

NEW AUTHORITY STEPS & COST CHECKLIST

Every step to active for-hire authority, in order, with the official fee where there is one and a blank for what you actually paid. Fees checked October 7, 2026.

✓	STEP	DETAILS	OFFICIAL COST	YOUR COST
☐	1. Business entity + EIN	LLC with your state; EIN free at IRS.gov	State fee varies; EIN \$0	
☐	2. Login.gov + Motus profile	Identity verification at motus.dot.gov (FMCSA's registration system since May 2026)	\$0	
☐	3. USDOT number + operating authority	Apply in Motus; pay through Pay.gov. Paper forms take at least 8 business days for initial review.	\$300	
☐	4. BOC-3 process agent	Blanket process agent company files it for you	Set by the agent	
☐	5. Get insurance quotes	During the 10-day protest period after FMCSA publishes your application	Quote-based	
☐	6. Insurer files BMC-91/91X	Liability minimum \$750,000 for general freight (more for hazmat). Cargo coverage is usually a broker requirement.	Deposit + premium	
☐	7. Confirm authority is active	Check your record in Motus or FMCSA's public lookup before hauling	\$0	
☐	8. UCR registration	0-2 vehicles. Register before Jan 1 of each year; starting this fall usually means paying 2026 and 2027.	\$46 (2026), \$55 (2027)	
☐	9. Drug & alcohol program (CDL drivers)	Join a testing consortium; register in the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse; pre-employment test	Set by provider	
☐	10. IFTA + IRP (base state)	Qualified vehicles: over 26,000 lbs, or 3+ axles	Set by your state	
☐	11. Form 2290 (HVUT)	Vehicles of 55,000+ lbs; due by the end of the month after first use	IRS rate table	
☐	12. State weight-distance taxes	NY, KY, NM, OR, and CT's highway use fee, if you run there	Set by each state	
☐	13. Markings + ELD + files	Name and USDOT on both sides; ELD unless exempt; driver qualification files	Varies	
☐	14. Calendar the renewals	UCR yearly; IFTA quarterly; MCS-150 update every 2 years	—	

TOTAL BEFORE YOUR FIRST LOAD

Skip the “authority filing” markup. The government fee is \$300 no matter who files, and in Motus you still have to verify your own identity and certify the application yourself.

YOUR FIRST 30 DAYS WITH AUTHORITY

The 30-Day MC Launch Playbook: a 52-page step-by-step eBook, from getting your authority to booking your first load. \$35.99. 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee.

[See the Playbook →](#)

Sources (checked October 7, 2026): 49 CFR 360.3(f) (\$300 fee), 387.9 (insurance), 390.21 (markings), 382 (drug and alcohol testing), ecfr.gov; FMCSA Motus and Federal Register notice 2026-08334 (Apr 29, 2026); UCR fee brackets (plan.ucr.gov/fee-brackets); IRS Form 2290 page (irs.gov); IFTA Articles of Agreement (iftach.org). For information only, not legal, tax, or financial advice. Rules and fees change, so confirm with the official source before you file. © 2026 American Truckers LLC • americantruckersllc.com