LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - LOUISIANA

Louisiana towing licenses, permits and insurance

What Louisiana requires of these businesses: registration, tax, licenses and the official links to check.

Sources verified 2026-11-21 - Updated 2026-11-21

1 The rules at a glance

- Sales tax registration (repairs taxable, labor included)
- Louisiana towing license plate on every truck
- State Police storage inspection and rotation rules
- Public Service Commission authority for non-consensual tows
- USDOT marking for interstate trucks

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on repairs and services

Required in some cases - State - Louisiana Department of Revenue

Repairs to vehicles are taxable. Ask the Department how your towing and storage charges are treated.

Louisiana towing license plate on every tow truck

Required - State - Louisiana State Police, Towing and Recovery Unit

It is unlawful to tow on Louisiana highways without a Louisiana towing license plate on the tow truck and compliance with the state towing rules (R.S. 32:1715 as amended in 2026). Contact the State Police Towing and Recovery Unit for plates, storage inspection and rotation requirements.

Official application: https://lsp.org/media/dfbhtuaa/towing-new-company-wcag.pdf

Public Service Commission authority for non-consensual tows

Required in some cases - State - Louisiana Public Service Commission

Towing or recovery without the owner's or operator's prior consent requires common carrier authority from the Louisiana Public Service Commission, which also sets rates for these tows.

Official application: https://lpsc.louisiana.gov/docs/trans/T-76%20Wrecker%20Towing%20Recovery%20Packet_b%20updated.pdf

Name and USDOT number on trucks in interstate commerce

Required in some cases - Federal - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Commercial motor vehicles subject to the federal rules show the carrier's name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet in daylight (49 CFR 390.21).

Official agencies and links

49 CFR 390.21, Marking of self-propelled CMVs and intermodal equipment

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (eCFR)

https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-390/subpart-B/section-390.21

Are repairs and maintenance to tangible personal property taxable?

Louisiana Department of Revenue

https://revenue.louisiana.gov/tax-education-and-faqs/faqs/sales-tax-reform/are-repairs-and-maintenance-to-tangible-personal-property-taxable/

Wrecker Towing and Recovery Packet (LPSC-T-76)

Louisiana Public Service Commission

https://lpsc.louisiana.gov/docs/trans/T-76%20Wrecker%20Towing%20Recovery%20Packet_b%20updated.pdf

Act No. 440 of the 2026 Regular Session (HB 728), Towing of motor vehicles
Louisiana State Legislature
https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1480290

Towing company application for the State Police rotation
Louisiana State Police, Towing and Recovery Unit
https://lsp.org/media/dfbhtuaa/towing-new-company-wcag.pdf

Frequently asked questions

Do Louisiana tow trucks need special plates?

Yes. Since the 2026 law, towing on Louisiana highways requires a Louisiana towing license plate on the truck.

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Rules change and can depend on your city or county, so confirm with the official agencies linked below before you apply.