

## Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE	SUBJECT:
RS-49	REGISTRATION EXEMPTION FOR PORT AND AIRPORT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT
<p><b>DESCRIPTION AND USE:</b> THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES OF TAX COLLECTORS, LICENSE PLATE AGENTS AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES (FLHSMV) WITH PROCESSING OF EXEMPT PORT AND AIRPORT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.</p>	
<p>I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><a href="#"><u>Section 320.525, Florida Statutes</u></a>, provides for the exemption of port vehicles and equipment from the requirement of registration of motor vehicles, the payment of license taxes, and the display of license plates when operated or used within the port facility of any deepwater port of this state for transporting cargo, containers or other equipment.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><a href="#"><u>Section 320.535, Florida Statutes</u></a>, provides for the exemption of airport fuel trucks and equipment from the requirement of registration of motor vehicles, the payment of license taxes and the display of license plates when operated or used within the airport facility of any public-use airport of this state.</p> <p>II. DEFINITIONS:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. “Port vehicles and equipment” are defined in Section 320.525(1), Florida Statutes, as trucks, tractors, trailers, truck cranes, top loaders, fork lifts, hostling tractors, chassis or other vehicles or equipment used for transporting cargo, containers or other equipment. <b><u>The term includes motor vehicles being relocated within a port facility or via designated port district roads.</u></b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">B. Port facilities are defined in section <a href="#"><u>403.021(9)(b), Florida Statutes</u></a>, as port waters, <b><u>dredged-material management</u></b> sites, port harbors, navigation channels, turning basins, and harbor berths used for deepwater commercial navigation in the ports of Jacksonville, Tampa; Port Everglades, Miami, Port Canaveral, Ft. Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Manatee, Port St. Joe, Panama City, St. Petersburg, Pensacola, <b><u>Fernandina and Key West.</u></b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">C. Airport fuel trucks and equipment means trucks, trailers, containers and other vehicles or equipment used for transporting aviation fuel.</p>	
<p><b><i>Revision(s) to this procedure: Added Historical Revision section, links to statutes, and updated Section II, A and B.</i></b></p>	
EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION DATE
Immediately	03/26/20

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### III. EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Port vehicles and equipment are exempt from the registration requirements for motor vehicles, the display of license plates and the payment of license taxes as required in [Section 320.08, Florida Statutes](#), when such vehicles are being used to transport cargo, containers or other equipment:
1. From wharves to storage areas or terminals and return to wharves within the port;
  2. From such storage areas or terminals to other storage areas or terminals within the port;
- and**
3. On public roads connecting port facilities of a single deep-water port, as listed in s. [403.021\(9\)\(b\)](#), which are designated as port district roads for transporting cargo, containers and other equipment. The Department of Transportation shall designate port district roads with appropriate signage.
- B. Airport fuel trucks and equipment are exempt from the registration requirement for motor vehicles, the payment of license taxes and the display of license plates in the following situations:
1. When the airport facility is a public-use airport of this state.
  2. When used on the roads of this state that are within the airport facility.

Incidental operation of port vehicles or equipment and airport fuel trucks and equipment on the roads of this state within the port facility of any deepwater port of this state, or within the airport facility, for purposes as described above, shall not remove vehicles from the registration exemption.

#### Historical Revisions:

06/16/14 - Added a third exemption requirement, III., A., 3., for port vehicles and equipment on page 2.

08/05/1997 – updated procedure title, added section 320.535 Florida Statute language, and added C to Section II and B to Section III.