

## CHAPTER 12: ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF CALIFORNIA NON-RESIDENT VEHICLE REGISTRATION

### 12.000

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

California Vehicle Code Section 260 (a) defines a commercial vehicle as follows: "A 'commercial vehicle' is a motor vehicle of a type required to be registered under this code used or maintained for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit or designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property."

All non-resident motorized commercial vehicles 26,001 lbs. or more gross vehicle weight (GVW) that meet this definition must either be qualified for California operation through a foreign IRP jurisdiction registration or have an alternative form of California non-resident registration ***prior to operation in this state***. This includes all charter buses.

Failure to obtain valid California registration prior to operation in this state will subject the vehicle(s) to the assessment of full twelve-month California registration fees and penalties.

Temporary non-resident commercial vehicle permits are available as an alternative to IRP registration. The types of permits available and the requirements for Alaska based commercial motor vehicles are discussed in this chapter.

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### 12.005 FOUR DAY NON-RESIDENT TEMPORARY PERMITS (CVC SECTION 4004 and 9260.

A Four Day Nonresident Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit may be obtained for temporary operation of any commercial motorized vehicle that is properly licensed only for intrastate registration in any IRP jurisdiction or registered IRP in a foreign IRP jurisdiction but not qualified for California operation.

This permit is a two-part form, which is sold blank and may be purchased in bulk. The original copy is the permit and, after proper completion of the required information, must be carried in a receptacle outside the vehicle. The duplicate is the customer copy and must be retained by the purchaser for a period of four years.

For a fee of \$45, the permits are valid for four consecutive days; the day of first use plus three consecutive days thereafter. Additional permits may be used for continuous operation longer than four days. When the permit has been properly completed ***prior to entry*** into California, it is valid for either interstate or intrastate movement.

To purchase the permits in bulk, send a written request and a check or money order for the total amount due for the number of permits desired to:

**Department of Motor Vehicles  
International Registration Plan (IRP) Section  
PO BX 932320, MS H160  
Sacramento, CA 94232-3200**

The permits may also be purchased at any DMV field office.

The permits may also be purchased from Transceiver at (800) 749-6058. Transceiver will charge an additional fee for transmission and handling.

***IMPORTANT: These permits are not valid for any vehicle that is based in California or is leased to or being operated by a person or entity having an established place of business within this state as defined in CVC 516.***

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### 12.010 NINETY (90) DAY NON-RESIDENT COMMERCIAL PERMIT (CVC SECTION 4004)

A ninety (90) day Non-Resident Commercial Permit may be obtained for temporary operation of any commercial motorized vehicle that is properly licensed only for intrastate registration in any IRP jurisdiction or registered IRP in a foreign IRP jurisdiction but not qualified for California operation. These ninety-day permits may only be obtained at an office of the California Department of Motor Vehicles. A vehicle may enter California on a four day permit and then be registered under the ninety-day permit. A copy of the current valid nonresident registration certificate must be presented with the permit application. If the vehicle is powered by a fuel other than gasoline, a use fuel tax permit number must be reported if one has been issued. Fees for the ninety-day permit are assessed at the rate of one quarter of the full twelve month California fees.

***IMPORTANT: These permits are not valid for any vehicle that is based in California or is leased to or being operated by a person or entity having an established place of business within this state as defined in CVC 516.***

### 12.015 USE FUEL TAX TRIP PERMIT (CVC SECTION 4007)

Use Fuel Tax Trip Permits for vehicles powered by a fuel other than gasoline are available at a cost of \$30. The permit may be used in lieu of an International Fuel Tax Account (IFTA) and is valid for four days; the day of first use, and three consecutive days thereafter. The permit is sold blank and may be purchased in bulk.

To purchase the permits in bulk, send a written request and a check or money order for the total amount due for the number of permits desired to:

**Department of Motor Vehicles  
International Registration Plan (IRP) Section  
PO BX 932320, MS H160  
Sacramento, CA 94232-3200**

The permits may also be purchased from Transceiver at (800) 749-6058. Transceiver will charge an additional fee for transmission and handling.

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### **12.020 REGISTRANT FROM NON-MEMBER JURISDICTION**

As provided in IRP Article III, Section 310, a person whose only established place of business is in a jurisdiction that is not a member jurisdiction may, until such time as the jurisdiction becomes a member jurisdiction, declare as its base jurisdiction the member jurisdiction in which it expects to operate the greatest distance in the first year of operation as a registrant.

A member jurisdiction that has received an application for registration under this subsection may reject it for cause. A registrant may not continue maintaining a base jurisdiction under this section once the jurisdiction in which the registrant has an established place of business becomes a member jurisdiction.

It is required that persons with an established place of business only in a jurisdiction located South of the United States will, under this section, declare as base jurisdiction in one of the four states (Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas) that border Mexico. This section also provides for an orderly transition should that jurisdiction subsequently become a member jurisdiction.