

Launch Your Carrier Authority the Right Way

Follow each step in order. Skipping steps costs money and delays your first load.

BUSINESS SETUP

Register your LLC

File with your state (\$50–\$500). Single-member LLC is fine to start.

Obtain your EIN from the IRS

Free at irs.gov/businesses. Takes 10 minutes online. Required for everything.

Open a dedicated business bank account

Chase, Wells Fargo, or Relay (no fees). Use only for business transactions.

AUTHORITY SETUP — FMCSA

Apply for USDOT Number

Free at fmcsa.dot.gov. Required before applying for MC Authority.

Apply for MC (Motor Carrier) Authority — \$300

FMCSA application fee. Takes 21+ business days to activate.

File BOC-3 Blanket of Coverage — ~\$25

Required within 90 days of authority. Use a process agent service.

Register UCR (Unified Carrier Registration) — \$60

Annual fee. Register at ucr.gov once authority is active.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Obtain \$750K–\$1M Auto Liability policy

Required by FMCSA. Shop through a trucking insurance specialist.

Add \$100K Cargo Insurance

Required by most brokers. Ask about your specific freight type.

Budget \$1,000–\$3,000 for down payment

Monthly premiums typically \$800–\$2,500 depending on CDL history and equipment.

BEFORE YOUR FIRST LOAD

■ **Activate ELD (Electronic Logging Device)**

Required for most operations. KeepTruckin (Motive) or Samsara recommended.

■ **Get your DOT Medical Card — \$80–\$150**

Required for CDL drivers. Visit a certified DOT medical examiner.

■ **Subscribe to a load board**

DAT (\$49–\$199/mo) or Truckstop. Essential for finding brokers and freight.

■ **Set up factoring or plan for invoice delays**

Brokers pay 30–45 days. Factoring companies advance 90%+ same day.

DIY or need guidance? Book a strategy call first.

We walk through your specific situation and make sure every step is set up correctly before you spend a dollar. truck4ward.com | (980) 485-5544