

Commercial motor vehicle operators urged not to delay registering heavy trucks and trailers

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TOPEKA – Time is running out on a two month grace period for heavy trucks and trailers to renew their registration in the new Commercial Motor Vehicle system.

Jan. 1, 2014 the state switched to a new registration system for commercial motor vehicles and the current grace period through Feb. 28, 2014 for registrations that expired Dec. 31, 2013. Farm vehicle registration is not affected by registrations.

Since Jan. 1, more than 42,000 commercial motor vehicles have been successfully registered at the 72 county and state offices offering the service. Starting March 1, 2014, commercial motor vehicles with expired tags could be ticketed by law enforcement.

“The last week of the month is always a busy time for county treasurers as many drivers wait until the end of the month to renew their tags,” said Vehicles Director Lisa Kaspar. “We are urging businesses whose commercial motor vehicle registration expired in December to not wait until the last moment particularly because their county treasurer might not offer commercial motor vehicle registration or they may need to register for a U.S. DOT number.”

Motor carriers operating solely in Kansas as an intrastate motor carrier will receive a new license plate. The new white and purple plate marked “Commercial” will provide an easy reference for law enforcement. Kansas-based motor carriers that drive in Kansas and other states and currently have an apportioned tag will continue to receive the license plate that is white with red marked “Apportioned.”

The definition of a commercial vehicle is not changing; the federal rules have been in place since July 2000. The new system will help ensure that all commercial vehicles are properly registered and comply with existing federal and state laws. Currently, commercial vehicles should be operating under a U.S. DOT number; that DOT number will be used to set up the new intrastate commercial vehicle registration account.

A commercial vehicle is a non-farm vehicle used to transport property or passengers and:

- Has a gross vehicle weight or gross combination vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more
- Is designed or used to transport 15 or more passengers, including the driver or
- Is used to transport hazardous material in a quantity requiring placarding.

If a vehicle meets any one of the three criteria, it is considered a commercial vehicle. More information is available in the commercial vehicle registration section of www.truckingks.org, there operators can also check if their county treasurer's office offers commercial vehicle registration or to register for a DOT number.