Telephone Authorization (TA) is a call-in procedure that allows registrants to operate on Wisconsin highways without displaying evidence of registration. The program meets a registrant’s immediate need to place an unregistered or newly-acquired vehicle into service in an emergency. A TA is available ONLY for intra-state operation of motor carriers;

Who is eligible?

- motor trucks and truck tractors and certain other vehicles registering at gross weights of more than 8,000 lbs., under the quarterly or monthly registration system
- first-time registrations, re-registrations, registration renewals, or transfer of ownership involving registration of a vehicle

How is it obtained?

The toll-free number in Wisconsin for obtaining a Telephone Authorization is (608) 267-5103. DMV accepts requests between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by recording service during non-business hours. An applicant must provide the department with the following information about the vehicle:

- type, year, make, vehicle identification number
- license plate number or title number
- operating gross weight, and the type (quarterly or consecutive monthly) of registration
- type of operation (private or for-hire) requested

Because all conversations are recorded, the DMV cannot authorize a TA on any other phone line.

What does it cost?

The fee for a TA is $7.50 per vehicle. If a complete application, with correct fees is received by the DMV before the 15th of the month preceding the expiration of the registration period, the fee will be waived if the DMV fails to return evidence of registration by the beginning of the registration period.

How long is it valid?

A Telephone Authorization remains valid until the applicant receives permanent registration. Application for permanent registration must be made within 72 hours of the TA date. If an applicant does not submit the application, with all appropriate fees, including the TA fee, DMV will refuse subsequent registration until all prior fees have been paid.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Vehicle Services
Title and Registration Processing Section
Registration and Titling Unit
(608) 264-7120
Represents the number of vehicles with Telephone authorization calls; a vehicle may receive several Telephone authorizations in a year.