

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
VEHICLE INDUSTRY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

13

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Commercial Vehicles

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition (CVC §260)

A commercial vehicle is a type of vehicle:

- Used or maintained for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit (for example, a taxi or limousine).
- Designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Types of Commercial Vehicles

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Bus (CVC §233)	<p>A vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used, or maintained to carry more than 15 persons, including the driver. • Designed to carry more than 10 persons, including the driver, when used to transport persons for compensation or profit, or used by a nonprofit organization. <p>A bus is a commercial vehicle when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to transport persons for hire, compensation, or profit. • Bus transportation is supplied by a profit-making entity and a customer ends up paying for the bus service as part of the overall consideration for the primary service.
“For Hire” Passenger Vehicle	<p>A passenger-type vehicle that transports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passengers for hire, such as a taxi, rental limousine, or an ambulance, must be registered as a commercial vehicle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A charter-party carrier operating limousines that pick up and deliver airport passengers must be issued Livery License Plates. • Property for hire cannot obtain commercial plates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — EXCEPTION: Commercial registration may be obtained for multipurpose vehicles, station wagons, or hatchback-type vehicle when the owner is engaged in a business, trade, or commerce, and the vehicle is registered in the name of the business.
Motor Truck (CVC §410)	A motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<p>Multipurpose Vehicle</p>	<p>A vehicle designed primarily as a passenger vehicle, with limited cargo carrying capability. (EXAMPLE: Jeep, Bronco, Blazer, Scout, and Jimmy.) Any of these vehicles with a permanently-attached top may be issued auto or commercial license plates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vehicle owner may obtain commercial registration for a multipurpose vehicle at any time, by submitting the Certificate of Title, registration card, a weight certificate, and the appropriate weight fee. • Manufacturers produce variations of multipurpose vehicles that are actually pickups and are subject to commercial registration. (EXAMPLE: Chevrolet Avalanche, Hummer H2 SUT, Cadillac Escalade EXT, Ford Explorer Sport Trac). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — These vehicles have an open box-type bed or can transform from a commercial (pickup) body to a noncommercial body type. They must be reported and registered as pickups. Weight fees are required. (<i>California Code of Regulations (CCR) (Title 13) §150.04</i>). — When submitting applications to register these vehicles, be sure to write body type model (BTM) “PK” in the body type section of the application.
<p>Pickup (CVC §471)</p>	<p>A motor truck with a manufacturer’s GVWR of less than 11,500 pounds and an unladen weight of less than 8,001 pounds, which is equipped with an open box-type bed less than nine feet in length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickup truck does not include a motor vehicle, otherwise meeting the above definition, which is equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment commonly called a utility body. • <i>California Code of Regulations (CCR) §150.04(a)</i> further defines pickup trucks: <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>“Pursuant to California Vehicle Code §471, any motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motorized quadricycle, with an open box-type bed not exceeding nine (9) feet in length is by definition a pickup.”</i></p> • EXAMPLES: Ford Explorer Sport Trac, Nissan Frontier, and other similarly designed vehicles.

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Pickup Exclusions	<p>The following trucks are not pickups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trucks with an open box-type bed that weigh more than 8,000 pounds unladen or exceed the manufacturer's GVWR of 11,500 pounds ("varied" BTM) • Trucks equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment unit commonly called a "utility body" ("utility" BTM) • Trucks with a body type other than an open box bed (stake, flatbed, dump, etc. BTM). <p>A pickup with a camper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporarily-attached is a commercial vehicle and the camper is a load. • Permanently-attached meets the definition of a housecar (CVC §362) and may be registered as a passenger vehicle.
Station Wagon (CVC §§585 and 9404)	<p>A dual purpose vehicle designed for the transportation of persons in such a manner that the seats may be removed or folded out of the way for the purpose of increasing the property carrying space within the vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>hatchback-type vehicle</i> with a rear seat that folds down or is removable and a door in the rear that provides direct access to the vehicle's interior cargo-carrying area when the seat is folded down or removed, may be considered a station wagon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Station wagons are registered as commercial vehicles when used to transport persons "for hire." • Station wagons may be registered as commercial vehicles when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The owner is engaged in a business, trade, or commerce, and the vehicle is registered in the name of the business. — An employee of the business certifies he/she is required to own and operate a station wagon registered to him/her as a requirement of employment at a bona fide business.

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<p>Tow Truck (CVC §615)</p>	<p>A motor vehicle which has been altered or designed, equipped for, and primarily used in the business of, transporting vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bar, tow line, or dolly or is otherwise primarily used to render assistance to other vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “roll-back carrier” designed to carry up to two vehicles is also a tow truck. • Auto dismantler tow vehicles and reposessor tow vehicles are not “tow trucks.”
<p>Truck Tractor (CVC §655)</p>	<p>A motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the vehicle weight and load so drawn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As used in this section, “load” does not include items carried on the truck tractor in conjunction with the vehicle operation if the load carrying space for these items does not exceed 34 square feet. <p>NOTE: Truck tractors must always be registered as commercial vehicles, even if they have living quarters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The living quarters are secondary or incidental to the primary function of the vehicle, which is still drawing other vehicles. • Truck tractors with living quarters cannot be registered as housecars.
<p>Water-Well Drilling Rigs</p>	<p>There are three types of water-well drilling rigs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural: Are exempt from weight fees and issued auto plates (CVC §9405). • Oversize: May be issued a special equipment (SE) plate, if moved occasionally over the highways, used primarily off the highways for construction purposes, and require a permit issued by CalTrans (CVC §565). • Other Water-Well Drilling Rigs: Are commercial vehicles and subject to weight fees set forth in CVC §§9400 or 9400.1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The weight of the well-drilling machinery <i>is excluded</i> from the vehicle weight for purposes of calculating weight fees for vehicles with an unladen weight of 10,000 pounds or less. — The weight of the well-drilling machinery shall be considered part of the load when calculating weight range fees (CVRA vehicles) under CVC §9400.1.

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Water-Well Drilling Rigs, <i>continued</i>	— BTM WD –Well driller is assigned to commercial water-well drilling rigs. Previously, water-well drilling rigs were defined as “cranes.”
Yard Trucks (CVC §§4751(d), 38010, and 38012)	<p>Yard trucks, which are similar in appearance to a diesel tractor, and also known in the industry as yard goats, trailer spotters, terminal tractors, or jockeys are vehicles specifically designed to move trailers within or about freight operation yards in preparation for storage or loading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yard trucks that do not have a complying 17-digit vehicle identification number (VIN), do not meet federal safety standards, and cannot be titled, registered, or operated on public roadways in California. • These vehicles do not meet the criteria for off-highway vehicle (OHV) registration or special equipment identification. • A yard truck that does not have a complying 17-digit VIN, can be used only on private property, and cannot be operated on public roadways for any reason. • The department will not accept a registration application for a yard truck that does not have a complying 17-digit VIN.

Commercial Vehicle Exclusions

The following vehicles are **not** commercial vehicles:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Vanpool Vehicles (CVC §668)	<p>A motor vehicle, other than a motor truck or truck tractor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for carrying more than 10, but not more than 15 persons including the driver. • Which is maintained and used primarily for the nonprofit, work-related transportation of adults for the purposes of ridesharing.
Passenger Vehicles	A motor vehicle, unless the vehicle is used for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit.

13.000 Commercial Vehicle Definition, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Housecars or Motorhomes (CVC §§260, 362)	A motor vehicle originally designed or permanently-altered and equipped for human habitation. NOTE: Truck tractors as defined in CVC §655 that have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially manufactured. • Modified by a second stage manufacturer. • Otherwise altered to include living quarters, are considered commercial vehicles under CVC §260, unless the living quarters permanently prevent the truck tractor from towing or drawing other vehicles.
Trailer Coaches	Trailer coaches may transport property, but are designed primarily for human habitation or human occupancy.
Military Equipment	Vehicles operated by noncivilian personnel, which are owned or operated by the by the U.S. Department of Defense, including the National Guard.
Implements of Husbandry (CVC §36000)	Vehicles used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations and operated by a person not required to have a driver license.

13.005 Commercial Vehicle Registration Act (CVRA) (CVC §§260, 288-9, 4000.6, 4150.1, 5204, 9250.10, 9250.13-14, 9250.19, 9400, 9400.1, 9406, 9408, 9554.2, and 42030.1)

With the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001, the fee structure of commercial motor vehicles and trailers in California changed as follows:

- Prior to 2001, weight fees for all commercial vehicles and trailers over 2,000 pounds were based solely on the unladen weight of the vehicle.
- Currently, weight fees for commercial vehicles are based either on the unladen weight, the declared gross vehicle weight (GVW), or the declared combined gross vehicle weight (CGW).
- Commercial vehicles paying fees based on GVW or CGW are hereafter referred to as **CVRA vehicles**.

13.005 Commercial Vehicle Registration Act (CVRA), *continued*

- Most trailers are registered with a permanent trailer identification (PTI) plate, regardless of the weight, except for trailer coaches (body type model [BTM] (CCH). (See the Permanent Trailer Identification [PTI] chapter in this manual)
- The unladen weight must still be reported on all commercial vehicles, even those subject to CVRA fees.
- The unladen weight on CVRA vehicles may be estimated since the fees are based on the declared GVW/CGW.
 - The Certificate of Title will display only the unladen weight.
 - The registration certificate will display the:
 - Unladen weight, if the vehicle is operated at 10,000 pounds or less unladen.
 - Maximum GVW/CGW for the declared range if the vehicle is subject to CVRA fees.
 - WC (weight code) will be printed on the certificate with the CVRA weight code next to the the declared GVW or CGW.
- Motor vehicles with a declared GVW/CGW of 10,001 pounds or more, are assessed CVRA fees rather than a weight fee based on the unladen weight.
 - Vehicles are still subject to the registration fee, vehicle license fee, and any city/county fees.
 - Law enforcement and county fees are higher for CVRA vehicles.
- Commercial motor vehicles operating at 10,001 pounds or more are assessed a Cargo Theft Interdiction Program (CTIP) fee.
 - This fee is not due for pickups, tow trucks, or vehicles used solely to transport persons for hire such as ambulances, buses, electric-powered vehicles, limousines, taxis, or some vans.
- See Appendix 1F for all fees.

Excluded Vehicles

The following vehicles are excluded from CVRA:

- Pickup trucks continue to be registered by the unladen weight and are assessed a weight fee regardless of the vehicle's GVW.
 - The unladen weight of a pickup **cannot** exceed 8,000 pounds and its GVW rating **must** be less than 11,500 pounds
- Light-weight trucks, vans, taxis, and rental limousines (including charter-party carriers operating limousines that pick up and deliver airport passengers) are registered by the unladen weight **only** if the vehicle's GVW is 10,000 pounds or less.
- Commercial motor vehicles registered with special equipment (SE) plates **or** issued exempt license plates are **not** subject to weight fees or CVRA fees.
- Electric commercial vehicles and electric passenger vehicles transporting passengers for hire are subject to electric vehicle weight fees based on the unladen weight of the vehicle. See Appendix 1F for electric vehicle weight fees.

13.010 Conversion From Auto to Commercial License Plates (CVC §260)

The following vehicles may be registered with auto or commercial license plates:

- Pickup trucks with a camper permanently attached body type model (BTM) PM.
- Station wagons —Refer to the Types of Commercial Vehicles section in this chapter.
- Passenger-type vehicles transporting persons for hire.

When converting from auto to commercial license plates, the requirements are:

- The Certificate of Title.
- A weight certificate, **unless** the Certificate of Title shows a weight code.
- A Request for Commercial Registration of a Passenger Vehicle (REG 590) form for passenger-type vehicles transporting persons for hire, compensation, or profit, **unless** the vehicle is registered in the name of a taxicab company.
- If the vehicle is registered in the name of an individual that is also the name of the business, a completed Statement of Facts (REG 256) form explaining that.
- If the camper was removed from a pickup truck and the value of a camper is **\$2,000 or more**, a REG 256 with the Statement for Vehicle Body Change section completed.
- Any fees due. There **is not** a fee for the change of license plates.

13.015 CVRA Weight Decals and CVRA Year Stickers

CVRA Weight Decals/Year Stickers:

- Are issued to all CVRA vehicles upon original registration or a weight change, in addition to the regular year sticker that is placed on the license plate.
- Must be displayed on the door on the right and the left sides of the vehicle to indicate the highest weight at which the vehicle is registered to be operated.
 - If the vehicle has sliding doors, the decal must be displayed immediately in front of or behind each door.
 - The CVRA year sticker corresponds in color with the year sticker for the license plate.
 - New CVRA stickers are only issued when a weight change is reported or when the original is damaged.
 - On subsequent renewals, only CVRA year stickers are issued, unless there is a weight change.

A CVRA weight decal fee is due on each original, renewal, or change of declared GVW application.

13.020 CVRA Weight and Weight Codes

<i>CVRA Weight</i>	<i>Weight Code</i>
10,001 – 15,000	A
15,001 – 20,000	B
20,001 – 26,000	C
26,001 – 30,000	D
30,001 – 35,000	E
35,001 – 40,000	F
40,001 – 45,000	G
45,001 – 50,000	H
50,001 – 54,999	I
55,000 – 60,000	J
60,001 – 65,000	K
65,001 – 70,000	L
70,001 – 75,000	M
75,001 – 80,000	N

See Appendix 1F for CVRA weight fees.

13.025 Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (REG 4008) Form

Except for **pickups with an unladen weight of 8,000 pounds** or less, owners of commercial motor vehicles with an **unladen weight of 6,001 pounds or more** are required to declare the maximum operating weight of their vehicles with a load.

When a new or used commercial vehicle is sold, the new owner, lessee, or designee **must** complete, date, and sign a *Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW)* (REG 4008) form giving the operating weight of the vehicle.

Multiple New Vehicle Sales

One REG 4008 (and a supplemental listing, if necessary):

- Must show the vehicle identification number (VIN), **and** operating weight of each vehicle,
- Is acceptable for multiple **identical** new vehicles sold to the same owner on:
 - *An Application for Registration of Multiple New Vehicles* (REG 397A) form.
 - *Multiple Applications for Registration of New Vehicle* (REG 397) forms.
- Provided that all of the REG 397 forms are submitted together as a group to the department.

13.025 Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW)(REG 4008) Form, *continued*

- The make and VIN of the vehicle with the REG 4008 attached must be noted in the upper portion of the other REG 397 forms.

Additional Information

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>
Changes in Declared Operating Weight	<p>If the declared operating weight of vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases during the registration period, additional CVRA weight fees plus a decal fee are due for the remainder of the year. • Decreases during a registration period, CVRA fees are not refundable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — One day of operation at the higher weight causes fees to be due at that weight. If changed to the lower weight, a new decal is issued.
Body Changes	When a body change occurs on a commercial vehicle that operates at 10,001 pounds or more, a REG 4008 must be submitted with the application to correct the body type, etc.
Multiple Bodies	When the buyer of a heavy duty commercial vehicle wants to use two or more bodies in conjunction with a single cab and chassis or chassis, the vehicle’s declared weight shall be based on the heaviest of all the multiple bodies and its load.
Tow Trucks	<p>Tow trucks used to assist the motoring public or to tow or carry impounded vehicles are subject to CVRA fees.</p> <p>The tow truck’s declared weight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is based on its GVW rating, not the CGW. • Must include all equipment excluded from the unladen weight (CVC §§288-289).
Equipment Normally Excluded from Unladen Weight	<p>Certain equipment that is excluded when determining the unladen weight of a vehicle is not excluded when calculating the GVW/CGW of the vehicle and its load, for example, a spray apparatus tank (CVC §§288-289).</p> <p>See examples of exclusions from unladen weight in this chapter.</p>

13.025 Declaration of Gross Vehicle Weight/Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (REG 4008) Form, *continued*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>
Equipment Excluded from Weight Declaration (Implements of Husbandry)	<p>The declared GVW of a truck subject to CVRA may exclude the CGW of the towed vehicle when all of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle is owned by a farmer, operated by the farmer or his/her employee and, used only for conducting agricultural business. • In that business, the truck pulls (tows) an implement of husbandry or special equipment (SE) plated vehicle.

13.030 Definitions—Unladen Weight, Gross Vehicle Weight, Combined Gross Vehicle Weight

Unladen Weight (CVC §660)

The weight of a vehicle equipped and ready for operation on the road, including:

- Body, fenders, permanently-attached boxes, and body parts.
- Oil in the motor, a radiator full of water, and weight of five gallons of fuel.
- Any machinery, equipment, or attachment which functions as a part of the body or vehicle in its normal operation.

Exclusions from Unladen Weight (CVC §660-661)

The unladen weight **does not** include:

- Any load, such as sand, gravel, water, etc. A load is usually a product being transported from one place to another.
- Any machinery, equipment, or attachment which **is not** attendant to the efficient operation of the body or vehicle. This includes, but **is not** limited to:
 - **Grinding Equipment**—Only the grinder and the equipment to operate it are exempt.
 - **Spray Apparatus**—Only the tank is exempt.
 - **Tow Truck Crane**—Only the weight of the crane and the equipment to operate the crane, such as the motor, gears, hydraulic pumps, levers, and attachments, are exempt; the roll-back and wheel-lift equipment are not exempt.
 - **Wood Saws**—Only the saw and the motor that runs the saw are exempt.
 - **Well-Drilling Machines**—Only the boom is exempt.

13.030 Definitions—Unladen Weight, Gross Vehicle Weight, Combined Gross Vehicle Weight, *continued***Exclusions from Unladen Weight (CVC §660-661), *continued***

- Any machinery, equipment, or attachment specifically excluded from unladen weight by CVC §661. The statute specifically excludes the following equipment from the unladen weight of the vehicle:
 - Any camper unit temporarily attached to a vehicle.
 - Equipment used for loading, compacting, or unloading of refuse.
 - Temporary equipment used to contain or support the load which **does not** change the body classification. For example, side stakes on a truck to contain the load or chains used to tie down a load.
 - Transit-mix cement equipment—**only** the machinery or equipment that actually mixes and dispenses the mixed cement is exempt, such as the drum, motor that turns the drum, mixing blades, and motor reduction gear.
 - Refrigeration equipment—**only** the refrigeration equipment is exempt. Refrigeration equipment includes the compressor, compressor motor, condenser, and cover enclosing the unit. The exemption **does not** extend to the van body.

Declared Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) (CVC §289)

The weight that equals the total unladen weight of the vehicle **plus** the weight of the heaviest load that will be transported on the vehicle (for example, vehicles which haul a load, but do **not** pull another vehicle).

Declared Combined Gross Vehicle Weight (CGW) (CVC § 288)

The weight that equals the total unladen weight of the *combination* of vehicles (motor truck and trailers), **plus** the heaviest load that will be transported by that combination (for example, vehicles which pull another vehicle).

13.035 Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT) (CVC §4750 and U.S. Code, Title 26, §4481)

Commercial vehicles or buses with an **unladen weight of 8,001 pounds** or more and/or operated at a combined gross vehicle weight (CGW) of **55,000 pounds or more** must have evidence of payment of, or exemption from, the FHVUT before the vehicle can be registered.

13.035 Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (FHVUT), *continued*

The CGVW equals the total weight of the power unit, any trailer towed, **and** the load.

FHVUT Tax Period (July 1 to June 30)

- The FHVUT tax is paid to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a receipted Schedule 1, Form 2290, is returned to the applicant as proof of payment.
- Proof of payment, or exemption from, the tax **must be** verified only once during the registration period (proof of payment for PYR vehicles is to be furnished at the time of first registration during the calendar year).

Exclusions

The FHVUT requirement **does not** apply to:

- Applications for “Title Only.”
- Original or transfer applications in the new owner’s name submitted within 60 days of purchase or transfer.
- A vehicle which **is not** being operated.

Acceptable Proof of Exemption

A receipt or photocopy of filed Form 2290, Part II, listing the vehicle as exempt is acceptable as proof of exemption.

Acceptable Proof of Payment

Any of the following may be accepted as proof of payment of FHVUT upon renewal of registration:

- The original or a photocopy of an IRS receipted Schedule 1, Form 2290 (manually stamped or electronically watermarked).
- A photocopy of Schedule 1, Form 2290, filed with the IRS **and** a photocopy of the front and back of the canceled check payable to the IRS for the tax.
- Evidence showing applicant is making payments to IRS.

13.040 Financial Responsibility

Although CVC §16058 requires electronic reporting of private-use automobile liability policies to the department, commercial or business insurance carriers are exempt.

Customers with vehicles covered by commercial or business policies **may** submit evidence of insurance and a completed *Notification of Alternative Forms of Financial Responsibility* (REG 5085) form on each **initial registration or transfer** of a vehicle.

- If not submitted with the application, a letter will be sent to the owner requesting proof of financial responsibility or the registration will be cancelled.

13.040 Financial Responsibility, *continued*

NOTE: Although vehicles registered to a *business entity* such as a company, corporation, LLC, LTD, DBA, etc. may have commercial or business policies, the REG 5085 may be used for any vehicle.

- An application for renewal **must** contain proof of financial responsibility on the vehicle record **or** proof must be submitted at the time of renewal.
 - The REG 5085 is **not** acceptable for renewals.
- The REG 5085 is not required for international registration plan (IRP) vehicles, or vehicles being added to a permanent fleet registration (PFR) fleet.

13.045 Forklift Trucks (CVC §4013)

A forklift truck is exempt from registration if it is:

- Designed primarily for loading and unloading and for stacking materials,
- Operated or drawn upon a highway only for the purpose of transporting products or materials across a highway in the loading, unloading, or stacking process.
- **Not** operated along a highway for a distance greater than **one-quarter mile**.

Registration required—A forklift truck operated along a highway for a distance greater than one-quarter mile is subject to registration as follows:

<i>If the vehicle is moved...</i>	<i>then...</i>
laden,	commercial registration is required.
unladen,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automobile registration is required. • The vehicle is exempt from the weight fee (CVC §9409). • The application must include a <i>Statement of Facts</i> (REG 256) form from the owner stating the vehicle will not be moved laden over the highways to receive the weight fee exemption.

13.050 Fuel Tax Clearance

A Certificate of Excise Tax Clearance (BOE 1138) form from the Board of Equalization (BOE) **must** accompany all applications for registered owner transfer of a commercial vehicle powered by a fuel *other than* gasoline or diesel, including a nonresident application in the name of someone other than the owner shown on the out-of-state documents and applications for transfer between two exempt agencies.
EXAMPLE: School buses sold between school districts.

EXCEPTION: Passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles weighing 7,000 pounds or less unladen, and two-axle trucks rented or leased for 30 days or less and used for private transportation without compensation which operate on fuels other than gasoline or diesel are exempt from fuel tax laws and the BOE 1138 requirement.

Fuel Tax Notification— The department sends a computer-generated Fuel Tax Notification letter to the owner upon original registration or transfer of vehicles powered by fuels subject to a Use Fuel Tax Permit.

13.055 International Registration Plan (IRP) (CVC §8052)

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is:

- An apportioned registration program that allows payment of license fees based on the total distance operated in two or more member jurisdictions.
 - The base jurisdiction collects all registration and license fees due to other jurisdictions and remits the fees to them according to the terms of the IRP agreement.
- A registration only program, based on unverified information received from the carrier, who may or may not be the registered owner shown on the title.
 - If the vehicle is also titled in California, there will be two records, the IRP (registration only) record and the titling record.

IRP Information and Procedures:

For specific information regarding IRP requirements and procedures, refer to the *California International Registration Plan (IRP) Handbook* (REG 524).

Conversion to regular registration from IRP—see Chapter 17.

13.060 Mobile Cranes

A crane is a vehicle equipped with a device that unfolds to various heights such as hoists, lifts, ladders, booms, derricks, and shovels.

- This includes manufactured mobile cranes, such as Lorraine, Northwest, Challenge-Cook, P&H, FMC Linkbelt, Manitowoc, American, Grove, Demag, Koehring, Badger, Kato, and other commercial vehicles with standard type bodies to which a crane or other device to lift and/or move property is attached.

13.060 Mobile Cranes, *continued*

- The exceptions to this definition are tow trucks, wreckers, and vehicles designed or used to transport property.
- Vehicles that meet the definition of a crane **must be** assigned a “crane” body type.
 - This **includes** concrete pumps and pumper booms, oil-well service rigs, and other similar equipment.
 - Vehicles included in the definition of a “crane” **do not** qualify as special equipment (SE) and **cannot** be issued SE plates.
- A mobile crane **cannot** be moved on a *One Trip Permit* (REG 402).
 - A *No-Fee Special Moving Permit* (REG 172) may be used to move a mobile crane under the provisions of the permit.
 - Movement to or from a job site **does not** constitute “storage to storage.”
 - Registration **is required** for such movement of a crane.

There are two types of cranes: **commercial** and **auto**.

Commercial Crane (Weight Fee Due)

A commercial crane is vehicle to which a crane-type device has been **attached**, that may serve more than one function and can carry a load on its structure.

- Whether a load is carried or not, it is a commercial vehicle and is issued commercial license plates.
- A crane that is attendant to the efficient operation of the body **is included** in the unladen weight of the vehicle.
- Examples of commercial cranes include truck tractors (fifth-wheel attached) with a crane, flatbed trucks with a crane, and tow trucks.

If removal of the crane would leave a cargo carrying vehicle, then:

- The vehicle license fee (VLF) class is based on the total cost of the vehicle and crane.
- A weight certificate is required for the **complete** vehicle, if less than 10,001 pounds **or** the *estimated* unladen weight of the complete vehicle may be shown on a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) form, if the weight is more than 10,001 pounds and weight fees will be based on the declared gross vehicle weight (GVW).
 - A REG 256 completed and signed, giving the estimated weight of the crane.
 - The **unladen** weight of the base vehicle is determined by subtracting the estimated weight of the crane from the total weight of the complete vehicle.
 - For vehicles over 10,001 pounds, the declared GVW is determined by the rating GVWR, **not a combined** vehicle weight (CGW).
 - Although the weight of the crane is deducted from the unladen weight, it is included in the declared GVW.
- Commercial fees are due.

13.060 Mobile Cranes, *continued*

Examples of Commercial Cranes:

**Auto Crane (Weight Fee Not Due)**

An auto crane is a vehicle **manufactured as a crane** where the removal of the crane **does not** leave a cargo carrying vehicle. Refer to the auto cranes pictured in this section. An example of an auto crane is a truck chassis or truck cab and chassis to which only a crane and its attendant components are attached.

- Auto cranes are issued auto license plates.
- An auto crane is exempt from the weight fee (even if another vehicle is towed).
- Attendant components include outriggers, storage compartments for blocking, rigging, and other devices necessary for crane operation.

Auto Crane (Weight Fee Not Due), *continued*

The registration requirements for auto cranes are:

- Evidence of the vehicle’s design. Submit either a:
 - Completed Verification of Vehicle (REG 31) form *and* a REG 256 completed by a DMV employee stating “removal of the crane would not leave a cargo carrying vehicle,” *or*
 - Manufacturer’s brochure that illustrates and describes the vehicle specifications *and* a REG 256 completed by the registered owner stating “*removal of the crane would not leave a cargo carrying vehicle.*” A 3” x 5” photograph may be accepted, if a brochure is not available.
- The VLF class is based on the total cost of the vehicle **and** the crane.
- Appropriate fees due.

NOTE: Towing a vehicle **does not** subject an auto crane vehicle to weight fees.

Examples of Auto Cranes:



13.065 Motor Carrier Permit Program (CVC §34601)

The Motor Carrier Permit program is administered jointly by DMV and CHP to promote and ensure the public safety of all users of California highways.

DMV is responsible for ensuring that motor carriers are in compliance with liability and worker's compensation insurance requirements and enrollment in the Employer Pull Notice program before granting intrastate operating authority.

CHP regulates compliance and safe operation of vehicles through the Biennial Inspection of Terminals (BIT) program and roadside enforcement.

— A Carrier Identification Number (CA#) must be obtained from the CHP prior to applying for the permit from DMV.

The Motor Carrier Permit which is issued by DMV grants operating authority to motor carriers on California highways.

Motor trucks with two or more axles and a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds and other motor vehicles used to transport property for compensation are required to obtain a motor carrier permit.

Motor carriers do not include:

— Household goods carriers.

— Vehicles providing transportation of passengers only.

— Pickup trucks.

— Two-axle daily rental trucks with a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds if operated in noncommercial use.

— Motor trucks with a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds when used solely to tow a camp trailer, trailer coach, fifth-wheel travel trailer, or utility trailer.

For more information or to obtain forms, call Motor Carrier Permit Operations at (916) 657-8153 or write to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Motor Carrier Services Branch, MS G875
P.O. Box 932370
Sacramento, CA 94232-3700

13.070 Partial Year Registration (PYR) for Commercial Vehicles (CVC §§9700-9711)

- Commercial vehicles may be registered on a PYR basis for a period of one or more months, but less than 12 months.
 - Original registration applications must be submitted within 20 days of first operation.
 - Thereafter, renewal applications must be submitted prior to the date the vehicle is operated, moved, or left standing on the highways.
- For initial PYR registration in a calendar year, the full-year registration fee and vehicle license fee must be paid, plus prorated weight fees based on the number of consecutive months the vehicle is to be operated.
 - A service fee is also collected.
 - For subsequent registrations in the same calendar year, the prorated weight fees based on the number of consecutive months the vehicle will be operated, plus the service fee, must be paid.

For additional information, see Chapter 10, Renewals.

13.075 Permanent Fleet Registration (PFR) (CVC §5301)

PFR Program

The owner of a fleet consisting of commercial vehicles and/or passenger vehicles may apply to the department for PFR.

- Instead of yearly registration stickers, PFR vehicles are issued a California permanent fleet sticker for the license plate and a permanent registration card for each vehicle.
- PFR applicants must complete an *Application for Permanent Fleet Registration* (REG 3500) form and agree to adhere to all program and vehicle registration requirements to have a valid PFR account number assigned to their fleet.
- Under the PFR program, a renewal listing is sent monthly for all of the vehicles in a fleet that expire within that month.
- CVRA vehicles in a fleet are issued CVRA weight decals and CVRA year stickers that are gold with PFR printed boldly in black.
 - New CVRA stickers are only issued when a weight change is reported or when the original is damaged.
- For further information contact the PFR Section at **irp_customer_response@dmv.ca.gov**, or write to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
MCD—PFR Section, MS H160
PO Box 825340
Sacramento, CA 94232-5340
(916) 657-9067

13.075 Permanent Fleet Registration (PFR) , *continued*

Fleet Defined

- To qualify for the PFR program, a fleet must contain a minimum of:
 - **Single owners** (not part of an association)—50 **motor** vehicles.
 - **Associations**—250 **motor** vehicles; each association member must register at least 25 **motor** vehicles.
- Qualifying vehicles must display the company logo as described in CVC §5303.
- Motorcycles **cannot** be a part of a fleet.

Adding Vehicles to a PFR Fleet (CVC §5301)

The following must be submitted to add vehicles to a fleet:

- A *Permanent Fleet Registration Addition* (REG 495, side A) form completed in full by the applicant.
- Current registration card and/or ownership documents, as appropriate.
- Fees due plus the PFR service fee for each vehicle. Renewal fees are also due if the application is presented within 120 days of the renewal date.
- Smog certification, if applicable.

Deleting Vehicles from a PFR Fleet (CVC §5301)

Vehicles deleted from a PFR fleet must be issued a new registration card without the PFR information. The following must be submitted to delete a vehicle from a fleet:

- A *Permanent Fleet Registration Deletion* (REG 495, side B) form completed in full by the applicant.
- Surrender of the PFR registration card and PFR sticker **unless** disposition of the PFR sticker is shown on the REG 495.
- Application for regular registration for the deleted vehicle, if appropriate.

13.080 Permanent Fleet Registration (PFR) Offices

Only PFR designated field offices and the PFR Section in DMV headquarters issue PFR registration cards and stickers.

- Field offices that **do not** maintain PFR sticker inventory will issue regular year stickers and receipts for interim operating indicia only.
- The following lists the established PFR field offices.
- Other field offices and some Industry Business Centers (IBC) may also issue PFR registrations and stickers.

13.080 Permanent Fleet Registration Offices, *continued*

PFR Field Offices	
Fresno 655 W. Olive Ave Fresno, CA 93728	Fullerton 909 W. Valencia Dr Fullerton, CA 92832
Glendale 1335 W. Glenoaks Blvd Glendale, CA 91202	Lincoln Park 3529 N. Mission Rd Los Angeles, CA 90031
Modesto 124 Burney St Modesto, CA 95354	Montebello 424 N. Wilcox Ave Montebello, CA 90640
Oakland Claremont 5300 Claremont Ave, 1st Floor Oakland, CA 94618	Pomona 1600 S. Garey Ave Pomona, CA 92064
Sacramento South 7775 La Mancha Wy Sacramento, CA 95823	Rocklin 5245 South Grove Rocklin, CA 95677
San Pedro 1511 N. Gaffey St San Pedro, CA 90731	San Francisco 1377 Fell St San Francisco, CA 94117
Westminster 13700 Hoover St Westminster, CA 92683	Tracy 324 E. 11th St Tracy, CA 95376

13.085 Street Sweepers (CVC §4000)

Street sweepers are subject to registration as automobiles **unless** they are used to transport property other than the debris picked up in their normal sweeping use.

13.090 Trolley Coaches (CVC §650)

Trolley coaches are vehicles propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires which are **not** operated on rails.

- They are subject to registration and annual renewal as electric vehicles.
- Registration requirements are the same as for any other new or used commercial vehicle.
- Electric vehicle weight fees are due.

13.095 Unladen Weight and Weight Codes

<i>Unladen Weight</i>	<i>Weight Code</i>
0 – 1999	A
2000 – 2999	B
3000 – 4000	C
4001 - 5000	D
5001 – 6000	E
6001 – 7000	F
7001 – 8000	G
8001 – 9000	H
9001 – 10,000	J

<i>Unladen Weight</i>	<i>Weight Code</i>
10,001 – 11,000*	K
11,001 – 12,000*	L
12,001 – 13,000*	M
13,001 – 14,000*	N
14,001 – 15,000*	P
15,001 – 16,000*	R
16,001 – 17,000*	S
17,001 – 18,000*	T
18,001 – 19,000*	U
19,001 – 20,000*	V

13.100 Weight Certificate (CB&PC §§12700, 12711, and 12714–12715)

A **California**-certified public weighmaster’s certificate may be required to complete a registration application for commercial vehicles weighing 8,001 pounds or more which are sold by California-licensed dealers. A **California** weight certificate must contain the following information, the:

- Name of the public weighmaster as shown on the weighmaster’s license. It may be printed or stamped on the form and countersigned by a deputy or electronically imprinted on the certificate.
- License number **or** vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Unladen (or tare) weight of the vehicle.
- Date and city where signed.
- Certification: “This is to certify that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by a public weighmaster, and their signature is recognized authority of accuracy as prescribed by Chapter 7, Division 5 of the *California Business and Professions Code* (commencing with §12700), administered by the Division of Measurement Standards of the Department of Food and Agriculture.”

The following are also acceptable:

- A weight certificate that shows “private” weighmaster and refers to Chapter 7.3 of Division 5 of the *California Business and Professions Code*.
- A Weights and Measures Certificate of Inspection form or other official statement for a municipal vehicle weighed by Weights & Measures officials.

13.100 Weight Certificate, *continued*

The registration application **must** show the weight of the vehicle in pounds. Some electronic scales record weight in tons and fractions of a ton. A weight certificate showing the weight in tons/fractions of a ton is acceptable, but you **must** convert the weight from tons to pounds and enter the weight in pounds on the application. Convert the ton weight to pound weight by multiplying the ton weight by 2,000 (2,000 pounds equals one ton). **Do not** enter weight in tons on any commercial registration application.

Weight Certificate for Multiple Identical Vehicles—One weight certificate is acceptable for multiple new or used commercial vehicles of identical make, size, and equipment, when the applications are submitted together.

Applications without the weight certificate, submitted with an identical vehicle with a weight certificate, **must** include a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) form certifying the vehicle is identical to and is of the same weight classification (pounds) as shown on the weight certificate for VIN (VIN# of vehicle whose application has the weight certificate).

Out-of-State Weight Certificates—A weight certificate from Oregon, Nevada, or Arizona **is** acceptable when the closest weigh station is in one of these states. A weight certificate from *any other* state is acceptable **only** if the vehicle is **not** physically located in California at the time of registration.

Weight Certificate Includes Weight of Excluded Equipment— If a request for the weight fee exemption is received on an application that includes a weight certificate for a *complete* vehicle, the registered owner must complete a REG 256 giving the estimated weight of the equipment that should be excluded and showing the:

- Unladen weight of the vehicle **with** the excluded equipment.
- Estimated weight of the equipment that should be excluded from the total weight of the vehicle.
- Unladen weight of the vehicle **without** the excluded equipment.

13.105 Weight Certificate Exceptions

A weight certificate is **not** required or may be waived for:

- New commercial vehicles weighing 8,000 pounds or less, which are sold by California-licensed dealers. The dealer must certify to the unladen weight on the *Application for Registration of New Vehicle* (REG 397) form.
- Trailers or semitrailers registered under the Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) program. The estimated unladen weight **is** required.
- Two-axle or three-axle motor vehicles weighing 10,001 pounds or more. The estimated unladen weight **is** required.

13.105 **Weight Certificate Exceptions, *continued***

- Vehicles previously registered in California when the prior California commercial registration shows the unladen weight and number of axles **and** the application includes a *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) form stating no changes or alterations have been made to the vehicle.
- Nonresident commercial vehicles with an unladen weight of 6,000 pounds or less, if the nonresident title or registration shows the empty, unladen, shipping, scale, tare, or WT/Wheels weight.

NOTE: “Weight” as shown on the Texas title is the empty weight. “Weight with wheels” (Wt/Wheels as shown on the New Mexico title and vehicle registration is the empty or unladen weight.