

What is heavy vehicle registration and titling?

It is the titling and registration of non-autos: trucks (10,000 lbs and over), tractors, buses, motor homes and trailers, except for those vehicles apportioned under the International Registration Plan (IRP).

What type of registration is issued?

A wide variety of license plates and registration stickers for vehicles ranging from pick-up truck licenses (LTK), trucks, truck tractors, semitrailers, farm and heavy farm trucks, trailers of all types (from camping trailers to semi-trailers), buses, including school buses, motor homes, dual purpose vehicles and specialty vehicle licenses (X, UX, and Z plates).

Where is application made?

Applications may be mailed directly to the Madison central office. Heavy vehicle registration services are available at the La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Madison DMV Service Centers.

Vehicle Registration Periods for Heavy Vehicles:

Registration is available on a quarterly basis (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December) for vehicles registered with a gross weight over 8,000 pounds. An extra fee of \$5 is charged per quarter of registration. Consecutive monthly registration is also available (with a minimum registration period of three months) for registration of a number of special-use vehicles. The fee is 1/12 the annual fee times the number of months of registration, plus a fee of \$15 per vehicle.

Any of the following vehicles may be registered on a consecutively monthly registration basis:

- a motor truck or a trailer or a truck tractor used exclusively to transport concrete pipe or block and related materials, calcium chloride liquid, a weight transfer machine for purposes associated with truck or tractor pulling competitions or events, recycled metal salvage materials, logs or pulpwood, dirt, fill or aggregates or fresh milk, or to transport perishable fresh fruits or vegetables for canning, freezing, dehydrating or storage prior to processing, including return of waste, or to transport petroleum products
- a motor truck or a trailer or a truck tractor equipped with a dump, box or other container used exclusively to transport gravel, concrete or cement and bituminous road construction materials or agricultural lime, feed, grain or fertilizer, or equipped with a mechanical mixer used exclusively to mix and deliver concrete
- motor truck or truck tractor which is owned or leased by a retail lumberyard used exclusively to transport building construction materials from that lumberyard to a building construction site
- any motor vehicle used exclusively for towing operations of stalled or disabled vehicles

Immediate Operation:

Telephone Authorization is available for a fee of \$7.50 by calling 1-608-267-5103. This allows for immediate operation for vehicles registered quarterly or consecutive monthly. See section on “Telephone Authorization” for information.

Prior to issuing an original title for a new bus, or a Wisconsin title for a used bus purchased out-of-state, the bus must be inspected by the Wisconsin State Patrol. Contact the nearest State Patrol District Headquarters for inspection information.

School Bus Inspection and Charters:

To use a school bus for a charter operation, the bus must be registered as a charter bus, paying regular gross weight registration fees. Quarterly or annual charter registration is available.

Farm Truck Use:

Trucks licensed as farm trucks may not be used for any non-farm occupation, trade or employment. A truck that is used for both farm and non-farm uses may be registered as a dual purpose farm vehicle. A farm truck may be used for personal or family purposes but not for commuting to another job. A heavy farm truck (registered at 38,000 lbs. or more) may not be used for personal or family purposes.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Vehicle Services
Title and Registration Processing Section
Vehicle Registration and Titling Unit
(608) 266-1466