

Historically, the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) program is a federally-mandated, state administered program that went into effect on September 10, 2007.

Motor carriers (for-hire), motor private carriers, freight forwarders, leasing companies and brokers based in the United States, Canada, Mexico or any other country that operates in interstate or international commerce in the United States must register under the UCR program.

UCR replaces the Single State Registration System (SSRS) program for the for-hire carriers. The UCR program is similar to SSRS in that UCR is a base-state system, under which a carrier pays UCR fees through its base state on behalf of all participating states. The UCR receipt which is issued after the UCR application is processed is recognized nationwide.

Beginning in 2010, UCR fees were based on the total number of commercial motor vehicle / power units operated by a motor carrier or a motor private carrier. The past requirement (2007 through 2009) for including trailers in the total vehicle count was eliminated.

For 2012, the number of commercial motor vehicles (CMV) used to determine a carrier's UCR fee is the number of commercial motor vehicles / power units the carrier reported on its most recent MCS-150 form filed with the USDOT or the total number of commercial motor vehicles it owned or operated under long-term lease for period ending June 30, 2011.

As in years past, brokers, freight forwarders and leasing companies pay the lowest bracket fee.

UCR fees are not pro-rated. Carriers must pay the 2012 UCR fees as they appear on the UCR application. Carriers will be issued a UCR receipt for fees paid on the total number of power units indicated on the UCR application. The UCR receipt expires December 31, 2012. The issued UCR receipt need not be carried in the carrier's vehicles nor displayed by the carrier in any manner. Beginning January 1, 2012, enforcement personnel nationwide will use computer records to verify UCR registration.

Entities not required to register under the UCR program include:

- USDOT Registrants (usually owner-operators that do not have interstate operating authority) under the PRISM program.
- Private motor carrier of passengers (not-for-hire groups or companies, often churches).
- Purely intrastate carriers, that is, those that do not transport interstate freight nor cross state lines.

Please see the 2012 UCR application and supporting documentation for current fees and additional information.