



INFORMATION NOTICE

DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES

DATE: 10/02/2015	Information Notice IRP/IFTA 15-001
SUBJECT: Charter Buses Traveling Interstate Will Be Subject to Registration under the International Registration Plan (IRP)	

Overview:

Currently, charter buses registered in Florida pay only Florida registration fees and are allowed to travel across the United States and Canadian provinces. Pursuant to changes made to the International Registration Plan (IRP), effective January 1, 2016, charter buses traveling interstate with three or more axles or weighing over 26,000 pounds will be required to register under the IRP and obtain an apportioned license plate. **IRP license plates are not available through local county tax collector offices.**

Details:

IRP provides for payment of registration fees based on the distance operated in each jurisdiction. The IRP allows a carrier to register with their base (home) jurisdiction to travel in all other member jurisdictions, rather than registering with each jurisdiction they operate in separately. Depending on where the bus goes and how many miles it travels, IRP fees could be more or less than current Florida registration fees.

The IRP was amended to remove **buses used in the transportation of chartered parties** as a vehicle exempt from IRP registration. A "chartered party" is defined as a group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, have acquired the exclusive use of a passenger-carrying motor vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in advance or modified by the group after leaving the place of origin. This term includes services rendered to a number of passengers that a passenger carrier or its agent has assembled into a travel group through sales of a ticket to each individual passenger covering a round trip from one or more points of origin to a single advertised destination.

Charter buses operating in **intrastate** commerce only are not subject to the IRP and should continue to renew their license plates through their local county office. The attached notification will be sent to those companies potentially impacted by the new requirement.

Conclusion:

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact David Helton (850) 617-2909 or Johnny Singletary at (850) 617-3002 at the Bureau of Commercial Vehicle and Driver Services.

October 2015

Important Notice Regarding Charter Bus Registrations

This notice is to inform you of important changes in vehicle registrations that may affect your company on January 1, 2016. It is important that you understand the changes and take any necessary action prior to the expiration of your current license plates.

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The International Registration Plan (IRP) was recently amended to remove **buses used in the transportation of chartered parties** as a vehicle exempt from IRP registration. A "chartered party" is defined as *a group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, have acquired the exclusive use of a passenger-carrying motor vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in advance or modified by the group after leaving the place of origin. This term includes services rendered to a number of passengers that a passenger carrier or its agent has assembled into a travel group through sales of a ticket to each individual passenger covering a round trip from one or more points of origin to a single advertised destination.*

If you are required to register your buses under the IRP, you may do so anytime between now and January 1, 2016. IRP license plates are not available through your local county tax collector office. If you are subject to these new requirements, we encourage you to contact David Helton (850) 617-2909 or Johnny Singletary at (850) 617-3002 of the Bureau of Commercial Vehicle and Driver Services prior to the expiration of your current registrations to ensure there is no interruption to your operations.

Charter buses operating in intrastate commerce only are not subject to the IRP and should continue to renew their license plates through their local county office.

Additional information can be found on the IRP, Inc. website at www.irponline.org