**TOW TRUCKS/WRECKERS REGISTRATION OPTIONS**

**INTRASTATE OR INTERSTATE OPERATION**

**MGVWR:** Manufacturer’s Gross Vehicle Weight Rating is the total weight of the vehicle, passenger’s optional components and cargo that the vehicle is designed to carry, as assigned by the manufacturer.

**GVWR:** Gross Vehicle Weight Rating is the same as MGVWR.

**GCWR:** Gross Combined Weight Rating is the combined maximum load weight (vehicle, passengers, cargo and towed vehicle) that the vehicle is designed to tow, as assigned by the manufacturer.

### INTRASTATE

**Vehicles operated solely within Virginia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF VEHICLE OPERATION IS FOR-HIRE</th>
<th>IF VEHICLE OPERATION IS PRIVATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLATE OPTIONS</strong>¹,²,³</td>
<td><strong>PLATE OPTIONS</strong>²,³</td>
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<tr>
<td>• GVWR of 10,000 pounds and over:</td>
<td>• Regardless of weight:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Tow Truck For-Hire plates, or</td>
<td>o Truck plates⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Truck plates⁴</td>
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<td>• GVWR of UNDER 10,000 pounds:</td>
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<td>o Truck plates⁴</td>
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**VIRGINIA OPERATING AUTHORITY**

- Property carrier permit required if hauling sheds and other structures (“rollback”).
- Annual $10 Operating Authority fee is included with the registration fee for vehicles that are NOT qualified motor vehicles.⁵
- Operating Authority status is reflected on vehicle registration card.

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- $750,000 Bodily Injury and Property Damage, for vehicles with GVWR of 10,000 and over, (Va. Code § 46.2-2143.1), OR
- $300,000 Bodily Injury and Property Damage, for vehicles with GVWR in excess of 7,500 but not exceeding 10,000 pounds, (Va. Code § 46.2-2143.1).
- $50,000 Cargo requirements
- Federal limits may be higher.

**REGISTRATION AND FEES**

- Truck Plates⁴: Estimated fees $80 - $1,328 based on gross weight of the towing vehicle.
  - Registration may be renewed annually or quarterly.
- Tow Truck for-Hire (TW) Plates: Estimated fees $100 - $400 based on GVWR of the towing vehicle.
  - Registration must be renewed annually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REFERENCE:</th>
<th>Virginia Code § 46.2-697, 46.2-649.1, 46.2-2143.1</th>
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**REFERENCE:** Virginia Code §§ 46.2-472, 46.2-697

### Important Plate Option Notes

1. Tow trucks MUST have a GVWR/GCWR/Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 10,000 pounds or more to be eligible for Tow Truck For-Hire (TW) plates.
2. “Permanent” plates are available for customers who do not wish to display decals.
3. Personalized plates are available.
4. Continue to issue Truck For-Hire and Truck Private plates to eligible tow trucks, even though discontinued, until existing inventories are depleted, UNLESS a customer specifically requests one of the new plates without the “H” or “P” designator, then issue the new plate type.
5. Qualified motor vehicles are motor vehicles that either have (a) 2 axles and GVWR/MGVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 26,001 pounds or more, OR (b) 3 or more axles regardless of the weight.
### INTERSTATE

Vehicles operated in Virginia and at least one other jurisdiction

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<tr>
<td><strong>PLATE OPTIONS</strong>&lt;sup&gt;1,2,3,4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td><strong>PLATE OPTIONS</strong>&lt;sup&gt;2,3,4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| a) 2 axles and GVWR/GCWR/Registered Gross Vehicle Weight under 10,000 pounds  
- Truck plates<sup>5</sup> (Trip Permit Needed), or  
- IRP (Apportioned) plates (Optional)<sup>2</sup> | a) 2 axles and GVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 26,000 pounds or less  
- Truck plates<sup>5</sup> (Trip Permit Needed), or  
- IRP (Apportioned) plates (Optional)<sup>2</sup> |
| b) 2 axles and GVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 10,000 up to 26,000 pounds  
- Tow Truck For-Hire (TW), or  
- Truck plates<sup>5</sup> (Trip Permit Needed), or  
- IRP (Apportioned) plates (Optional)<sup>2</sup> | b) 2 axles and GVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 26,001 pounds or more or  
- IRP (apportioned) plates |
| c) 2 axles and GVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 26,001 pounds or more  
- Tow Truck For-Hire (TW) plates, or  
- IRP (Apportioned) plates<sup>6</sup> | c) 3 or more axles, regardless of gross vehicle weight  
- IRP (apportioned) plates |
| d) 3 or more axles, regardless of vehicle gross weight  
- Tow Truck For-Hire (TW) plates, or  
- IRP (Apportioned) plates<sup>8</sup> | |

### VIRGINIA OPERATING AUTHORITY

- Property carrier permit required if hauling sheds and other structures. (“rollback”)
- Annual $10 Operating Authority fee is included with registration fees for vehicles that are NOT qualified motor vehicles.<sup>7</sup>
- Virginia Operating Authority type is reflected on vehicle registration card.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Other state or federal additional operating authority and/or other permits may be required.
- The tow truck must have a USDOT number affixed to the truck body if the GVWR is 10,001 pounds or more.
- If the vehicle is a qualified motor vehicle, IFTA credentials MUST be maintained and affixed to the truck body.<sup>7</sup>

### INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- $750,000 Bodily Injury and Property Damage for vehicles with GVWR of 10,000 and over, (Va. Code § 46.2-2143.1, OR
- $300,000 Bodily Injury and Property Damage for vehicles with GVWR in excess of 7,500, not exceeding 10,000 pounds, (Va. Code § 46.2-2143.1).
- $50,000 Cargo requirements
- Federal limits may be higher.

### REGISTRATION AND FEES

- Tow Truck for-Hire Plates: Estimated fee $100 to $400 based on GVWR.  
  - Registration must be renewed annually.
- Truck Plates<sup>5</sup>: Estimated fees $80 - $1,328 based on gross weight of the towing vehicle.  
  - Registration may be renewed annually or quarterly.
- IRP (Apportioned) Plates: Fees based on operation type, gross weight and fee requirements of other states.  
  - Registration must be renewed annually.

### REFERENCE: Virginia Code § 46.2-649.1, 46.2-697, 46.2-703, & 46.2-2143.1

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**Important Plate Option Notes**

1. Tow trucks must have a GVWR/MGVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 10,000 or more to be eligible for Tow Truck For-Hire (TW) plates.
2. Some states do not allow operation by a tow truck with a Virginia TW plate or Truck plate<sup>5</sup> or a Truck plate<sup>5</sup>. Contact Motor Carrier Services at (804) 249-5130 for questions about how to obtain apportioned (IRP) trip permits from a trip permit issuance agency. >>>>>
3. “Permanent” plates are available for customers who do not wish to display decals.
4. Personalized plates are available.
5. Continue to issue Tow For-Hire and Truck Private plates to eligible tow trucks, even though discontinued, until existing inventories are depleted, UNLESS a customer specifically requests one of the new plates without the “H” or “P” designator, then issue the new plate type.
6. For tow trucks that travel in IRP jurisdictions other than Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Tennessee and transport vehicles and/or OTHER cargo.
7. Qualified motor vehicles have either (a) 2 axles and GVWR/MGVWR/GCWR or Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 26,001 pounds or more, OR (b) 3 or more axles regardless of the weight.