



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

October 27, 2021

To Private Equipment Owners:

We hope your summer has gone well and you are planning to continue your equipment rental agreement with the NHDOT this winter.

NHDOT has increased the winter plowing and hauling rates. Please see the chart below that reflects the new truck rates with the operator included (these rates do not include the attachments to the truck). There are no increases to the attachment rates. New contracts will need to be written for each piece of equipment you have signed up with NHDOT this season due to the rate changes. This rate increase equates to about 15%.

Table with 5 columns: Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)- Based on vehicle's door label, not vehicle registration; Prior to 10/27/21 plowing rate with operator; After 10/27/21 plowing rate with operator; Prior to 10/27/21 plowing and spreading rate with operator; After 10/27/21 plowing rate and spreading with operator. Rows include weight categories: Below 12,000, 12,000 to 25,999, 26,000 to 43,999, 44,000 and above.

This year we continue to be concerned about protecting you, your employees as well as our people from COVID-19 infection. Please be sure you and your drivers do not report to work if ill, or if you have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19.

We realize that fuel prices and operating costs for your equipment continue to be unstable. The Department has for a number of years attempted to alleviate some of these fluctuations by providing an added fuel adjustment to the hourly rental rate that reflected the rise in the fuel prices, as well as provide a 10 hour minimum payment/2 week pay period to our vendors to cover fixed costs, should the state experience a less severe winter. This year we will continue to maintain the past fuel adjustment payment and the 10 hour minimum payment duration all in hopes of maintaining a reasonable rate of compensation for you. These items are further described below:

- 1) Provide a minimum biweekly payment of 10 hours per 2-week pay period to the regularly scheduled hired trucks during the winter maintenance season, beginning November 5, 2021 through March 24, 2022 (10 periods). This payment would be based on the highest rate the equipment is typically used (i.e. Plowing or Plowing & Spreading) including operator and accessory equipment costs but not fuel

adjustment (aka: Standby rate). However note that these hours will be adjusted for the hours actually worked during a two-week pay period.

For instance, if during a 2-week pay period a truck plowed for only 6 hours, the owner would be paid for 6 hours at their Plowing rate with fuel adjustment and an additional 4 hours at the “Standby” rate with no fuel adjustment. If a truck plowed for 12 hours, then 12 hours of Plowing with fuel adjustment would be paid and none of the 10-hour minimum at the “Standby” rate would apply due to exceeding 10-hour minimum for the pay period.

- 2) Provide an hourly adjustment for the cost of diesel fuel based on a base price of \$2.18/gallon. As a point of reference, the AAA fuel price for the current pay period (Ending *October 21, 2021*) is \$3.33, which would result in a fuel adjustment of \$4.89/hour added to the winter truck rates.

The Department, in maintaining these payments, sincerely hopes that we are providing the private truck owners with acceptable rental rates. The Department recognizes the importance of the work that all of you and your employees perform on our State roadways each winter and look forward to continuing this partnership well into the future.

We are, on a bi-weekly basis, tracking fuel prices throughout the year and you will see differences in the fuel adjustment rate over the winter season as fuel prices continue to remain unstable. This adjustment will be made for any hours that a hired equipment vendor is providing services that are paid a fuel adjustment (i.e. Plowing), effective immediately.

Thank you again for your dedicated assistance in maintaining New Hampshire’s roadways, we appreciate and value our partnership. Your efforts are appreciated by the traveling public and the Department.

Sincerely,



David M. Rodrigue, P.E.
Director of Operations

cc: Bureau of Highway Maintenance
Bureau of Turnpikes
Bureau of Programming and Community Assistance - MATS