



# Do You Need a California Fuel Permit or License?

In general, you must have a fuel permit or license to operate the following vehicles in California:

- Diesel-powered vehicles used in interstate commerce
- Vehicles powered by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG), or certain alcohol fuels

If you operate the above vehicles on a public highway in California without a required permit or license, you are subject to fines and penalties, and your vehicle could be impounded.

## Diesel-Powered Vehicles Used in Interstate Commerce

You need a permit or license to operate a diesel-powered vehicle in California if the vehicle operates both in California and in another state or country *and*

- Has two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms, *or*
- Has three or more axles regardless of weight, *or*
- When used in combination (for example, a tractor-trailer combination), has a combined weight exceeding 26,000 pounds or 11,797 kilograms gross vehicle weight.

You do not need a fuel permit or license to operate a diesel-powered vehicle driven *solely* in California. Likewise, you do not need a fuel permit or license for a diesel-powered recreational vehicle, such as a motor home or a pickup truck with a camper, if the vehicle is not used in connection with a business operation.

If your vehicle qualifies, you must have **one** of the following:

- IFTA (International Fuel Tax Agreement) License
- California Fuel Trip Permit
- Interstate User Diesel Fuel Tax License (DI License)

See reverse side of this publication for more information on each permit and license.

## Vehicles Powered by LPG, LNG, CNG, or Certain Alcohol Fuels

In general, you must have a fuel permit or license to operate a vehicle on public roads in California if the vehicle is powered by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG), or certain alcohol fuels.

You do not need a permit or license for the following exempt vehicles:

- A privately operated passenger vehicle
- A commercial vehicle with an unladen weight of less than 7,000 pounds
- A privately operated two-axle truck that you have rented or leased for a period of 30 days or less

*Please note:* You must pay use fuel tax to your vendor when you purchase fuel for the exempt vehicles previously listed. If you do not, you must have a fuel permit or license to operate the vehicle on a public road in this state.

If your vehicle qualifies, you must have **one** of the following:

- California User Use Fuel Tax Permit (AU Permit)
- IFTA License

*Please note:* To qualify for an IFTA License, your vehicle must be used in interstate commerce and meet the weight requirements previously listed for diesel-powered vehicles.

- California Fuel Trip Permit

## California Fuel Permits and Licenses

For information regarding any of the permits or licenses discussed in this publication, please contact:

**Motor Carrier Office, MIC:65  
California Department of  
Tax and Fee Administration  
PO Box 942879  
Sacramento, CA 94279-0065**

To download or order a publication, visit our website at [www.cdtfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdtfa.ca.gov)

or call

**1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711)**

See reverse side of this publication for more information on each permit and license.

As described on the reverse, you may be required to have one of the following permits or licenses to operate your vehicle in California:

### **IFTA License**

You can obtain an [IFTA license](#) if you operate your vehicle in California and any other U.S. state or Canadian province that is a member of the International Fuel Tax Agreement. An IFTA license allows you to file one tax report for travel in all member jurisdictions. To qualify for an IFTA license, your vehicle must meet the weight requirements listed on the reverse side of this publication. For information regarding California's IFTA program, please download or order publication 50, *California IFTA: Guide to the International Fuel Tax Agreement*, or [publication 50A](#), *Introduction to the International Fuel Tax Agreement*.

### **California Fuel Trip Permit (CFT Permit)**

This [CFT Permit](#) is for certain vehicles that make occasional trips into California. To qualify for the CFT Permit, your vehicle must meet the weight and other requirements listed on the reverse side of this publication. It allows out-of-state registered vehicles to enter and travel in California for up to four consecutive days without obtaining a license for fuel tax purposes. This CFT Permit also allows California registered vehicles to reenter California after traveling out of state if they are unlicensed for fuel tax purposes.

A CFT Permit must be obtained, and all required information must be entered on the permit prior to entering or reentering the state. The fee for issuance of a California Fuel Trip Permit is \$30.00.

You can obtain this CFT Permit online from the CDTFA's website at [www.cdtfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdtfa.ca.gov). Select *New Registration* to apply and purchase a California Fuel Trip Permit. Our online services are available 24 hours a day, except during regularly scheduled maintenance. Most applicants will be able to print their CFT Permit immediately after they submit their application.

If you wish to purchase this CFT Permit in person, you may visit our Motor Carrier Office or any CDTFA office. A list of CDTFA offices may be found on our website at [www.cdtfa.ca.gov/office-locations.htm](http://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/office-locations.htm).

Our offices are open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., excluding state holidays. In addition, some commercial permit services and truck stops may sell CFT Permits for an additional fee.

This permit is also available from most Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices throughout California. For more information, please contact your local DMV office directly.

### **Interstate User Diesel Fuel Tax License (DI License)**

The DI license is issued only to persons who operate diesel-powered vehicles and whose interstate travel is restricted to Mexico and California, or to persons who are not based in an IFTA jurisdiction.

### **California User Use Fuel Tax Permit (AU Permit)**

The AU Permit is issued to vehicles operated by LPG, LNG, CNG, or certain alcohol fuels. You must file returns to report payment of the use fuel tax. You may need a permit even if you are located outside California and operate the vehicle in the state only temporarily. For more information, please download [publication 12](#), *California Use Fuel Tax: A Guide For Vendors & Users*.

### **Taxpayers' Rights Advocate**

If you have been unable to resolve a problem through normal channels (for example, by speaking to a supervisor) or would like to know more about your rights under the Revenue and Taxation Code, we encourage you to contact the [Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office](#) for help. Call 1-888-324-2798 (fax: 1-916-323-3319), or write to:

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate, MIC:70  
California Department of  
Tax and Fee Administration  
PO Box 942879  
Sacramento, CA 94279-0070.

*Note:* This publication summarizes the law and applicable regulations in effect when the publication was written. However, changes in the law or in regulations may have occurred since that time. If there is a conflict between the text in this publication and the law, decisions will be based on the law and not on this publication.