

## Motor Vehicle Towing and Storage Rates and Charges

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### Issue

This report (1) discusses state law concerning rates and charges for the nonconsensual towing and transporting of motor vehicles, and for the storage of motor vehicles, and (2) summarizes recent increases to these rates and charges.

### Summary

State law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to establish and publish a schedule of rates and charges that licensed wreckers may impose for the (1) nonconsensual towing and transporting of motor vehicles and (2) storage of motor vehicles. The rates and charges must be just and reasonable and cannot be exceeded ([CGS § 14-66\(a\)](#) and [Conn. Agencies Reg. § 14-63-36a](#)). DMV [publishes](#) the schedules in its K-11 and K-89 forms.

Earlier this year, DMV increased these rates and charges for the first time since January 2007. The nonconsensual towing increases ranged from \$17 to \$65. The storage increases ranged from \$1 to \$9.

According to DMV, the 2018 increases [resulted from](#) an October 10, 2017 petition filed by the Towing and Recovery Professionals of Connecticut, Inc. By law, the DMV commissioner (1) must reconsider the rates and charges when petitioned by a licensed wrecker, but not more than once every two years, and (2) may amend them if he determines, after considering certain factors, that they are no longer just and reasonable ([CGS § 14-66\(a\)](#) and [Conn. Agencies Reg. § 14-63-36a](#)). Following receipt of the petition, DMV held a public hearing during and after which it received

testimony from several interested parties. The resulting increases became effective on July 1, 2018.

### ***Nonconsensual Towing***

A nonconsensual tow is generally a tow from (1) private property when the arrangements with the tower are not made by the owner or operator of the towed vehicle or (2) a highway, street, or adjacent area when the arrangements are made by order of a law enforcement officer or traffic authority ([CGS § 14-66\(h\)](#)). Only licensed motor vehicle dealers or repairers possessing a registered wrecker are authorized to perform a non-consensual tow ([CGS §§ 14-66\(a\) and \(c\)](#)).

For nonconsensual towing, different rates and charges apply depending on the gross vehicle weight rating of the towed vehicle and either the distance towed or time to complete it. (The rates and charges for consensual tows performed at the request of a vehicle owner are not regulated.)

With respect to vehicle weight, DMV establishes the following nonconsensual tow categories:

1. light duty tow (i.e., for vehicles less than 10,000 lbs.);
2. medium duty tow (i.e., for vehicles ranging from 10,000 to 26,000 lbs.); and
3. heavy duty tow (i.e., for vehicles over 26,000 lbs.).

The total charge for each type of tow is generally made up of two parts: an initial base charge that covers a certain minimum amount of work and an additional charge for any service beyond that minimum. For a light duty tow, the base charge covers vehicle preparation and the first two miles towed, and an additional charge applies for any mile thereafter. For a medium or heavy duty tow, the base charge covers an hour of work at an hourly rate, including all mileage, and an additional charge applies for any time thereafter, charged at the hourly rate in 15-minute increments.

Comparing the 2018 schedule with the 2007 schedule, the following rate and charge increases occurred:

1. for a light duty tow, the maximum base charge increased by \$17, from \$88 to \$105;
2. for a medium duty tow the maximum hourly rate increased by \$40, from \$200 to \$240; and
3. for a heavy duty tow the maximum hourly rate increased by \$65, from \$325 to \$390.

Unchanged from 2007 is the (1) maximum mileage rate charged for a light duty tow more than two miles (remaining at \$4.75 per mile) and (2) minimum period of time charged for a medium or heavy

duty tow (remaining at one hour). (For the 2018 and 2007 nonconsensual towing schedules, see Attachments 1 and 2.)

Separate from these rates and charges, towers may also charge for providing certain exceptional services (i.e., using special equipment like cutting torches and air compressors at an accident scene) at their hourly labor rates ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 14-63-36b\(4\)](#) and [14-63-36c\(c\)](#)).

## ***Storage***

Licensed wreckers may charge for storing motor vehicles. Different storage rates and charges apply depending on the length of the stored vehicle, storage location, and amount of time the vehicle is stored.

With respect to vehicle length, DMV establishes the following storage categories:

1. vehicles less than 20 ft.;
2. vehicles ranging from 20 to 32 ft.; and
3. vehicles over 32 ft.

In terms of storage locations, DMV establishes the following storage categories:

1. inside a building;
2. outside in a fenced, lighted, and protected area; and
3. outside a building.

Storage charges generally begin accruing when a vehicle is deposited at a storage location. However, if no charge is imposed for towing the vehicle to the location, then the charges may include the towing time. If there is a towing charge, no storage charges can be imposed if the vehicle is retrieved within the first eight hours of storage ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 14-63-36\(a\) & \(b\)](#)).

Generally, wreckers charge for storage in 12-hour increments. If a wrecker stores a vehicle no more than 12 hours during a 24-hour period, then it may charge up to half of its daily rate. If a wrecker stores a vehicle for 12 or more hours during a 24-hour period, then it may charge its full daily rate ([Conn. Agencies Reg. § 14-63-36\(c\)](#)). DMV establishes two categories of maximum daily storage rates: one for vehicles stored five days or less and another for those stored more than five days.

Comparing the 2018 schedule with the 2007 schedule, all 18 of the maximum daily storage rates increased, ranging from an extra \$1 to \$9 per day. For example, the maximum daily rate for a vehicle less than 20 ft. stored inside a building for five days or less increased by \$3, from \$27 to \$30. Similarly, the maximum daily rate for a vehicle over 32 ft. stored outside in a fenced, lighted, and protected area for more than five days increased by \$6, from \$40 to \$46. (For the 2018 and 2007 storage schedules, see Attachments 3 and 4.)

Separate from these rates and charges, a wrecker service may impose an after-hours release fee for releasing a stored vehicle outside its normal business hours of operation ([Conn. Agencies Reg. § 14-63-37a\(b\)](#)).

GM:cmg

Attachment 1 – 2018 K-11 Form



**MAXIMUM TOWING CHARGES  
APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

ON THE WEB AT [ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv)

BUSINESS NAME				HOURS OF OPERATION
BUSINESS ADDRESS (Number and Street) (City or Town) (State) (Zip Code)				DEALER/REPAIRER LICENSE NUMBER
				BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER

**CHARGES AND ADDITIONAL MILEAGE RATES**

	LESS THAN 10,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.	HEAVY DUTY 10,000 TO 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.	HEAVY DUTY OVER 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.
	TOW	TOW	TOW
<b>BASE CHARGE</b>	<b>TOW CHARGE \$105.00</b> Includes mileage to scene and two loaded miles.	<b>HOURLY RATE (Recovery Included) \$240.00/hr</b> Minimum 1 hour charge (15 minute increments charge thereafter.)	<b>HOURLY RATE (Recovery Included) \$390.00/hr</b> Minimum 1 hour charge (15 minute increments charge thereafter.)
<b>MILEAGE CHARGE</b>	<b>\$4.75</b> Per mile in excess of two (2) loaded miles.	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

The rates and charges posted cover **NONCONSENSUAL TOW** charges based on distance and vehicle weight.

**NONCONSENSUAL TOW** - Means the towing of a motor vehicle, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14-145 of the Connecticut General Statutes (trespass tow), or for which arrangements are made by order of a law enforcement officer or traffic authority, as defined in Section 14-297 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**BASE TOW CHARGE** - Means charges including preparation of the vehicle for tow to the ultimate destination and two miles with the vehicle in tow (loaded miles). Hourly charges for vehicles 10,000 lbs. and over, include vehicle recovery and all mileage while towing or transporting a vehicle.

**THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE APPLIES TO:** Exceptional services as defined in Regulation 14-63-36b.

	LESS THAN 10,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (For exceptional services only)	HEAVY DUTY 10,000 TO 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (For exceptional services only)	HEAVY DUTY OVER 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (For exceptional services only)
Hourly charge for labor as posted in accordance with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §14-65j-3			
	<u>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</u>	<u>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</u>	<u>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</u>

The base tow charge for vehicles under 10,000 lbs. G.V.W.R. includes, at no extra cost to the consumer, all services necessary to prepare the vehicle for the tow, up to 15 minutes of wait time by the wrecker at the scene, clean-up of the scene, the removal, installation or re-installation of any movables including loose or separated vehicle parts, the cleaning of any equipment used to perform the towing, the release of the vehicle, and two miles of the tow (loaded miles).

Exceptional services shall mean the use of special equipment such as cutting torches, air compressors and other equipment not generally required for towing or transporting services, at the scene of an accident.

**POST IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE**

K-11 REV. 7-2018

Attachment 2 - 2007 K-11 Form



**MAXIMUM TOWING CHARGES  
APPROVED BY COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

<i>ON THE WEB AT <a href="http://ct.gov/dmv">ct.gov/dmv</a></i>				HOURS OF OPERATIONS
BUSINESS NAME				DEALER/REPAIRER LICENSE NUMBER
BUSINESS ADDRESS (Number and Street) (City or Town) (State) (Zip Code)				BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER

**CHARGES AND ADDITIONAL MILEAGE RATES**

	LESS THAN 10,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.	HEAVY DUTY 10,000 TO 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.	HEAVY DUTY OVER 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R.
	TOW	TOW	TOW
<b>BASE CHARGE</b>	<b>TOW CHARGE \$88.00</b> Includes mileage to scene and two loaded miles.	<b>HOURLY RATE (Recovery Included) \$200.00/hr</b> Minimum 1 hour charge (15 minute increments charge thereafter.)	<b>HOURLY RATE (Recovery Included) \$325.00/hr</b> Minimum 1 hour charge (15 minute increments charge thereafter.)
<b>MILEAGE CHARGE</b>	<b>\$4.75</b> Per mile in excess of two (2) loaded miles.	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

The rates and charges posted cover **NONCONSENSUAL TOW** charges based on distance and vehicle weight.

**NONCONSENSUAL TOW** - Means the towing of a motor vehicle, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14-145 of the Connecticut General Statutes (trespass tow), or for which arrangements are made by order of a law enforcement officer or traffic authority, as defined in Section 14-297 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**BASE TOW CHARGE** - Means charges including preparation of the vehicle for tow to the ultimate destination and two miles with the vehicle in tow (loaded miles). Hourly charges for vehicles 10,000 lbs. and over, include vehicle recovery and all mileage while towing or transporting a vehicle.

**THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE APPLIES:** If winching or exceptional services are performed.

	LESS THAN 10,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (If winching or exceptional services are performed)	HEAVY DUTY 10,000 TO 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (For exceptional services only)	HEAVY DUTY OVER 26,000 LBS. G.V.W.R. (For exceptional services only)
Hourly charge for labor as posted in accordance with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §14-65j-3			
	<b>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</b>	<b>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</b>	<b>THESE CHARGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED</b>

The base tow charge for vehicles under 10,000 lbs. G.V.W.R. includes, at no extra cost to the consumer, all services necessary to prepare the vehicle for the tow, up to 15 minutes of wait time by the wrecker at the scene, clean-up of the scene, the removal, installation or re-installation of any movables including loose or separated vehicle parts, the cleaning of any equipment used to perform the towing, the release of the vehicle, and two miles of the tow (loaded miles).

Exceptional services shall mean the use of special equipment such as cutting torches, air compressors and other equipment not generally required for towing or transporting services, at the scene of an accident.

**POST IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE**

K-11 REV. 1-2007

Attachment 3 - 2018 K-89 Form

VEHICLE STORAGE RATES REQUIREMENTS APPLICATION  
K-89 REV. 7-2018

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
DEALERS AND REPAIRERS SECTION  
On The Web At [ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv)

**MUST BE FILED WITH THE DEALERS AND  
REPAIRERS DIVISION - WETHERSFIELD**



TO: DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, DEALERS AND REPAIRERS SECTION, 60 STATE STREET, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06161

BUSINESS NAME

BUSINESS ADDRESS

DEALER/REPAIRER LICENSE NUMBER      NUMBER OF WRECKERS      LIST WRECKER REGISTRATION PLATE NUMBERS

ADDRESS OF STORAGE AREA IF DIFFERENT FROM BUSINESS ADDRESS

OPERATING HOURS OF STORAGE AREA      DAYS AND HOURS WHEN VEHICLE CAN BE CLAIMED BY CUSTOMER

IS THE STORAGE AREA PROPERLY ILLUMINATED (Sufficient Light to illuminate Storage Area)	IS THE STORAGE AREA FENCED?	IF YES, DOES THE FENCE HAVE A LOCKED GATE?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

IF STORAGE AREA IS FENCED, TYPE OF FENCE	IF STORAGE AREA IS FENCED, HEIGHT OF FENCE

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING IN WHICH VEHICLES ARE STORED (e.g., Wood, Cement, Block, etc.)

TYPE OF FIRE PREVENTION SYSTEM OR DEVICES (e.g., Sprinkler System, Extinguishers, etc.)	TYPE OF HEATING SYSTEM (If Any)

<b>STORAGE AREA</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>INSIDE BUILDING</b>	<b>OUTSIDE (Fenced, Lighted, and Protected)</b>	<b>OUTSIDE BUILDING</b>
	TYPE OF SECURITY ALARM OR SECURITY DEVICES (Alarms, Guard, etc.)			
	NUMBER OF VEHICLES WHICH CAN BE STORED			

<b>STORAGE CHARGES PER 24 HR. PERIOD</b>	<b>LENGTH OF VEHICLE</b>	<b>INSIDE BUILDING</b>		<b>OUTSIDE (Fenced, Lighted, and Protected)</b>		<b>OUTSIDE BUILDING</b>	
		5 DAYS OR LESS	MORE THAN 5 DAYS	5 DAYS OR LESS	MORE THAN 5 DAYS	5 DAYS OR LESS	MORE THAN 5 DAYS
	LESS THAN 20 FEET	<b>\$30.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$37.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$26.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$31.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$23.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$25.00</b> PER DAY
	20 FEET THROUGH 32 FEET	<b>\$35.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$48.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$30.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$37.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$25.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$30.00</b> PER DAY
	OVER 32 FEET	<b>\$43.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$63.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$35.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$46.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$30.00</b> PER DAY	<b>\$38.00</b> PER DAY

I HEREBY ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT I WILL COMPLY WITH THE STATE STORAGE RATES.

NAME OF LICENSEE (Please Print)	SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE	DATE SIGNED
	X	

