



# Transportation Regulation in Wash.

Motor carriers operating in Washington are generally subject to regulation by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and are required to obtain a commission permit.

The commission regulates intrastate carriers providing services for compensation in the following industries:

- motor carriers of property
- household goods movers
- freight brokers
- garbage and recycling companies
- marine pilotage
- passenger bus companies
- passenger ferry boat companies

The commission does **not** require permits for these carriers:

- government vehicles
- water haulers for construction projects
- U.S. mail carriers
- tow trucks moving disabled cars from highways
- public transit or school buses
- taxi cabs
- city-contracted garbage and recycling service
- private carrier operations

Motor carrier operations are subject to many state and federal regulations. Other requirements such as vehicle licensing, special fuel permits, business licensing, and taxes are separate from the UTC's jurisdiction.

Carriers regulated by the UTC are required to obtain a United States Department of Transportation (DOT) number, even if they only operate within Washington state. For more information visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).



**Consumer Protection Helpline**  
1-888-333-WUTC (9882)  
[consumer@utc.wa.gov](mailto:consumer@utc.wa.gov)

**General Information**  
[utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov)  
1-360-664-1234



## Transportation Regulation in Washington...

### Interstate vs. Intrastate

Interstate motor carriers provide transportation service between states and are regulated by the federal government. This includes transporting containers from a port, pier, or rail facility to a location within the state where it is then intended to transport out of the state.

Intrastate motor carriers provide transportation service within the state of Washington, from origin to destination.

Both groups need to be registered with the commission.

### For More information

The commission can provide forms, information, and assistance Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may also visit our website at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov).

### Additional Contacts

Topic	Contact
Applications and registrations, including interstate registrations, intrastate registrations, insurance questions, operating authority questions	(360) 664-1222
Safety issues, including vehicle safety inspections, company safety audits, unsafe driver or vehicle operations, and illegal carriers or operations	(360) 664-1244
Tariff filings	(360) 664-1298
Policy questions and permit interpretations	(360) 664-1242
Consumer complaints	1-888-333-9882 or (360) 664-1120