



# Insurance For Truck Drivers

**Learn the basics of commercial  
insurance and cargo insurance  
— and where to get them**





# Introduction

If you're in the business of transporting freight, you know just how many risks there are. On the road, you could run into traffic or bad weather, delaying your delivery. Or you could even wind up in an accident, resulting in damaged vehicles, ruined cargo, injured parties, or worse. The possibilities are endless, so you need an insurance partner to keep you and your freight covered.

The good news is that trustworthy trucking insurance partners are out there if you know where to look. DAT's partners are ready to step in and protect your loads without forcing you into a lengthy, rigid contract riddled with hidden fees. But before we dive into the benefits of purchasing [insurance](#) from one of DAT's partners, let's quickly review the basics of insurance for truck drivers, including the different types of insurance you'll need to purchase and their importance.





# Types of insurance for truck drivers

Insurance is a must for truck drivers, but there's more than just one type of insurance you need to worry about. Mainly, you'll need to think about two types of insurance: commercial auto liability insurance and cargo insurance. Both forms of insurance will cost you some cash upfront, but will be worth the money thanks to the much-needed protection they provide.

When you have [commercial auto liability insurance](#), your policy will cover injuries to other drivers and vehicles as well as damage to public property. You'll need at least \$750,000 in coverage to adhere to state and federal requirements, but most brokers require over \$1,000,000 in coverage. Also, if you haul hazardous materials, you'll likely need higher limits. When in doubt, it's better to have more coverage than not enough. The last thing you want is to end up liable and on the hook for large sums of money.

On the other hand, [cargo insurance](#) will protect your business from liability if anything happens to a contracted load under your care. For example, if you lose a load or one is damaged in an accident, your cargo insurance policy would kick in to help protect you from unhappy customers.

Some carriers never need to take advantage of their insurance coverage or think accidents only happen to others so they can get by without insurance as long as they're careful. They either choose the cheapest possible option without regard for quality or skip coverage altogether, but the truth is that it's always a good idea to have insurance, even if it's not required (though it often is). As a carrier, so many things are out of your control. You can't know when a thief will strike or the roads will get extremely slippery. When you have insurance, you'll protect your business and save yourself from potentially financially devastating expenses down the road.





# Types of Insurance for Truck Drivers

The two main types of insurance that truck drivers need to invest in are:

## Commercial Auto Liability Insurance



Covers injuries to other drivers, damage to vehicles, and damage to public property



Purchased on an annual basis



Required to have at least \$750,000 in commercial auto liability by the FMCSA

## Cargo Insurance



Protects your business from liability should something happen to a contracted load under your care



Available on a per-load basis



Not always regulated by the FMCSA, but always recommended since it helps you win loads and strengthens your reputation



Most brokers/shippers will require cargo insurance



# The importance of insurance

Insurance is important for a lot of reasons. For one, it isn't just a worthwhile investment for carriers, it's actually a legal requirement.

As an agency within the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) helps set safety standards and regulations to keep the roads safe and help prevent crashes, injuries, and fatalities. More specifically, the FMCSA regulates the trucking industry, and part of its job is issuing license and insurance requirements to all carriers.

The FMCSA requires all carriers to have commercial auto liability insurance between \$750,000 and \$5,000,000 and to submit the proper insurance forms before receiving their motor carrier authority. The exact amount of commercial insurance required will depend on what type of cargo you plan on transporting.

Typically, interstate general freight carriers will need at least \$750,000 in coverage (though most brokers and shippers prefer \$1,000,000) and they must have process agents who will submit the FMCSA BOC-3 form on their behalf. Carriers will also need their insurance companies to submit the BMC-91 or BMC-91X form to inform the FMCSA that they have liability insurance to cover property damage, bodily injury, and environmental restoration when transporting goods across state lines. However, hazardous materials carriers face

different requirements, typically needing over \$5,000,000 in coverage and having to fill out the FMCSA MCS-90 form and attach it to their auto liability policy. Additional insurance coverage may also be necessary when transporting household goods, temperature-sensitive cargo, and high-value freight.

While filing with the FMCSA may seem a little daunting, it really isn't. After you file your operating authority application with the FMCSA, you just have to contact your insurance company with your docket number. They submit the filings showing your company meets the \$750,000 FMCSA requirement. Just remember to give your information to your insurance company sooner rather than later, as all paperwork must be submitted to the FMCSA within 90 days of your application for authority.

Even if the FMCSA didn't legally require commercial insurance (and, in many cases, cargo insurance) it would still be a good idea to have coverage. Not only does solid insurance coverage protect you and your business, but it also helps you stand out from the competition — and that's always a good thing.

Think about it from a shipper's or broker's point of view. Would you rather work with an uninsured carrier or someone with sufficient cargo insurance coverage? You'd probably want what's best for your cargo, which means working with a carrier with commercial and cargo insurance. In fact, most shippers and brokers won't work with companies that don't have cargo insurance even if it isn't required by law.

On top of that, having insurance will give you added peace of mind. Instead of worrying that one accident could bankrupt your business, you can pay your premium and relax, knowing that your insurance provider has your back if disaster strikes.

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# Getting the best insurance

There are plenty of insurance providers out there, but some are undoubtedly better than others. Some insurance companies overcharge. Others have lengthy, binding contracts that offer little-to-no flexibility. Others take weeks and weeks to process claims.

When searching for an insurance provider, you'll want to do your due diligence. Don't rush and opt for the first provider you see! Instead, look for a provider who will care about you and whose service reflects that. Seek providers who offer flexible policies that are suited to your needs, not theirs. Additionally, try to find providers with all-risk coverage, and make sure their team is staffed with experts who can effortlessly help you navigate the purchasing and claims processes and the often-confusing regulations carriers regularly need to deal with.

Fortunately, you don't have to look very far to find an excellent insurance provider for your commercial insurance or your cargo insurance because DAT partners with the best of the best. Our insurance partners, [Loadsure](#) and [Marquee Insurance Group \(MIG\)](#), are determined to provide carriers like you with insurance that meets your needs.

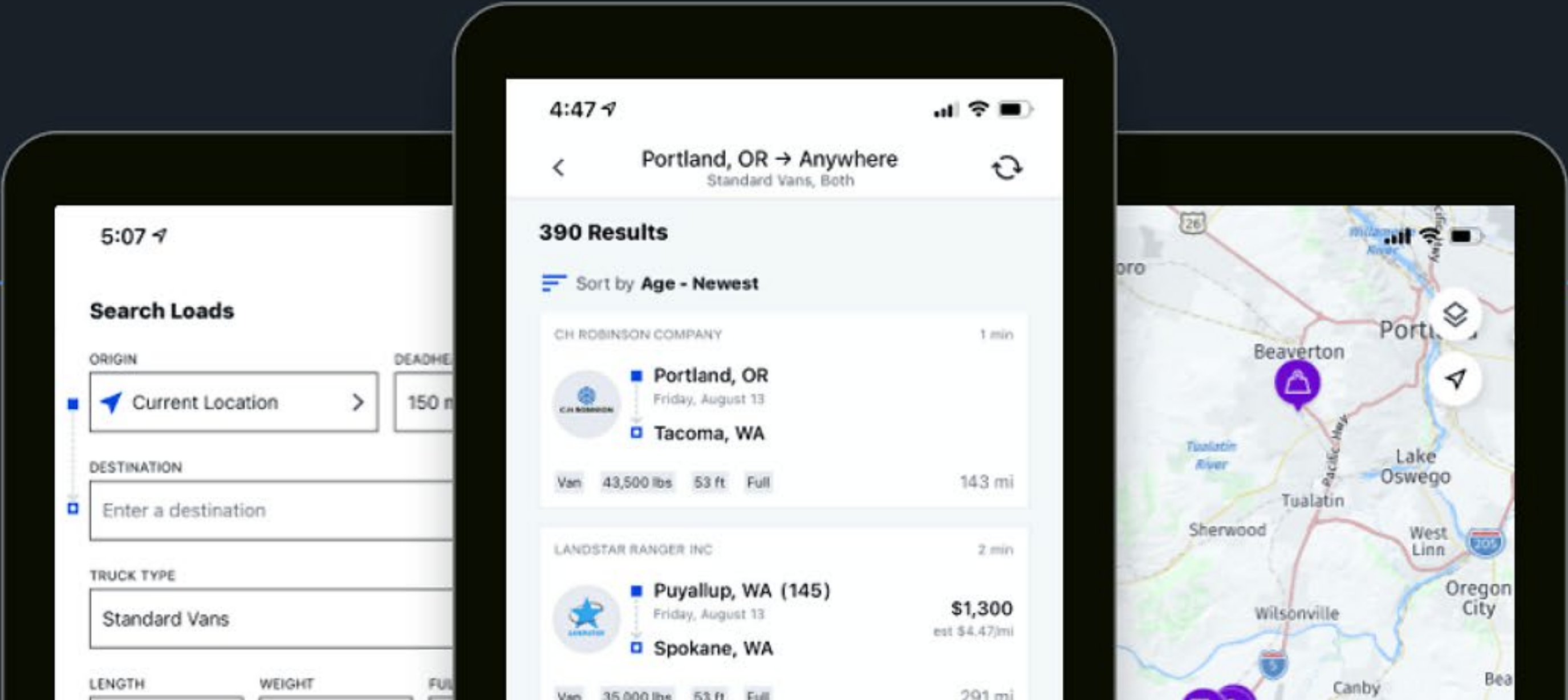
Marquee Insurance Group has been in the business since 2014, using technology and industry expertise to simplify insurance for carriers. All they do is trucking insurance, so when you work with MIG, you know you're working with the experts. And while other companies provide dedicated customer service teams, MIG goes above and beyond the competition. Not only do they provide incredible customer service, consistent communication, and transparency to both new and well-established trucking companies, but they are also fast and capable of producing certificates of insurance in minutes! In addition to offering commercial auto liability insurance coverage, MIG can provide physical damage, motor truck cargo, and general liability insurance solutions.





Once you have your commercial auto liability insurance in hand, you can start searching for quality cargo insurance — and that’s where Loadsure comes in. Offering pay-as-you-go cargo insurance, Loadsure is a game-changer. Instead of being locked into a rigid contract that might leave you overpaying for your coverage, you can purchase cargo insurance on a per-load basis right through [DAT’s load board](#) dashboard in under 40 seconds.

With Loadsure, you can cover LTL freight, access claims payouts instantly, and gain peace of mind. You can even cut your cargo insurance costs by up to 80% compared to traditional coverage thanks to Loadsure’s dynamically priced all-risk smart coverage, AI- and data-driven pricing models, and lack of restrictive contracts.







## Access quality insurance through DAT's trusted partners

Insurance is non-negotiable for carriers, but it's all too easy to pick the wrong provider. There are insurance companies that overcharge for their services, take too long to process claims, or simply don't provide the flexibility that today's carriers need. Luckily, DAT's trusted insurance partners aren't like that.

You'll be in the best of hands when you [purchase](#) insurance through Loadsure or Marquee Insurance Group. Not only will you be able to get the most out of your trucking insurance and gain significant peace of mind, but you'll also be able to settle insurance claims fast with DAT's insurance partners.

Learn more about purchasing [commercial insurance](#) or [cargo insurance](#) today!