



# Introduction

## Introduction

Motor carrier regulations can be complex. Your responsibilities extend beyond your business operations to the condition of your vehicles and the actions of your drivers and employees. That's why we have developed this guide. It explains the basic requirements to operate as a motor carrier in Minnesota, as well as additional resources to assist you.

## What we do

The Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations (OFCVO) goal is to advance highway safety by working with providers of commercial transportation to improve and enhance the safety of their operations.

We accomplish this by focusing our resources primarily on at-risk carriers and shippers who pose the greatest threat to highway safety. We partner with other local and federal agencies and industry groups to meet our safety goals; we make safety performance the main criteria in issuing operating credentials to motor carriers, and we work to streamline regulations and make our business functions more efficient.

OFCVO is responsible for implementing, administering, and enforcing Minnesota laws and federal regulations. These laws govern carriers of freight and passengers, private carriers hauling their own products, carriers transporting oversized and overweight loads, hazardous material and hazardous waste transporters, special transportation providers of the elderly and disabled, and for-hire limousine operators.

OFCVO works closely with the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in administering and enforcing motor carrier laws and regulations. With support from FMCSA, OFCVO investigators conduct on-site investigations and reviews of interstate carrier and shipper records and determine whether the carrier or shipper has adequate safety controls in place. If not, a carrier or shipper can be considered unfit, which may lead to severe penalties up to and including a shutdown of its operations.

OFCVO works with the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Human Services when assessing the operational fitness of providers of special transportation to the elderly and disabled. Specific criteria on vehicle standards and driver qualifications help ensure these providers are offering the safest transport possible to this vulnerable segment of Minnesota citizens.

In cooperation with the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section, OFCVO conducts safety inspections on intrastate passenger vehicles to ensure they comply with applicable vehicle safety standards, and monitors whether the carrier has made the necessary repairs when violations have been found. OFCVO and the State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section also provide training and technical assistance to motor carriers, drivers and shippers. This technical outreach helps operators better understand the regulations so that all highway users can benefit from a safer transportation environment.

## **Public Education and Outreach**

We provide online resources on what is required to legally operate as a motor carrier or driver in Minnesota. Visit our education website for available resources at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/education/index.html>.

## **Additional Information Sources**

State and federal statutes and rules govern your operations. For specific regulatory details, consult these references:

- Minnesota Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws, including Motor Carrier Laws, (Minn. Stat. Chapters 168, 169, 170, 171, 174, 221, and 296).
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Motor Bus and Truck Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapters 7800, 7805, 8840, 8850, 8855, 8860, 8870, and 8880).
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49 Parts 382, 383, 387, 390-397, and 40.
- Hazardous Material Transportation Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49 Parts 100-185.

The resources listed above are available on the internet, at Minnesota's Bookstore 651-297-3000 or 800-657-3757, and from private sources.

The information published in this handbook does not change or override any current statute, rule, regulation or policy of the State of Minnesota, or of any department or agency. Nor does it relieve carriers of complying with current law.

Many sources were consulted in preparing this Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations handbook, and every effort has been made to present the information accurately. It is intended only as a helpful guide to the applicable laws and rules, not as a substitute for them. For specific questions, please refer to the laws and rules themselves. If you need an explanation or clarification of any law or rule, you should contact the appropriate agency.

This handbook has been prepared and published by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations. If you have any comments or corrections to its content please email us at [motorcarrier.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:motorcarrier.dot@state.mn.us).



## Fellow Highway User:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations has prepared a handy reference guide to help you in your travels across the state. This book was prepared for the professional driver and carrier who transport property, passengers, or hazardous materials on Minnesota highways.

Over the past few years there have been many changes in state and federal regulations that apply to you and to others who deliver goods and provide transportation services in Minnesota. We understand that changing technologies, vehicle standards, and regulations make it difficult to stay up-to-date. This updated, comprehensive guide should help answer your questions and concerns – we hope you find it helpful. It also contains telephone numbers, addresses and website addresses of different agencies if you have more specific questions. For an electronic version of this guide, please visit [www.mndot.gov/cvo/mntruckbook](http://www.mndot.gov/cvo/mntruckbook).

By working together we can make our roads safe for everyone. Enjoy your travels through our beautiful state!

## Navigating a Single lane Roundabout in a Semi-Truck

- For multi-lane roundabouts, as with any Truck intersection, follow guide signs to get into the appropriate lane prior to entering a roundabout.
- Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. It is the law.
- Yield to vehicles already in the roundabout.
- Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop/pass, or change lanes after entering in a roundabout. Exit the roundabout immediately if an emergency vehicle approaches, and then pull over.
- Do not stop in the roundabout.
- Use truck aprons as needed to traverse the roundabout.

For more information on roundabouts, please visit MnDOT's Roundabout website located at [mndot.gov/roundabouts/](http://mndot.gov/roundabouts/) or visit the online Roundabout brochure at [mndot.gov/roundabouts/pdfs/Roundabout\\_Freight.pdf](http://mndot.gov/roundabouts/pdfs/Roundabout_Freight.pdf).

