

- **No courier services are exempt from the requirement to carry liability insurance.** There is no longer an exemption for courier vehicles with a registered gross weight of 7,500 pounds or less. Under the new law, all couriers need to carry liability insurance in the amounts indicated below.

Penalties

DMV reminds you that improperly registering your vehicle or otherwise operating in violation of Virginia's property carrier laws could result

The minimum amount of insurance you need depends upon the size of your vehicle, as outlined below.

Vehicle	Minimum amount of liability insurance
Passenger car, motorcycle, auticycle, moped, or any vehicle with a GVWR of 7,500 pounds or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From the time you accept a request to transport property and are en route to pick it up until the time you have delivered the property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per incident for death and bodily injury ▪ \$50,000 per incident for property damage ○ At any other time you have made yourself available to transport property for compensation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$25,000 per person, \$50,000 per incident for death and bodily injury ▪ \$20,000 per incident for property damage ○ If you do not register your vehicle as for hire, then, when it is not being used commercially it is subject to the same insurance requirements as other private vehicles.
Vehicle with GVWR of 7,501-10,000 pounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any time you have made yourself available to transport property for compensation, including from the time you accept a request to transport property and are en route to pick it up until the time you have delivered the property: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$300,000 per incident ○ If you do not register your vehicle as for hire, then, when it is not being used commercially it is subject to the same insurance requirements as other private vehicles.
Vehicle with GVWR over 10,000 pounds	\$750,000 per incident at all times

in sanctions. Depending on the nature of the offense, possible sanctions include the denial, suspension or revocation of your operating authority and the imposition of criminal and/or civil penalties. For more information, please consult the *Virginia Motor Carrier Manual* (DMV 248), which is available on DMV's website.

For More Information

If you have any questions, please contact DMV Motor Carrier Services at (804) 249-5130 or mconline@dmv.virginia.gov.

Changes to Virginia's Property Carrier Laws

Legislation has changed many rules involving motor vehicles used to transport property for hire. The following highlights some of the most important changes—effective January 1, 2018—and how they may affect your business.

Changes to Operating Authority Requirements

- **Smaller vehicles used to transport property for hire may no longer need a permit or certificate from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to do business in Virginia.** If you carry property for hire *exclusively* in passenger cars, motorcycles, autocycles, mopeds, and vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less, you are no longer required to declare that these are being used for hire; you may instead register the vehicles for private use. If all your vehicles are registered for private use, you do not need a permit or certificate to carry property for compensation.
- **DMV no longer issues separate permits to bulk property carriers.** Under the new law, there is only one classification of property carrier, which authorizes the transportation of all property (with the exception of household goods transported more than 30 miles, which still requires a separate certificate of fitness).

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- **Virginia no longer regulates property brokers.** Accordingly, property brokers no longer need to be licensed by DMV or maintain a surety bond or letter of credit on file with the agency.
- **There has been a change in what it means to be a household goods carrier.** The new law defines “household goods” as property for use in a dwelling, which is being transported either between residences or between a residence and a storage facility with the intent to later be transported to a residence. If you use your operating authority as a household goods carrier to transport other property—such as carrying appliances from a retail store to a residence—you will need to obtain a property carrier permit in order to continue providing those other services.

Changes to Vehicle Requirements

- **Property carriers are no longer required to use license plates with a “for hire” (or “H”) designation; they may instead use regular, private plates.** What this means for you depends upon the type of vehicles you operate.
 - *Vehicles that are required to use truck or tractor plates.* DMV no longer produces specially designated for-hire license plates for trucks and tractors. If your vehicle currently has such license plates, you may continue to use them. Once DMV’s current supply is gone, DMV will issue

only truck and tractor plates without the for-hire designation.

- *Passenger vehicles.* DMV will continue to produce for-hire license plates for use on passenger cars, motorcycles, autocycles, mopeds, and vehicles with a GVWR of 7,500 pounds or less because these plates will continue to be required for carriers who transport passengers for hire.
- *Tow trucks.* The new law does not affect tow truck plates.
- **In general, before a vehicle can be used to transport property for compensation, it must be registered with DMV as a for-hire vehicle.** This requirement applies not only to vehicles operated by carriers who are required to have operating authority, but also to the vehicles of most carriers who otherwise are exempt from regulation by DMV. The only exceptions to this requirement to declare for-hire use are:
 - vehicles owned and operated by a federal, state or local governmental entity, including any political subdivision of the Commonwealth; and
 - vehicles owned by carriers who transport property for compensation exclusively in passenger cars, motorcycles, autocycles, mopeds, and vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.

- **The \$10 annual fee that DMV collects for most vehicles used by intrastate carriers transporting property no longer applies to passenger cars, motorcycles, autocycles, mopeds, or vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less.** Note: You will not be charged the \$10 annual fee for these vehicles even if you operate other vehicles with a GVWR above 10,000 pounds.

Changes to Insurance Requirements

- **Only carriers who are required to hold a permit or certificate of fitness from DMV need to provide the agency with proof of insurance coverage.** If you transport property exclusively in smaller vehicles and do not register those vehicles as being for hire (see “Changes to Operating Authority Requirements”), you do not need to file evidence of your insurance with DMV; you simply need to obtain insurance coverage in the amounts indicated on the next page.
- **Only carriers who transport household goods need to have cargo insurance.** Even for these carriers, cargo insurance is not required if the household goods are being transported exclusively in passenger cars, motorcycles, autocycles, mopeds, and vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less. For carriers who are subject to the cargo insurance requirement, the minimum amount of insurance coverage is \$50,000.