



Driver Per Diem Guide

DRIVER TAX SAVINGS FROM PER DIEM

As of January 1, 2018, employee drivers can no longer claim per diem as an itemized deduction on their federal income tax return. However, motor carriers can offer per diem to employee drivers to recapture the lost tax savings.

What is per diem?

A per day travel expense allowance paid to an employee as an expense reimbursement under an accountable per diem plan.

Is participation in the per diem plan optional?

Yes. Contact your driver manager for details.

How do I track a truck driving trip?

Per Diem Plus for Samsara uses the ELD gateway to automatically determine location for qualifying per diem trips for you. Simply drive and PDP does the rest.

Is a driver required to login to use Per Diem Plus for Samsara? No.

How much per diem will I receive?

- \$69 / day for each FULL day you are away from home (Exit the tax home geofence BEFORE noon or enter the tax home geofence AFTER noon).
- \$51.75 / day for each PARTIAL day you are away from home (Exit the tax home geofence AFTER noon or enter the tax home geofence BEFORE noon).

Does a driver have to spend all the per diem?

No.

Which drivers can receive per diem?

- Only drivers who participate in a company sponsored per diem program, like Per Diem Plus for Samsara, can take advantage of the substantial tax benefits that come with per diem.
- Subject to DOT HOS,
- Who travel away from home overnight where sleep or rest is required, and
- Do not start and end a trip at home on the same DOT HOS 14-hour workday.

Is company-paid per diem taxable to an employee driver?

- No. It is considered a non-taxable reimbursement that is deducted from taxable wages.
- Amounts paid under the per diem plan are tax free, not reportable as wages on Form W-2, and are not subject to income or employment taxes.
- Be aware that the program reallocates your income; the non-taxable reimbursement is not in addition to your base wages.

How will per diem affect my Social Security?

The per diem pay plan will reduce social security benefits. However, you still come out ahead because you could save thousands in taxes each year under the per diem program and only lose out on \$4 to \$11 per month in social security benefits.

Speak with a tax advisor for more information about your situation.



Driver Per Diem Guide

CONTINUED

MARRIED DRIVER

The average Married over-the-road driver earning \$75,000 annually will save approximately \$3,457 in federal income taxes equivalent to \$0.03 cents per mile.

MARRIED DRIVER BENEFIT	NO PER DIEM	PER DIEM
Annual Wages	\$75,000	\$75,000
Company-Paid Per Diem (\$69 x 255 Nights)	\$0	\$17,595
Standard Deduction on US Income Tax Return	(\$27,700)	(\$27,700)
Taxable Income	\$47,300	\$29,705
Federal Income Tax	\$5,236	\$3,125
Employee Share FICA @ 7.5%		\$1,346
Total Income & Payroll Tax Savings		\$3,457
Extra Equivalent Per Mile Cash		\$0.03

SINGLE DRIVER

The average Single over-the-road driver earning \$75,000 annually will save approximately \$4,485 in federal income taxes equivalent to \$0.04 cents per mile.

SINGLE DRIVER BENEFIT	NO PER DIEM	PER DIEM
Annual Wages	\$75,000	\$75,000
Company-Paid Per Diem (\$69 x 255 Nights)	\$0	\$17,595
Standard Deduction on US Income Tax Return	(\$13,850)	(\$13,850)
Taxable Income	\$61,150	\$43,555
Federal Income Tax	\$8,760	\$5,007
Employee Share FICA @ 7.5%		\$1,346
Total Income & Payroll Tax Savings		\$5,099
Extra Equivalent Per Mile Cash		\$0.04