



**JULIE P. MAGEE**  
Commissioner

# State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)  
50 North Ripley Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

September 22, 2015

**MICHAEL E. MASON**  
Assistant Commissioner

**JOE W. GARRETT, JR.**  
Deputy Commissioner

**CURTIS E. STEWART**  
Deputy Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

2015-20

TO: License Plate Issuing Officials  
Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Trishawn Bell, Revenue Examiner II *JB*  
Motor Vehicle Division

SUBJECT: Charter Buses/Motorcoaches No Longer Exempt from IRP Requirements

This letter is to inform you of important changes in vehicle registration law that affects charter buses and motorcoaches beginning January 1, 2016. The International Registration Plan (IRP) has been amended to remove the exemption for buses used in the transportation of chartered parties; therefore, all IRP qualified charter buses conducting interstate operations will be required to obtain IRP registrations or purchase trip permits. Charter bus companies have been notified that they should convert their current bus registrations to an IRP registration prior to their renewal month.

To all licensing officials, ad valorem taxes must be paid on Alabama-based trucks through the registrant's IRP renewal month prior to the issuance of IRP license plates. Pursuant to Section 40-12-246.1, Code of Alabama 1975, charter buses and motorcoaches must provide the special common carrier of passengers business operating license (BOL) in lieu of the ad valorem taxes. Department Administrative Rule 810-4-1-.07 provides that the special common carrier of passengers BOL must be obtained annually and is a prerequisite to registration. The BOL start date for IRP vehicles will be assigned in the same manner as ad valorem taxes for IRP vehicles, which is the first day of the month following the renewal/expiration month. The BOL on charter buses and motorcoaches will be apportioned based on the Alabama mileage percentage; similar to ad valorem taxes on trucks and truck-tractors.

If you have any questions concerning IRP, please contact our office at (334) 242-2999 or email us at: [mcs@revenue.alabama.gov](mailto:mcs@revenue.alabama.gov).