



# Florida

## Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

### *Division of Motorist Services*

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>SUBJECT:</b>
RS-45	HEAVY TRUCK AND TRUCK TRACTOR LICENSE PLATES

**DESCRIPTION AND USE:**  
 THIS PROCEDURE **PROVIDES INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS TO** TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES **FOR ISSUING** LICENSE PLATES FOR HEAVY TRUCKS AND TRUCK TRACTORS.

**I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:**

Section 320.01(10), Florida Statutes, defines “Heavy Truck” as any motor vehicle with a net vehicle weight of more than 5,000 pounds, and is registered on the basis of gross vehicle weight in accordance with section 320.08(4), Florida Statutes, and is designed or used for the carriage of goods or designed or equipped with a connecting device for the purpose of drawing a trailer that is attached or coupled thereto by means of such connecting device and includes any such motor vehicle that has been added, a cabinet box, a platform, a rack, or other equipment for the purpose of carrying goods other than the personal effects of the passengers.

Section 320.01(11), Florida Statutes, defines “Truck Tractor” as a motor vehicle which has four or more wheels and is designed and equipped with a fifth wheel for the primary purpose of drawing a semi-trailer that is attached or coupled thereto by means of a fifth wheel and has no provision for carrying loads independently.

Section 320.01(12), Florida Statutes, defines “Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW):”

- a. For heavy trucks with a net weight of more than 5,000 pounds, but less than 8,000 pounds, the gross vehicle weight is calculated by adding the net weight of the heavy truck and the weight of the load carried by it, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration.
- b. For heavy trucks with a net weight of 8,000 pounds or more, the gross vehicle weight of the heavy truck, including the gross weight of any trailer coupled thereto. The gross vehicle weight is calculated by adding to the gross weight of the heavy truck to the gross weight of the trailer, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration.

***Revision(s) to this procedure: Added statute on page 2, changed and corrected information on page 2, page 3, page 4, page 5, and added a Note to Exhibit A, scenario 3.***

<b>DIVISION DIRECTOR</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>REVISION DATE</b>	<b>PAGE #</b>
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<p>c. The gross weight of a truck tractor and semi-trailer combination is calculated by adding the net weight of the truck tractor to the gross weight of the semi-trailer, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration; such vehicles are coupled by means of a fifth wheel arrangement whereby part of the weight of the semi-trailer and load rests upon the truck tractor.</p> <p><b><u>Section 320.01(26), Florida Statutes, defines "Commercial motor vehicle" as any vehicle which is not owned or operated by a governmental entity, which uses special fuel or motor fuel on the public highways, and which has a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, or has three or more axles regardless of weight, or is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight. A vehicle that occasionally transports personal property to and from a closed-course motorsport facility, as defined in s. 549.09(1)(a), is not a commercial motor vehicle if the use is not for profit and corporate sponsorship is not involved. As used in this subsection, the term "corporate sponsorship" means a payment, donation, gratuity, in-kind service, or other benefit provided to or derived by a person in relation to the underlying activity, other than the display of product or corporate names, logos, or other graphic information on the property being transported.</u></b></p> <p>Section 320.0706, Florida Statutes, <b><u>states</u></b> that the owner of any commercial truck of gross vehicle weight of 26,001 or more shall display the registration license plate on both the front and rear of the truck in conformance with all the requirements of section 316.605 that do not conflict with this section. <b><u>The owner of a dump truck may place the rear license plate on the gate no higher than 60 inches to allow for better visibility.</u></b> However, the owner of a truck tractor shall be required to display the registration license plate only on the front of such vehicle.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> When <b><u>issuing</u></b> a temporary license plate <b><u>to a</u></b> commercial vehicle <b><u>traveling</u></b> out of state, a trip permit and fuel taxes are required.</p> <p>Section 320.08(4), Florida Statutes, <b><u>establishes</u></b> the taxing structure for registration of heavy trucks and truck tractors by gross vehicle weight.</p> <p>II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>License plates may be issued for heavy trucks and truck tractors in any county license plate agency.</p> <p>A. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP:</p> <p>Proof of ownership of the vehicle <b><u>requires</u></b> submitting ONE of the following:</p> <p>1. Copy of the current Florida Vehicle Registration Certificate.</p>	
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<p>2. Copy of the Florida Certificate of Title.</p> <p>3. Copy of a title receipt showing the Florida title has been applied for.</p> <p>4. Application for Florida title with all supporting documents and applicable title fees.</p> <p>B. The gross vehicle weight, as declared by the owner or person applying for registration.</p> <p>C. HEAVY VEHICLE USE TAX:</p> <p>If the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 55,000 pounds or more, <b><u>the applicant must provide</u></b> proof of filing, payment <b><u>of</u></b>, or exemption from Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax. Refer to DMS Procedure RS-34 for additional information.</p> <p>D. PROOF OF INSURANCE:</p> <p><b><u>The applicant must provide</u></b> proof of Florida insurance. Refer to DMS Procedure RS-36 for additional insurance requirements.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds <b><u>or more, the applicant must provide</u></b> proof of commercial vehicle insurance. Refer to DMS Procedure RS-33 for additional information.</p> <p>E. FEES:</p> <p>The applicant must <b><u>pay the appropriate</u></b> registration fees in the Tax Due and Credit Manual using class code 41 (Reg. Use FY) or class code 41 (Reg. Use HY) for semi-annual registration according to the declared gross vehicle weight, Original Plate fee, Decal on Demand fee and Service fee (additional Branch fee, if processed through a county branch agency). Refer to the Registration Fees and Flat Taxes Distribution Chart for applicable fees.</p> <p>III. DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATES:</p> <p>A. <b><u>A heavy truck declaring a GVW of 26,000 pounds and under is issued one license plate, which must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle.</u></b></p> <p>B. <b><u>A heavy truck declaring a GVW of 26,001 pounds or more is issued two license plates, which must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. The validation decal must be affixed to the license plate displayed on the front of the truck.</u></b></p> <p>C. A truck tractor is issued one license plate, which must be displayed on the front of the truck tractor.</p> <p>D. <b><u>For information concerning GVW Wrecker license plates, refer to RS-46.</u></b></p>	
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IV. EXPIRATION DATES FOR ORIGINAL REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS ON TRUCKS AND TRUCK TRACTORS:

Month of Application	May Expiration	December Expiration
January	5 Months	11 Months
February	4 Months	10 Months
March	3 Months	9 Months
April	2 Months	8 Months
May	1 Month	7 Months
June	-----	6 Months
July	-----	5 Months
August	-----	4 Months
September	-----	3 or 15 Months
October	-----	2 or 14 Months
November	-----	1 or 13 Months
December	6 Months	12 Months

V. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. The two semi-annual registration periods are:

1. December through May
2. June through November

**NOTE:** The second semi-annual registration period has an extended grace period for renewal purposes and expires December 31.

If the applicant **requests a** semi-annual registration and the annual tax is \$100 or more, **use** class code 41 (Reg. Use HY) for registration purposes. An additional \$2.50 semi-annual fee is also required for each semi-annual registration transaction.

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<p>B. If the applicant <b>does</b> not <b>request</b> semi-annual registration, <b>use</b> class code 41 (Reg. Use FY) for registration purposes.</p> <p>C. Heavy trucks with a GVW weight less than 26,001 have the option of registering under IRP.</p> <p>D. Heavy trucks with a GVW greater than 26,000 pounds <b><u>that travel interstate</u></b> must register under IRP, unless they purchase a trip permit or have a restricted license plate.</p> <p>E. <b><u>Regardless of the GVW, vehicles with 3 axles or more that travel interstate, must register under IRP.</u></b></p> <p>F. “Practical Tips for Declaring Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)” is attached as Exhibit A.</p> <p>VI. RENEWALS AND TRANSFERS:  Renewals and transfers may be processed in any county license plate agency.</p> <p>VII. REPLACEMENT LICENSE PLATES:  Applications for replacement license plates may be processed by the county license plate agency.  The following is required:</p> <p>A. Form HSMV 83146, Application for Replacement License Plate, Validation Decal, or Parking Permit. <b><u>Forms and applications must be complete and accurate.</u></b></p> <p>B. A copy of the vehicle registration certificate.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Refer to DMS Procedure RS-06 for additional information and fees.</p>	
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## EXHIBIT A

### Practical Tips for Declaring Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)

#### **Scenario 1:**

**Section 320.01(12)(a), Florida Statutes, reads, “For heavy trucks with a net weight of more than 5,000 pounds, but less than 8,000 pounds, the gross vehicle weight of the heavy truck. The gross vehicle weight is calculated by adding to the net weight of the heavy truck the weight of the load carried by it, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration.”**

An example of this would be a truck weighing a net of 6,500 pounds, towing a boat that weighs 10,000 pounds and has loaded the day’s catch, which weighs 1,000 pounds, in the bed of the truck.

The owner should declare a GVW of at least 7,500 pounds.

Trucks weighing between 5,000 and less than 8,000 pounds do not have to calculate the weight of any attachment they are towing.

The weight of the driver, passenger(s) and any other item(s) that might be loaded in the truck should also be calculated as part of the GVW.

#### **Scenario 2:**

**Section 320.01(12)(b), Florida Statutes, reads “For heavy trucks with a net weight of 8,000 pounds or more, the gross vehicle weight of the heavy truck, including the gross weight of any trailer coupled thereto. The gross vehicle weight is calculated by adding to the gross weight of the heavy truck to the gross weight of the trailer, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration.”**

A truck weighing a net of 9,000 pounds is towing a boat that weighs 10,000 pounds and has loaded the day’s catch, which weighs 1,000 pounds, in the bed of the truck.

The owner should declare a GVW of at least 20,000 pounds.

The weight of the driver, passenger(s) and any other item(s) that might be loaded in the truck should also be calculated as part of the GVW.

#### **Scenario 3:**

**Section 320.01(12)(c), Florida Statutes, reads, “The gross weight of a truck tractor and semi trailer combination is calculated by adding to the net weight of the truck tractor the gross weight of the semi-trailer, which is the maximum gross weight as declared by the owner or person applying for registration; such vehicles are together by means of a fifth-wheel arrangement whereby part of the weight of the semi trailer and load rests upon the truck tractor.”**

A truck tractor weighing a net of 13,000 pounds is towing a semi trailer that weighs 20,000 pounds empty. However, the semi trailer is loaded with boxes of frozen fish. The weight of the boxes of frozen fish is 20,000 pounds.

The owner should declare a GVW of at least 53,000 pounds.

The weight of the driver, passenger(s) and any other item(s) that might be loaded in the truck should also be calculated as part of the GVW.

The semi trailer must also be licensed by flat tax base weight.

**Special Note: If the vehicle has a GVW of 55,000 pounds or more, the applicant must provide the license plate agency with proof of filing, payment of, or exemption from the Federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax. The license plate agency must retain a copy of this documentation (see DMS Procedure RS-34).**