



Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

October 26, 2020

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. We realize that fuel prices and operating costs for your equipment continue to be unstable. The Department of Transportation 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 vendor 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 our hired truck owners. 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 6, 2020 through March 25, 2021 (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 22, 2020*) is \$2.47, which would result in a fuel adjustment of \$1.23/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 hope that all of you can understand that the Department is faced with similar economic hardships and is providing what is available to continue this partnership.

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.

This year we are particularly concerned about protecting you, your employees as well as NHDOT staff from COVID-19. Prior to reporting to work each day, your drivers will need to ensure that they are not exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms, that they have not travelled outside a specific geographic area recently (currently outside of New England), and that they have not been exposed to a person suspected or known to be COVID-19 positive. They will be required to self-certify this upon reporting to their assigned NHDOT location.

All will be required to wear a face covering when inside a DOT facility or when within 6 feet of another person. A face covering must have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric that completely covers the wearer's nose and mouth, as well as fit snugly against the sides of the face. Disposable masks are acceptable as well. NHDOT will have cloth masks with the NHDOT logo available for use in the near future. These can be utilized while performing work for the Department, however these masks should not be used at any other time.

COVID-19 related requirements may change during the winter season and specifics will be provided by your local foreman.

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 Rodrigue*

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

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