

Frequently asked Questions

Who can we contact regarding rental rate questions?

Contact Rafia Dawar at 916-764-9470 (rental.rates@dot.ca.gov), she will answer general questions. However, official rental rate requests must go through the Caltrans field office.

How are the miscellaneous rental rate requests submitted?

We have switched to the smart sheet system for submitting misc. rental rate requests. Please use the following link to submit your requests:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/91d4f976ec6440edb4cfd735d0ceb2e5>

What information is needed for submitting a rental rate request?

- Make and model of equipment
- Date work performed
- Caltrans contract number/EA
- Local Caltrans field office/RE should be included in the request, if submitted by the contractor

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, 2024, through March 31, 2025, is \$5.357/gallon and includes both state and federal taxes. These taxes are removed for off-highway equipment.

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.

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% 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.

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.

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

No, but you can use our newly added “Dummy Rate Calculator”, for a non-official Caltrans rate at the following link:

<https://mets.dot.ca.gov/equipment-rental-rate-calculator/home.php>

You need the following information to calculate a rate:

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

Make sure you read the disclaimer at the bottom of the page before you submit your query for a rate. If you are having trouble with the site or have some additional questions, contact Rafia.