

VEHICLE & MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

Dates to Remember



**International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)
IFTA Second quarter
2019 tax return filing and payment
deadline is Wednesday, July 31, 2019**

Effective Immediately:

If you are deleting any units on your renewal regardless of plate type (permanent or annual), **you do not need to return the plates.** However, if plates are not destroyed, they will be added back on to your fleet and you will be responsible for all fees assessed at that time.

July 2019

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

IRP renewal filing deadline.

August 2019

August 31: IRP renewal filing deadline.

September 2019

September 2: Iowa DOT offices are closed for Labor Day Holiday

No movements of oversize loads will be permitted in Iowa from Noon Friday, Aug. 30, until 30 minutes prior to sunrise Tuesday, Sept. 3.

September 30: IRP renewal filing deadline.

October 2019

October 31: Third quarter IFTA tax return filing and payment deadline.

IRP renewal filing deadline.

November 2019

November 11: Iowa DOT offices are closed for Veterans Day Holiday.

November 28 & 29: Iowa DOT offices are closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

November 30: IRP renewal filing deadline.

December 2019

December 1: Iowa will begin issuing permanent plates to all carriers with nonpermanent plates and whose renewal month is January.

December 25: Iowa DOT offices are closed for Christmas Holiday.

December 31: IRP renewal filing deadline.

December 31: IRP renewal filing deadline.

2019 IFTA decals expire. 2020 IFTA renewal must be submitted or received in our office for processing.

January 2020

January 1: Iowa DOT offices are closed for New Years Holiday.

Iowa DOT will issue permanent plates to **all** carriers with nonperm plates.

January 31: Fourth quarter IFTA tax return filing and payment deadline.

IRP renewal filing deadline.

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IA DOT Contact Information

IFTA Quarterly Return Filing/Payment Deadline Dates

- | |
|-------------------|
| • Q1 - April 1 |
| • Q2 - July 31 |
| • Q3 - October 31 |
| • Q4 - January 31 |

AUDIT TIP:

Don't zero out miles/gallons or you risk a referral for audit review.

WHAT'S NEW?

Apportion Plate Changes

Beginning with 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 you are receiving a new plate, 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 will issue permanent plates to all new carriers and all new vehicles added to existing fleets. VMCS will also encourage all existing carriers with nonpermanent plates to begin replacing 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 are still in possession of annual plates at their 2021 renewal period will be automatically converted to permanent plates by issuing a permanent decal to cover the space where the annual sticker would normally be placed. Customers would 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>

Changes in Service hours

Effective July 1, 2019 VMCS customer service availability began a half hour later. The scheduled hours of service to the public and our partners now begins at 8:30 am and ends at 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. This includes counter service, phone service, and emails.

Electronic Credentials

Effective January 1, 2019, motor carriers have the option to carry IRP cab cards and IFTA licenses as an electronic image. Carriers are no longer required to carry a paper IRP cab card or IFTA license. All United States and territories and Canadian provinces and territories will be required to accept electronic images of IRP cab cards and IFTA licenses. During a roadside inspection, credentials may be shown as an electronic image on a computer, tablet or smart phone, or as a paper copy. Whatever the format, the document must be accurate, accessible, and readable. Carriers should also store electronic documents as a PDF to ensure access to documentation while in areas without cell service or Wi-Fi.

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

- Allows permitted divisible loads of lumber 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.
- The single statewide permitting system requires the DOT to develop a single state wide permitting system for vehicles of excess size and weight operated on local and state highways.

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 your renewal time, you **must** return the annual and permanent plates, 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, but you will need to 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, 2018 is July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.**
6. **Distance reporting period beginning September 1, 2019 is July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.**
7. 2290 reporting period: **July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 or July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.**
 - **If the October renewal is submitted October 1 or after, you **must** use the July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 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, the changes must be made with our office **within 10 days**, on the vehicle(s) affected, and a current lease agreement provided.

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.

If the MCRS changes are due to a federal out of service order, you must make the change with our office immediately, and provide a current lease agreement between you and the company with whom you are leasing, and receive your updated credentials before operating.

Auto-upload for IFTA tax returns:

The IFTA system allows you to upload individual or multiple tax returns at one time via an imported-text file feature. If you keep a separate spreadsheet or program to track your miles and gallons for multiple units, this feature will benefit you. As a process agent, imagine filing 500 tax returns in a matter of seconds. Save time – save money.

For details and assistance, contact Vehicle and Motor Carrier Services by emailing omcs@iowadot.us or calling 515-237-3268.

ePay the easy way!

ePay is here! The Iowa DOT is excited to announce that IFTA and IRP payments are now being accepted online using ePay. When you file an IRP transaction and/or IFTA transaction online, you can also pay online using ePay.

ePay is easy, quick, and convenient. It is a way to pay online using a credit card, debit card, or checking account with a minimal transaction fee of \$1.50 per transaction.

Real ID

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, if you fly commercially you'll either need a REAL ID license or ID or another acceptable identity document, or you're going to be subject to additional screening and potential delay. A REAL ID card is marked with a white star in a gold circle in the upper right corner.

Don't panic! we're here to help you decide if a REAL ID license or ID is right for you.

What is the REAL ID act?

REAL ID is a federal act focussing on anti-terrorism, fraud protection, and security specific to the production of driver's licenses and ID cards that control access to:

- Federal facilities requiring identification to enter.
- Federally regulated commercial aircraft.
- Nuclear power facilities.

[Find out more about the REAL ID Act](#)

Do I need a REAL ID license or ID?

REAL ID **does not**:

- Invalidate your state issued driver's license or ID card.
- Affect using a driver's license or ID card for usual purposes, such as driving, renting a vehicle, writing a check, purchasing alcohol or tobacco, or entering a casino.

You may not need a REAL ID compliant license or ID card if you:

- Do not fly or do not plan to enter certain federal facilities, such as military bases and nuclear power plants.
- Have an acceptable alternative to a state-issued REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card, such as a valid U.S. passport, or military ID.

How do I get a REAL ID-Compliant card?

- If your license or ID expires before Oct. 1, 2020, you can just wait until it's time to renew and do it then at no additional charge. If your license or ID expires on or after Oct. 1, 2020, you can go into one of our driver license service centers before then and get a replacement license or ID.
- To meet the federal requirements, you will have to bring documents that prove your identity and date of birth, social security number, and iowa residence and residential address.
- There are no tests or driving requirements to get a REAL ID license.
- You only need to go through the REAL ID process one time.

[Create your customized list of the documents you will need to bring with you.](#)

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 Beginning July 1, 2019: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Effective January 1, 2019 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

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. If your questions are not answered you may email us at 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, IFTA, IRP, UCR, TNC, travel authority and commercial vehicle titles:515-237-3268

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

IFTA fuel tax, IRP registration, UCR, TNC'S, travel authority, and commercial vehicle titles515-237-3225 Fax