

Frequently asked Questions

Who can we contact regarding rental rate questions?

Contact Rafia Dawar at 916-654-6466 (rental.rates@dot.ca.gov), she will answer general questions. However, official rental rate requests must go through the Caltrans field office.

How long does it take to get a rental rate generated?

One to three weeks depending on the complexity of the request and the number and complexity of rate requests that were received before yours.

What is the current fuel price that is assumed for equipment?

We base the current fuel price on a one year average of the California weekly diesel fuel price, which is published by the Department of Energy. The diesel cost, from the book effective April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020, is \$3.876/gallon and includes both state and federal taxes. These taxes are removed for off-highway equipment.

Will the book be published earlier if diesel prices go up or down?

Yes, the book will be published earlier if the price (one year average) exceeds a 15-20% increase/decrease from the current book average.

How is the labor surcharge determined?

The explanation is provided in the rental rate book. The varying component is the workers compensation insurance. The workers compensation insurance is arrived at by using the pure premium rates published by the Workers Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau and then applying a load factor that estimates what contractors are paying for workers compensation.

I have a non-Caltrans job, but they are using Caltrans rates, can I get a rate code added?

No, but you can call Rafia Dawar at 916-654-6466 and ask if she has the following information in her reference books:

1. A new equipment list or sales price,
2. Net horsepower, and
3. The approximate weight of the equipment.

If Rafia does not have the information in her reference books she will ask you to find these items and will give you a verbal “dummy” rate or email you the unofficial rate of the equipment in question with the input numbers you have provided to her.

Why are rental yard rates so much higher than what Caltrans is paying me for the equipment?

Per our Rental Rate book title, “Cost of Equipment Ownership,” the rates assume the contractor has ownership of the equipment being used. Rental yards have overhead and profit in their rates and they have higher costs for short-term rentals.

What does Caltrans include in the rental rate?

Some of the main components of the rate include: Major repair and overhaul, depreciation, facilities capital cost, fuel, oil and lube, and field repair costs.