Truck Driver

Are you a truck driver? Knowing what you can and cannot claim is essential at tax time. Truck drivers often spend their own money on work-related items, and claiming correctly ensures you don't pay more tax than you owe.

To claim, the general rules are:

- You paid for the expense yourself and weren't reimbursed.
- The expense directly relates to your trucking income.
- You keep records such as receipts, logbooks, or diary notes.

Phone and Internet Expenses

Truck drivers regularly use personal phones and internet for work communication, scheduling, and route updates.

Claimable

- Mobile phone bills (work-related portion).
- Internet usage for work.
- Work-related apps, GPS, and navigation subscriptions.

Not Claimable

- Personal use unrelated to work.

Car and Vehicle Expenses

While your truck is often supplied by your employer, some travel costs can still qualify.

Claimable

- Travel between depots or work sites on the same day.
- Travel directly from one job to another.
- Transporting heavy or bulky equipment (20kg+ or awkward to carry) when no secure storage is available at work.

Not Claimable

- Everyday home-to-work travel.

Tip: *Use a logbook to record trips or apply the cents-per-kilometre method where appropriate.*

Travel Expenses

Truck drivers often work away from home and may need overnight accommodation.

Claimable

- Accommodation (hotel or motel stays).
- Meals and incidental costs during overnight trips.
- Transport such as taxis, buses, or flights.

Not Claimable

- Sleeping in your truck.
- Accommodation supplied by your employer.
- Travel allowances not supported by receipts or records.

Other Work-Related Expenses

There are many smaller costs that truck drivers incur throughout the year which can add up.

Claimable

- Union or association fees.
- Safety gear (steel-capped boots, gloves, high-visibility vests).
- Sun protection items like sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses when required outdoors.
- Load security equipment such as restraining ropes or straps.

Not Claimable

- Personal items not used directly for work.

Clothing Expenses

Only occupation-specific uniforms and protective gear are deductible. Everyday clothing is not.

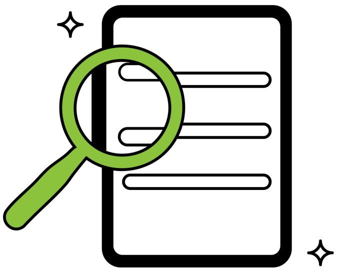
Claimable

- Compulsory branded company uniforms.
- Protective clothing such as boots, gloves, or jackets.
- Laundry and repair costs for deductible clothing.

Not Claimable

- Jeans, t-shirts, or casual wear, even if worn solely for work.

At Tax Time — Remember



- Keep records of every expense, no matter how small.
- Use ATO-approved methods (logbooks, cents-per-km, or fixed rate) to substantiate claims.
- Review your deductions each year to ensure compliance with ATO rules.