

 Department of Design and Construction		SPECIFICATION BULLETIN	SB 24-012
Title: ASPHALT, FUEL, AND STEEL PRICE ADJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE			
Prepared: <div style="text-align: right;">11/21/2024</div>		Approved: <div style="text-align: right;">11/21/2024</div>	
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Date		Date	

APPLICABILITY:

- This Specification Bulletin (SB) is effective for projects advertised on or after 11/27/2024.

SUPERSEDEENCE:

- This SB supersedes the following SBs: **None.**

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Section 9.23 (6 pages)*

REVISIONS TO THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STANDARD HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS, DATED 5/16/2022:

All references contained below are to the New York City Department of Transportation Standard Highway Specifications, Dated May 16, 2022. Said Standard Highway Specifications are hereby revised as follows:

- a) **Refer** to Section 9.23
Add the new Section in Attachment 1 (6 pages)

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Richard Jones, jonesri@ddc.nyc.gov.

SECTION 9.23 – Asphalt, Fuel, and Steel Price Adjustment Allowance

9.23.1 SCOPE AND INTENT

(A) This section will provide for additional compensation to the Contractor for increases, or repayment by the Contractor for decreases, in the price of asphalt, fuel, or steel products.

(B) Price Adjustments will be made only for eligible work as defined below. With respect to asphalt and steel eligible work items, price adjustment will be paid, if eligible, only after the items have been permanently incorporated into the Work and accepted by the Commissioner. With respect to fuel, price adjustment will be paid, if eligible, only after fuel has been delivered to the Project site.

(C) No adjustment will be provided for any extra work paid by fixed price in accordance with the Standard Construction Contract Article 25.3.2 or paid for on a time and material basis per Standard Construction Contract Article 26. Additional quantities of existing Contract pay items at original bid prices will be considered eligible for asphalt, fuel, and steel price adjustments.

(D) Temporary work performed by the Contractor at its own expense will not be eligible for price adjustment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, temporary asphalt will be eligible if shown on the Contract Drawings or required to complete the Work and must be approved in advance by the Engineer.

(E) The Contractor, its Subcontractor(s) and/or Materialmen, must, when directed by the Commissioner, provide any and all Project documents and/or records the Commissioner deems pertinent to his/her determination with respect to the price adjustment. If requested by the Commissioner, the Contractor, its Subcontractor(s) and/or Materialmen, must provide copies of Project documents and/or records.

(F) Failure by the Contractor, its Subcontractor(s) and/or Materialmen, to comply strictly with the requirement to provide Project records will constitute a waiver of any claim for additional compensation the Contractor may have in connection with the price adjustment request.

(G) Project documents and/or records include, without limitation, Bid and Contract Documents, shop drawings, manufacturing and/or shipping data, as-built drawings, books of account, financial statements, invoices, vouchers, records, daily job diaries and reports.

(H) If the Contractor is paid additional compensation in accordance with this Section, the Contractor must pay a properly allocated share of such additional compensation to the applicable Subcontractor(s) and/or Materialmen.

9.23.2 PRICE ADJUSTMENT VALUES

(A) The monthly average asphalt prices, monthly average fuel prices, steel cost basis and steel index values will be posted on the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/main/business-center/contractors/construction-division/fuel-asphalt-steel-price-adjustments>

(B) Historical index values are available as issued Engineering Bulletins on the NYSDOT website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/eieb>

9.23.3 ASPHALT PRICE ADJUSTMENT

(A) Price Changes.

The asphalt price adjustment will be based solely on the price changes for asphalt as determined by the formulas below. No adjustment will be made if the monthly average posted price is within \$15.00 of the asphalt index price. No consideration will be given to the situation where the price paid by the Contractor, its Subcontractors, or the Contractor's or Subcontractor's supplier(s) exceeds the monthly average posted price.

(B) Applicability.

The asphalt price adjustment will apply to all permanent asphalt pavement items. The asphalt price adjustment will apply to temporary asphalt pavement if the temporary asphalt is shown on the Contract Drawings or approved in advance by the Commissioner. No price adjustment will be made for tack coat or pothole cold patch.

(C) Prices.

The asphalt index price and the monthly average posted price are defined as follows:

1. Asphalt Index Price. The asphalt index price is a price per ton of binder (also referred to as liquid bitumen or asphaltic cement) used solely as a basis from which to compute asphalt price adjustments. The asphalt index price will be the monthly average posted price for the month and year the bid opening for the Project.
2. Monthly Average Posted Price. The monthly asphalt index prices will be determined by NYSDOT using the methods set forth in NYSDOT Standard Specification Section 698.

(D) Quantity.

The quantity of asphalt in tons considered for adjustment will be determined by the tons of asphalt actually placed. This will be calculated using the measured volume of asphalt placed, and the asphalt's in-place density, as measured in the field. Quantities of asphalt will be determined to the nearest 0.1 ton.

(E) Adjustment.

Asphalt price adjustment will be based on the following formulas, to the nearest cent:

1. When price increases: $\text{Price Adjustment} = (\text{Quantity of Asphalt}) \times (\text{Monthly Average Posted Price} - \text{Asphalt Index Price} - \$15.00)$
2. When price decreases: $\text{Price Adjustment} = (\text{Quantity of Asphalt}) \times (\text{Monthly Average Posted Price} - \text{Asphalt Index Price} + \$15.00)$

(F) Payment of the Price Adjustment.

The Contractor is required to keep a log of all asphalt incorporated into the Project that is eligible for the price adjustment. The log must keep track of the date when the asphalt was purchased, the quantity of the asphalt, the Asphalt Index Price and the Monthly Average Posted Price, as determined in accordance with 9.23.3.C.

When the adjustment amount, calculated in accordance with 9.23.3.E, exceeds \$10,000.00 for all eligible asphalt incorporated into the Project, the Contractor must submit with its monthly payment requisition, the request for payment of the asphalt price adjustment.

9.23.4 FUEL PRICE ADJUSTMENT

(A) Price Changes.

The fuel price adjustment will be based solely on the price changes for fuel as determined by the formulas below. No adjustment will be made if the monthly average posted price is within \$0.10 per gallon of the fuel index price. No consideration will be given to the situation where the price paid by the Contractor, its Subcontractors, or the Contractor's or Subcontractor's supplier(s) exceeds the monthly average posted price.

(B) Applicability.

The intent of the fuel price adjustment is to cover on-site equipment and vehicles only as delineated below.

1. The fuel price adjustment will apply for fuel used in:
 - a. Diesel equipment used on site, such as backhoes, excavators, cranes.
 - b. Stationary equipment used on site, such as trailer or skid mounted compressors, generators, or light towers.
 - c. Gasoline or diesel trucks and vans that are assigned to the site full-time, which may be used for off-site pickups and deliveries.
 - d. Equipment used for temporary heating.
2. The fuel price adjustment will not apply to:
 - a. On-site gasoline powered hand tools, such as chainsaws, cut-off saws, pressure washers, small generators, etc.
 - b. Vehicles (cars, pickup trucks) that are also used for commuting.
 - c. Delivery vehicles.
 - d. Any equipment at the Contractor's shop, manufacturer's shop, or other off-site facility.

(C) Prices.

The fuel index price and the monthly average posted price are defined as follows:

1. Fuel Index Price. A price per gallon of fuel used solely as a basis from which to compute fuel price adjustments. The fuel index price will be the monthly average posted price for the month of the bid letting.
2. Monthly Average Posted Price. The monthly fuel index prices will be determined by NYSDOT using the methods set forth in NYSDOT Standard Specification Section 698.

(D) Quantity.

The quantity of fuel in gallons considered for adjustment will be determined by invoices for fuel delivered to the Project site. Quantities of fuel will be measured to the nearest 0.01 gallon.

(E) Adjustment.

Fuel price adjustment will be based on the following formulas to the nearest cent:

1. When price increases: $\text{Price Adjustment} = (\text{Quantity of Fuel}) \times (\text{Monthly Average Posted Price} - \text{Fuel Index Price} - \$0.10)$

2. When price decreases: $\text{Price Adjustment} = (\text{Quantity of Fuel}) \times (\text{Monthly Average Posted Price} - \text{Fuel Index Price} + \$0.10)$

(F) Payment of the Price Adjustment.

The Contractor is required to keep a log of all fuel incorporated into the Project that is eligible for the price adjustment. The log must keep track of the date when the fuel was purchased, the quantity of the fuel, the Fuel Index Price and the Monthly Average Posted Price, as determined in accordance with 9.23.4.C.

When the adjustment amount, calculated in accordance with 9.23.4.E, exceeds \$10,000.00 for all eligible fuel delivered to the Project site, the Contractor must submit with its monthly payment requisition, the request for payment of the fuel price adjustment.

9.23.5 STEEL PRICE ADJUSTMENT

(A) Applicability.

The intent of the steel price adjustment is to cover steel materials as follows. For the purposes of this section, steel includes all steel alloys, stainless steel alloys, iron, and ductile iron.

1. Steel price adjustment will apply to groups of similar material content.
2. The steel price adjustment will apply to the following Material Groups:
 - a. Structural steel
 - b. Reinforcing bars
 - c. Steel water mains, appurtenances, and valves
 - d. Ductile iron water and sewer pipes, appurtenances, fittings, and valves
 - e. Steel piles and minipile casings
 - f. Municipal steel and iron castings (manhole covers, sewer grates, etc.)
3. The steel price adjustment will not apply to the following:
 - a. Steel in fabricated elements, such as traffic signal cabinets, or electrical fixtures and boxes
 - b. Handrails, access ladders, edging strips and other miscellaneous metals
 - c. Anchor bolts and fasteners

(B) For each Material Group listed, the Contractor must also identify the parties whose relationship establishes the invoice date. If the parties are known, they must be identified by name. If the two parties are not known, they must be identified by role (Contractor, Subcontractor, Materialman, fabricator, etc.). Different parties may be identified for scopes within a Material Group for the purposes of establishing an invoice date. If the Contractor does not provide a list of materials within 30 days of the date set forth in the Notice to Proceed to which to apply the steel price adjustment, no steel price adjustment will be made.

(C) If the percentage change for a given month does not exceed 5% plus or minus, from the benchmark steel index, no adjustments will be made for materials invoiced that month.

(D) The percentage change for each material group identified in Article 9.23.5.A.2 above will be determined using the month that the largest value of materials were invoiced.

(E) The weight of the steel must exclude minor appurtenances individually weighing less than 5 lbs (i.e., nuts, bolts, washers, etc.) and non-steel components, such as door insulation

or glazing. Precast or prestressed concrete items must have total reinforcing steel weight listed on the approved shop drawings. The following sources must be used, in declining order of precedence, to determine the weight of steel: approved shop drawings; verified shipping documents; Contract Documents; industry standards (i.e., AISC Manual of Steel Construction, AWWA Standards, etc.); and manufacturer's data.

1. Indexes and Prices. Adjustments are based on the Producer Price Index (PPI) for Semifinished Steel Mill Products (WPU 101702). PPI values are published by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Recent PPI values are posted on the NYSDOT website linked above. The Cost Basis, Benchmark Steel Index, Monthly Steel Index, and the Percentage Change are defined as follows:
 - a. Cost Basis (CB). An average price of steel products in dollars per ton used solely as a cost basis from which to compute steel price adjustments. The cost basis for original Contract bid price items and additional work at the original Contract bid price will be the cost basis listed for the month of the bid letting. The cost basis for additional work at agreed price will be the value of the cost basis for the month the agreed price was submitted to the Commissioner.
 - b. Benchmark Steel Index (BI). The benchmark steel index for original Contract bid price items and additional work at the original Contract bid price will be the value of the preliminary PPI for the month of the bid letting. The benchmark steel index for additional work at agreed price will be the value of the preliminary PPI for the month the agreed price was submitted to the Commissioner.
 - c. Monthly Steel Index (MI). Value of the final PPI for the month the material is invoiced.
 - d. Percent Change. The percent change in any given month will be determined as follows:

$$\text{Percentage Change} = \left(\frac{MI - BI}{BI} \right) \times 100$$

(F) The quantity of steel for adjustment of each Material Group will be measured to the nearest 0.1 tons.

1. Percent Change Greater Than +5%. If the Percentage Change is greater than +5% from the benchmark steel index, Price Adjustments will be made for materials invoiced that month. The Contractor must provide the Commissioner a detailed list of the weight of eligible materials within 60 calendar days after installation, including: the Contract pay item, the weight of steel, the month(s) of invoice, the source used to determine the weight, and if requested by the Engineer, copies of invoices to verify the month of invoice.
2. Percent Change -5% to +5%. If the Percentage Change is between -5% and +5%, inclusive, from the benchmark steel index, no adjustments will be made for materials invoiced that month.
3. Percent Change Lower Than -5%. If the Percentage Change is lower than -5% from the benchmark steel index, a Price Adjustment will be charged to the Contractor for materials invoiced that month. The Contractor must provide the Commissioner a detailed list of the weight of eligible materials within 60 calendar days after installation, including: the Contract pay item, the weight of steel, the month(s) of invoice, the source used to determine the weight, and copies of invoices to verify the month of invoice.

(G) Adjustment.

Steel price adjustment will be made for all the materials which the Contractor opted to apply the steel price adjustment, based on the following formulas, to the nearest cent:

1. When price increases:

$$\text{Price Adjustment} = \left[\left(\frac{MI - BI}{BI} \right) - 0.05 \right] (CB) Qty$$

2. When price decreases:

$$\text{Price Adjustment} = - \left[\left(\frac{MI - BI}{BI} \right) + 0.05 \right] (CB) Qty$$

(H) Payment of the Price Adjustment.

Steel Price Adjustment will be paid once during the Project duration for each eligible Material Group after the final PPI is available to set the Monthly Steel Index for the invoice month determined in Article 9.23.5.D above.

9.23.6 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

(A) The fixed sum shown in the Bid Schedule for Price Adjustments Allowance will be considered the price bid for this item. The fixed sum is not to be altered in any manner by the bidder. Should the amount shown be altered, the new figures will be disregarded and the original price will be used to determine the total amount bid for the Contract. The fixed sum payment made under this item will be equal to the sum of payments and credits for price adjustments, as approved by the Commissioner, with no markup for overhead, profit, or other fees allowed. The fixed sum amount is included in the bid solely to ensure that sufficient monies will be available to pay the Contractor for the price escalation adjustment payments as delineated herein, which may be more or less than the fixed sum amount.

Payment will be made under:

Item No.	Item	Pay Unit
9.23	PRICE ADJUSTMENTS	F.S.