Indiana Department of Revenue Motor Carrier Services Division

TRUCKING TIPS

Volume: 12 Issue: 2 September 2007

Changes to Commercial Drivers License Testing Completed

The Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Section recently updated the CDL skills test's off-road-basic-backing maneuvers. Selected maneuvers were tested in a year-long pilot program. Maneuvers and scoring were evaluated to ensure public safety and testing accuracy. The maneuvers chosen for use in Indiana were: straight-line backing, offset backing right and curbside-full-parallel parking. All CDL examiners were trained to conduct the new testing procedures. The changes went effect on July 1, 2007.

The new off-road-basic-backing maneuvers required changes to the CDL testing manual. The effective date of the new manual was July 1, 2007. You can pick up the CDL testing manual at any Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) License Branch or on the Department's Web site at **www.in.gov/dor/mcs**

BMV2You Mobile License Branch

The BMV recently added a mobile branch site. BMV2You is a mobile license branch that will travel to communities and events across Indiana to provide select customer services.

BMV2You is a *fifth-wheel trailer that is 38-feet long and 9-feet wide. It requires 50 feet of space for operation, runs on a 5,500-watt gas generator and will be pulled by a 1-ton Ford F350 truck.*

The BMV2You will provide some of the same basic services as the regular branches, such as:

- **Driver licenses** (renewals only) *
- **Identification cards** (new and renewals) *
- **Titles** (for all vehicle types)
- **Registrations** (new and renewals)
- **Voter registration**

**Temporary cards will be issued on-site and permanent credentials will be mailed to customers in 7-14 business days.*

However, the BMV2You will not issue commercial driver's licenses or new driver's licenses.
For a full list of identification documents required to renew or amend a driver license, and to obtain or renew an ID card, please view the **ID requirements** on the BMV's Web site.

Motor Carrier Services
5252 Decatur Blvd., Suite R
Indianapolis, IN 46241
317.615.7200

Legislative Changes Impacting Motor Carrier Services (MCS)

The following five new laws affect MCS as of July 1, 2007:

- **County wheel tax** – Wheel-tax calculations will be based on the Indiana mileage percentage for *any new* county wheel taxes.

- **Dump truck license plate** – License plates are required to be displayed on the front of the vehicle.

- **Renewal fee removed** – The annual $2 renewal fee for a permanent semi-trailer registration has been removed.

- **Permit for ocean going containers** – Carriers may now transport and purchase a permit for ocean going containers weighing up to 90,000 lbs. for $800 annually.

- **New train route approved** – A new Michigan train route has been approved for trains weighing 90,000 lbs and less. The weight limit on the new route is unlike any other Michigan train route that allows 134,000 lbs.

Additionally, legislation has allowed for a 10-percent penalty to be applied to International Registration Plan (IRP) carriers that fail to pay their renewal prior to the 15th of the month preceding their staggered month. Enforcement of the penalty will begin after January 2008.

Important Fuel Tax Reminder

Fuel-tax renewals have been mailed to taxpayers. Please return your completed renewal as soon as possible, along with the $25 renewal fee. The Department cannot process renewals without the fee being included. The grace period for fuel-tax renewals is strictly for placing decals on your vehicles. If you have not renewed your fuel-tax credentials, you will not receive a grace-period letter from the Department. Motor Carrier Services (MCS) will begin mailing 2008 fuel-tax credentials in mid-September. Please keep in mind that you may put the 2008 decals on your vehicles beginning Dec. 1, 2007, but you must keep the 2007 fuel-tax-license card in your vehicle until Jan. 1, 2008.

Unified Carrier Registration Program

Important Notice for All Interstate Motor Carriers, Freight Forwarders, Brokers and Leasing Companies

If you operate a truck or bus in interstate or international commerce, or if you make arrangements for the transportation of cargo and goods, a new federal law applies to your business.

The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Program requires individuals and companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate or international commerce to register their businesses with Indiana. They must also pay an annual fee based on the size of their fleet. **Companies operating solely as brokers, freight forwarders or leasing companies are also required to register and pay a fee of $39.** Companies providing both motor carrier services, as well as broker, freight forwarder or leasing services, are required to pay the fee level set at the motor carrier level.

A *commercial motor vehicle* is defined as a self-propelled or towed vehicle used on the highways in commerce principally to transport passengers or cargo, if the vehicle:

A. Has a gross-vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more;
B. Is designed to transport 11 or more passengers (including the driver); or
C. Is used in transporting hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding.

You must register by Nov. 2, 2007, in order to operate in interstate commerce.

The fee brackets for freight forwarders, brokers or leasing companies operating also as motor carriers are as follows:

Fleet Size (Include Trailers)	Fee Per Company
0 – 2	$39 ***
3 – 5	$116
6 – 20	$231
21 – 20	$806
101 – 1,000	$3,840
1,001 – 200,000	$37,500

***$39 to be paid by companies operating solely as freight forwarders, brokers or leasing companies.

To avoid delays, it is highly recommended that you register online at **www.ucr.in.gov** and follow the step-by-step instructions. Payments may be made online using MasterCard, Visa or e-Check.

If you choose to renew by mail, make checks payable to the Indiana Department of Revenue. Please place your MC, FF or USDOT number on the front of your check. Mail to:

Indiana Department of Revenue
Motor Carrier Services Division
P. O. Box 6075
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6075

If you would like to learn more about UCR go to **www.in.gov/dor/mcs/insurance.html**

New Indiana Legislation

House Enrolled Act 1214 passed and became effective July 1, 2006. This new law requires the Department of Revenue to assess civil penalties on anyone who alters a Motor Carrier Services credential. Some examples of a credential include: International Registration Plan (IRP) cab card, IRP plate, International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) fuel tax cab card, IFTA fuel tax sticker and Oversize Weight (OSW) permit.

Civil penalties will also be imposed on anyone who operates without the proper credentials or who violates the terms of an oversized and/or overweight vehicle permit. Please note the two possible scenarios below:

(1) If you operate without the required credentials or have altered credentials in Indiana you will receive a letter with assessed civil penalties. You have a right to appeal the civil penalties. Simply send a letter requesting an appeal to our office. If you do not appeal the penalty, collection processes will begin.

(2) If you are found violating the terms of an Indiana oversize/overweight vehicle permit, or are operating without an Indiana oversize/overweight vehicle permit you will receive a letter advising you of the date for your hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if civil penalties will be assessed.

You may read the new legislation at **www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2006&session=1&request=getBill&docno=1214**

Calendar Notes

State Holidays:
Our offices will be closed for the following upcoming holidays:

Oct. 8, 2007 – Columbus Day
Nov. 6, 2007 – General Election Day
Nov. 12, 2007 – Veterans Day (observed)
Nov. 22, 2007 – Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 23, 2007 – Thanksgiving Day (Lincoln's Birthday observed)
Dec. 24, 2007 – Christmas Eve (Washington's Birthday observed)
Dec. 25, 2007 – Christmas Day

Motor Carrier Services
5252 Decatur Blvd., Suite R
Indianapolis, IN 46241
317.615.7200