P Pinnacle Risk Advisors

FOR NEW TRUCKING AUTHORITIES

New Authority Insurance Checklist

Everything you need to get your authority insured correctly, quoted fast, and protected from day one.

01 Core coverages to put in place

- [ ] **Primary / Auto Liability**: Required to activate your authority. FMCSA minimum is $750K, but most brokers and shippers require $1M CSL to give you loads.
- [ ] **Motor Truck Cargo**: Covers the freight you haul. $100K is common; match the limit to the value of loads you actually book, and check reefer breakdown terms.
- [ ] **Physical Damage**: Comprehensive & collision on your tractor and trailer. Usually required if the equipment is financed.
- [ ] **Trailer Interchange**: If you pull trailers you don't own under an interchange agreement.
- [ ] **Non-Trucking Liability / Bobtail**: For driving without a load or off dispatch, especially if leased to a carrier.
- [ ] **Driver injury coverage**: Workers' compensation or occupational accident for you and any drivers.

02 What drives your first-year pricing

- [ ] Time in business (new-authority surcharge applies)
- [ ] CDL experience, age, and motor vehicle record
- [ ] Radius of operation and commodities hauled
- [ ] Equipment year, type, and value
- [ ] Garaging location / home state
- [ ] Down payment and payment history

Reality check: A clean MVR and realistic radius/commodity info are the two things most within your control that move your premium. Be accurate, not optimistic.

03 Documents to have ready for a fast quote

- [ ] MC / DOT number and EIN
- [ ] Driver list: names, DOBs, CDLs, MVRs
- [ ] Equipment list: VIN, year, make, value
- [ ] Commodities, radius, and estimated miles
- [ ] Prior insurance and loss runs (if any)
- [ ] Desired liability and cargo limits

04 Common mistakes new authorities make

- [ ] Underinsuring cargo for the loads they actually haul, then eating the difference on a claim.
- [ ] Buying only the FMCSA minimum liability, then losing loads because brokers require $1M.
- [ ] Misstating radius or commodities, which can lead to denied claims later.
- [ ] Letting coverage lapse, which creates filing gaps against your authority.
- [ ] Never re-shopping after the first year, when seasoning should lower the rate.

Pro move: Ask your agent to re-market your policy at your first renewal. Once you have 12 clean months, you are a very different risk than the day you filed.

Ready to get your authority covered the right way?

Independent agency · 20+ carrier markets · 24-hour quote turnaround

Call Derrick: (770) 758-3197

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