, 2020.

## How are weight limits changing for those responding to the disaster?

On non-interstate roads only, motor carriers hauling vaccines, antivirals, prescription drugs, protective equipment, other necessary medical assets, food, medical supplies, cleaning products, other household goods, agricultural supplies and commodities (including, but not limited to, livestock, raw milk, and crop supplies), or any other goods and supplies necessary to respond to this public health disaster and its economic effects may exceed the weights listed in Iowa Code 321.463 by 12.5% without a permit, so long as they don't exceed 20,000 pounds on an individual axle, and their total weight does not exceed 90,000 pounds. Trucks are still required to obey posted bridge restrictions.

On interstate roads only, trucks hauling divisible loads of the same materials listed above may operate on the interstate with a gross weight over 80,000 pounds (up to 90,000 pounds with single axle weight less than 20,000 pounds) when operating under a special emergency Interstate Declaration permit issued by Iowa DOT. Permits will be issued for free and only for loads related to the public health disaster. Permits can be obtained by visiting our website at: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/Oversize-Overweight-Trip-permits>.

## IFTA first quarter tax return filing deadline extended

If you currently hold an IFTA license, you are still required to file a 1st quarter tax return (January through March) but the filing deadline has been extended until June 1, 2020. If you file and pay your return on or before June 1, 2020, you will not be charged with interest or assessed a late penalty.

## Am I required to obtain International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) licensing if I am providing disaster relief?

For commercial vehicles travelling in and through the state of Iowa for the purpose of providing direct COVID-19 assistance to all counties of the state, the requirement to obtain IFTA licensing has been waived until the declared disaster has ended, to the extent the vehicle is not already licensed under IFTA.

## If my IRP credentials expired during this time what should I do?

Your previous IRP credentials, even if expired will remain valid and you will not be assessed any late fees until the declared disaster has ended.

# COVID-19 UPDATES & INFORMATION cont'd

## Am I required to register my vehicle under the International Registration Plan (IRP) if I am providing disaster relief?

For commercial vehicles travelling in and through the state of Iowa the requirement to register your vehicle under IRP, providing the vehicle is not already registered under IRP, as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, or a province of Canada has been waived until the declared disaster has ended. You will not be assessed late penalties during the disaster period.

## Am I required to obtain a trip permit for reasons of International Registration Plan (IRP) if I am providing disaster relief?

For commercial vehicles travelling in and through the state of Iowa for the purpose of providing direct COVID-19 assistance to all counties of the state, you are not required to obtain a trip permit for IRP reasons until the declared disaster has ended.

## Has the UCR enforcement date changed?

Yes, the enforcement date is now July 1, 2020 for the 2020 UCR registration.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & UPDATES:** Get the latest transportation-related COVID-19 updates and information for Motor Carriers at <https://iowadot.gov/covid-19/Public-Response#motorcarriers>

## Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Updates

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration hereby declares that a nationwide emergency continues to exist that warrants extension and expansion of Emergency Declaration No. 2020-002 issued on March 13, 2020, and expanded on March 26, 2020, and continuing the exemption granted from Parts 390 through 399 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for the fifty States and the District of Columbia. This Declaration extends the exemption through May 15, 2020, and further expands the relief expressly to cover liquefied gases to be used in refrigeration or cooling systems.

**Coming soon:** FMCSA will be consolidating the USDOT, MC & MX PINs into one USDOT PIN. This effort will eliminate the MC and MX PINs. FMCSA systems will be accessed using your USDOT PIN only.

If you do not have your USDOT PIN or need to reset it, please visit the FMCSA website at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/request-pin-number>.

## Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services Contact Information

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 10382, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382

**Physical Address:** 6310 SE Convenience Blvd., Ankeny, Iowa 50021 (exit 89 on Interstate 35)

**Customer Service Hours:** Due to COVID-19 counter service is closed for everything except OS/OW appointments until further notice.

**ALL new registrant and reinstatement transaction paperwork must be submitted by mail, fax, email, or dropping it off for review and processing. These transactions will no longer be processed at the counter.**

**Email:** [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us)

**Website:** <https://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers>

**Motor Carrier Audits** ..... 515-239-1030  
..... 515-239-1874 Fax

For questions regarding oversize/overweight, fuel and trip permits, IFTA, IRP, UCR, travel authority, and commercial vehicle titles, visit our website at [iowadot.gov](https://www.iowadot.gov). If your questions are not answered you may email us at [omcs@iowadot.us](mailto:omcs@iowadot.us) or call 515-237-3268.

<https://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers> or <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/oversize-overweight-trip-permits>.

**OS/OW, fuel & trip permits** ..... 515-237-3264

**Fuel and trip permits, and oversize/overweight permits**..... 515-237-3257 Fax

**IFTA, IRP, UCR, TNC, travel authority and commercial vehicle titles** ..... 515-237-3268

**IFTA fuel tax, IRP registration, UCR, TNC'S, travel authority, and commercial vehicle titles** ..... 515-237-3225 Fax