



DOT Announces New Registration System

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Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the rollout of a new registration system for truck drivers, school bus operators, and other motor carriers. This state-of-the-art tool — called Motus: the U.S. DOT Registration System — replaces a decades-old network of loosely connected applications that the agency said was subject to fraud, waste, and abuse.

DOT said applicants for a federal trucking registration number could once hide their identities, game the system, and threaten American families. There are thousands of suspicious numbers linked to fraudulent carriers.

With Motus in place, the Department will now use biometrics and modern data analytics to verify that those who apply for these numbers are:

1. Who they say they are
2. The businesses they represent are legitimate, legal entities.

“Dangerous foreign drivers and the shell companies who employ them have been taking advantage of this lax, decrepit federal registration system for years,” said Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy. The new registration system will help “stop fraud dead in its tracks and strengthen oversight on shady carriers. And for good, honest drivers who follow the rules — our new system will improve customer service, enhance reliability, and cut down on red tape.”

For decades, commercial trucking in America has been overseen by a fractured, legacy IT system. This outdated registration system operates on a low-barrier, minimal-validation framework – making it alarmingly simple for fraudsters to register as motor carriers. All they needed was an email, name, and physical address.

Trucking registration and compliance data are spread across several disconnected applications. This scattering of data has created data sprawl, information silos, and oversight gaps. This lets bad drivers and fraudulent companies escape safety rules and federal scrutiny.

The result? These high-risk "chameleon" and reincarnated carriers are unleashing unsafe trucks onto American roadways and exposing the public to preventable, catastrophic risks.

Motus is designed to end this technological fragmentation by introducing the first unified registration platform in the agency's history. This modernized platform collapses the agency's legacy infrastructure into a single, secure digital dashboard, permanently eliminating the data silos that illicit operators once exploited.

“For bad actors,” DOT said, “the days of cycling registration numbers are over. By integrating mandatory identity verification protocols (utilizing government-issued IDs and digital facial scans) alongside robust third-party business validation, Motus effectively suffocates fraud at the point of registration.”

For legitimate fleets, freight brokers, and forwarders, Motus eliminates administrative friction by streamlining the entire registration lifecycle, from initial filing to biennial updates, into a mobile-friendly, cohesive user experience.

This shift makes regulatory compliance intuitive for honest motor carriers, while permanently shutting down the loopholes that allowed chameleon and reincarnated carriers to compromise public safety.

Motus also includes several major enhancements designed to improve service, strengthen oversight, and support industry compliance:

- Enhanced Fraud Prevention and Identity Verification- Improved validation and verification tools help prevent bad actors from exploiting the registration process or evading enforcement.
- Streamlined User Experience- Applicants and registrants can complete registration activities through a simplified online process designed to reduce confusion, improve transparency, and shorten processing times.
- Improved Data Quality and System Reliability- Modernized infrastructure improves the accuracy, consistency, and accessibility of registration data for FMCSA, state partners, and law enforcement.
- Better Support for Enforcement and Safety Oversight- Enhanced data tools help FMCSA identify unsafe operators and strengthen oversight of high-risk carriers.
- Scalable, Modern Technology- The updated system positions FMCSA to adapt more effectively to future operational, enforcement, and customer service needs.

Guidance, training resources, and customer support are available through FMCSA's website and by calling the agency's contact center. Motor carriers looking to register will need a login.gov account prior to accessing Motus. If they already had access to the FMCSA Portal via login.gov, they must use the same account to have all their data available to them.