

Equipment Hire

for Forest Service
Road Projects



Resource Tenures
and Engineering

The Ministry of Forests invites equipment owners to register their equipment for Forest Service road and bridge construction and maintenance work by advertising in local newspapers each year. The ministry also sends letters to current registrants requesting confirmation of their equipment. From the response to the advertisements and update letters, a provincial list of equipment is compiled. Each owner is then allocated to the appropriate forest district.

Every effort is made to ensure that available work is fairly and equitably distributed to local equipment owners. However, due to the restricted numbers and sizes of day-labour projects, there is no guarantee that all equipment listed will be hired in any particular year.

How is the list administered?

- The provincial list is broken down into district lists and each piece of equipment is coded to a particular forest district.
- The list is limited to owned or leased-to-purchase equipment.
- Work will be distributed in an equitable manner. Local equipment will be given preference and only when local equipment is not available will outside equipment be hired.
- Equipment in unsatisfactory working condition will not be hired.

Does the ministry hire equipment on an hourly basis?

Generally, the ministry carries out work using hired equipment on an hourly basis if the work is:

- tendered and all bids are unacceptably high;
- a small project and difficult to quantify for tendering;
- an emergency nature; and
- in environmentally sensitive areas with associated high risk (damage to water quality, etc.).

What if I miss the advertisements?

The list is always open to new registrants.

If you want to be on the list, forward a completed equipment information sheet to Engineering Section, Resource Tenures and Engineering Branch, Ministry of Forests, P.O. Box 9510, 1450 Government Street, Victoria, B.C., V8W 9C2. Equipment information sheets are available at any forest district office.

How is equipment suitability determined?

Equipment must be well maintained because equipment in poor working condition will not be hired.

All equipment is subject to an inspection to determine dependability. Any equipment found to be in unsatisfactory condition will not be hired and may be removed from the list.

Are there any limits to my hourly hire?

Each piece of equipment will generally be restricted to an annual maximum of 300 hours work in a district. However, there are some exceptions:

- extensions of a relatively small number of hours can be made to complete a project, rather than replacing equipment that has reached its allotted number of hours;
- for any project where the only available equipment of a particular type within a district has reached or will shortly reach 300 hours in the year, the 300 hour requirement should be waived.

Who sets the rental rate?

The rental rates shown in the Province of British Columbia, B.C. Hydro and Power Authority and B.C. Rail Ltd. Equipment Rental Rate Guide for the various pieces of equipment are used for payment purposes. However, the responsibility centre manager may approve rates above those in the guide for situations where equipment is only available for hire at a rate that is higher than the guide.

Are there any requirements for equipment operators?

The ministry expects competent operators to operate the equipment effectively and at a level of productivity reflected by the rate structure in the Rental Rate Guide.

Do I Need Insurance? What else do I need?

Equipment must have comprehensive general liability insurance as specified in the equipment rental agreement, and you must provide evidence of such insurance before beginning work. Operators may obtain a Province of British Columbia Certificate of Insurance form from any forest district office, and have their insurance agent complete the form. Registration with WCB is mandatory

How do I get paid?

The project supervisor should complete a Forest Service time card on a daily basis, describing the work done, location and the actual hours worked. The machine operator and the on-site supervisor sign off the time card.

Submit an invoice on your letterhead to the ministry bi-weekly (or at project completion, if sooner) for the hours worked in the previous period of up to 14 days, substantiated with a copy of the signed-off time cards. A ministry representative will provide further details on invoicing and payment procedures.

Contact your local forest district office for more information.

