

# Construction Worker

Are you a construction worker? You should know what you can claim, as well as what you cannot. Here are all the details you need



The key is to determining which among the expenses can be claimed for a deduction. Here are the clues:

- ✓ You paid for the fee from your own pocket.
- ✓ Your employer did not reimburse you for the money you used to pay for the item or service
- ✓ The product or service directly affects your income
- ✓ You have a record that shows you did make the purchase

## Car Expenses

Deductions you can claim for car expenses include:

- ✓ Driving between two separate jobs in one day, such as working as a construction worker in the first location and as a security job in the second one
  - ✓ Driving to and from another workplace for the same employer, such as different worksites under the same company in one day
- ✗ You cannot claim deductions for fuel and other expenses for trips made from home to work and vice versa. If you live far away, the duration of the trip does not entitle you to a tax deduction. Even weekend and varying shifts cannot be claimed.

However, there are a few exceptions, including:

- ✓ Carrying bulky objects as instructed by the employer  
The item affects or is related to your income
- ✓ No other place is available for storing the item  
It is 20kg or more or at least difficult to transport

An example scenario is if your employer asked you to take an extension ladder with you from work to your home.

## Clothing Expenses

- ✓ Expenses in buying, mending, and cleaning your uniform can be claimed as long as the uniform is distinct to your job or industry. Clothing also includes your personal protective equipment, including high-visibility vests and steel-capped shoes.
- ✗ Buying and servicing your plain clothing cannot be claimed.

## Travel Expenses

Claimable travel expenses include:

- ✓ Travelling overnight to a different work location
- ✓ Work duties costing some money
- ✓ Paying for meals, accommodation, and other costs while working in another area

You could claim deductions for travel expenses only if your employer did not reimburse or provided money for the trip.

If you receive an allowance from your employer, it does not mean you can automatically claim a deduction. You are required to provide proof that you were away overnight for work reasons. You should also show that you paid for the costs and that the travel directly affects how you earn your income.

## Tools and Equipment

Claimable tools and equipment expenses include:

- ✓ When you buy tools and equipment for work
  - ✓ Costs more than \$300, which lets you claim a portion of the cost over a number of years
  - ✓ Costs \$300 or less, which you can claim immediately in full
  - ✓ Work tool repairs
- ✗ Purchase of tools and equipment for private use will not be honoured when making a claim. You should also prove that your employer did not supply the item or even another person.

## Other Expenses

The following can all be claimed for deductions:

- ✓ Protective equipment, including sunscreen and sunglasses
- ✓ Harnesses, breathing masks, and other safety equipment
- ✓ Union fees

All costs above can be claimed only if your employer did not reimburse them.

