New Authority Checklist

For new interstate for-hire property carriers (hot shot, box truck, small fleets). Published by TruckerStack (AK Digital Marketing LLC). Information only, not legal advice. Verify every item with the linked official source.

1. Registration

- ☐ Form your business entity and get an EIN (IRS).
- ☐ Apply for a USDOT number and MC operating authority in the FMCSA Unified Registration System: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration
- ☐ Designate process agents with a BOC-3 filing.
- ☐ Register for UCR each year: https://plan.ucr.gov/

2. Insurance (49 CFR 387.9)

- ☐ Insurer files proof of public liability with FMCSA: $750,000 minimum for general freight, 10,001 lb+; $300,000 under 10,001 lb; $1,000,000 oil; $5,000,000 specified hazmat.
- ☐ Ask brokers what cargo coverage and limits they require.

3. Drivers

- ☐ CDL if GVWR/GCWR is 26,001 lb+ (49 CFR 383.91).
- ☐ DOT medical certificate (49 CFR 391).
- ☐ Driver qualification file.
- ☐ Drug & alcohol testing program and Clearinghouse registration for CDL drivers: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/

4. Equipment & operations

- ☐ ELD if required for records of duty status: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/electronic-logging-devices
- ☐ Vehicle marking with USDOT number.

- ☐ Maintenance and inspection records.
- ☐ IRP apportioned plates and IFTA license for qualified vehicles (base state).
- ☐ State weight-distance tax permits if you run KY, NM, NY or OR.

5. First 12 months

- ☐ Prepare for the New Entrant safety audit: https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/new-entrant-safety-assurance-program
- ☐ Update MCS-150 every 24 months.
- ☐ Check your record at https://truckerstack.com/dot-lookup

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