

Regulations

The Newmark Structural Engineering Laboratory (NSEL) is under the umbrella of Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with the goal of providing the Illinois community with a state of the art structural and material testing facility. The intent of this section is to define the regulations and insure equal access for all researchers, while not placing a financial burden on the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The following items also protect the scientific integrity of ongoing experiments and safety of all individuals in the laboratory.

- 1) **General.** The overall objective of NSEL has been and will continue to be to maintain a state-of-the-art materials and structures testing laboratory. Since the very beginning, the high quality of the tests performed has been possible thanks to a regular upgrade process of instrumentation, sensors, actuators, and hydraulic power supplies. Scheduled maintenance of lab equipment guarantees that reliable testing can take place. Well-trained staff, together with talented undergraduate and graduate students, have been essential to the success of NSEL.
- 3) **Users.** Both staff and students who have completed the training program, which is provided by the lab coordinator, can operate the NSEL equipment. The training program is provided for a user on an as needed basis. This training program also includes safety in NSEL for users who did not have it before. Prior to any activity in the lab, the user shall provide an account number to the lab coordinator.
- 3) **New experimental projects.** The NSEL coordinator chairs a working committee, which meets once a week. Each new project coming to the NSEL must be discussed during the committee meeting. The meeting assigns space in the lab, instrumentation, and servo-hydraulic equipment, required to execute the project. Lab coordinator makes sure that the NSEL working committee recommendations are implemented.
- 4) **Scheduling.** The NSEL coordinator, using an on-line scheduling procedure, schedules the use of all NSEL equipment (http://cee.uiuc.edu/nsel/facility/equip_reserv.htm). Upon a request from a user, the lab coordinator approves the request via e-mail. The lab coordinator may not approve the request when there is either a conflict or a testing procedure is not clear. If this situation occurs, an additional meeting will be scheduled to resolve the problem.
- 5) **Cost.** Fees are assessed on a daily, monthly, and annual basis; see Table 1. There are three fee schedules in the NSEL:
Research testing using servohydraulic equipment. The basic intent of the research fee structure is to cover maintenance costs of equipment, but not discourage more formidable

experiments. If the NSEL personnel are involved in the setup and testing activities associated with the research programs, the hourly rates will apply according to the individual hourly rate. Short-term projects are charged according to daily rates; one day is defined as a period of time less than 24 h, during which the equipment is being used. Long-term projects are charges according to either monthly or annual rates. The monthly rate assumes 60% of a dollar value obtained from multiplication of daily rate times 30. The same rule applies to a yearlong testing program; 12 and 0.6 multiplies monthly rate. Research rates will be charged to the research contracts of the University of Illinois.

Table 1. User fees for testing equipment at the Newmark Structural Engineering Laboratory.

Equipment	Commercial testing			Research testing	
	(\$/day)	(\$/month)	Idle time, \$/day	(\$/day)	(\$/month)
11 kip frame	220	3,960	22	44	792
20 kip frame	220	3,960	22	44	792
50 kip frame	275	4,950	28	55	990
100 kip frame	385	6,930	39	83	1,485
100 kip b-x frame	578	10,935	61	110	1,980
600 kip frame	578	10,935	61	110	1,980
Shake table	550	9,900	55	110	1,800
Floor, 1 actuator	385	6,930	39	83	1,485
Floor, 2 actuators	550	9,900	55	110	1,980
Floor, add. act.	110	1,980	11	28	495
300 kip frame	440	7,920	44	88	1,584
HPS (pump)	132	2,376	11	28	495

Remarks:

1. The minimum time of rental for commercial testing is 2 h. The daily rate for commercial testing is executed after 8 h. Rate does not change after 8h of usage.
2. Daily rate is fixed for research.

Commercial testing using servohydraulic equipment. The basic intent of commercial testing fee structure is to cover both maintenance and amortization costs associated with pieces of equipment used for testing. The person conducting commercial tests is responsible for any unpaid charges. Other universities and government agencies will also be charged the commercial testing rate plus the hourly operator rate. Commercial rates will be charged to the commercial testing contracts of the University of Illinois. One day is defined as a period of time less than 24 h and more than 8 h during which the equipment is being used. For a

period of time less than 8 h, 2 h increment rule is applied: e. g. if the equipment was used for 5 h, a daily rate, multiplied by 0.75, would be applied.

Accessories. Testing accessories such as: extensometers, load cells, x-y recorders, computer data acquisition systems, power supplies, signal conditioners, etc., are available for the NSEL researchers. If these accessories are used as part of instrumentation associated with the testing setup, no usage fee applies. If, however, any accessories are used on an individual basis, daily and monthly rates will apply (Table 2). The replacement cost for a reasonable amortization period (50% utilization over 5 years) is utilized to calculate these rental rates. The borrower is responsible for the cost of replacement or repair should the item be damaged due to negligence or operator error.

Table 2. User fees for accessories at the Newmark Structural Engineering Laboratory.

Equipment	Commercial testing			Research testing	
	(\$/day)	(\$/month)	Idle time, \$/day	(\$/day)	(\$/month)
MM 2100, 4-ch	28	504	6	6	108
Macro-Sensor, 8-ch	28	504	6	6	108
DC power supply	17	306	5	6	108
HP DAQ	28	504	6	6	108
Computer DAQ	28	504	6	6	108
Transducers	11	198	6	6	108

- 6) **Lifting heavy loads.** Structural testing requires usage of lifting equipment for specimens, fixture, and loading actuators. Two cranes 20 T and 40 T, as well as four forklift trucks, are available for that purpose. A scissor lift is also available. Lifting equipment is primarily maintained and operated by CEE machine shop. Both cranes and scissor lift are also available, on limited bases, to the NSEL coordinator within the entire testing area. The NSEL coordinator supervises one forklift truck. That truck is available to undergraduate and graduate students. CEE machine shop personnel provide training.
- 7) **Hours of operation.** NSEL operates on 24 h per day and 7 days per week bases. The lab coordinator provides services during hours of operation. The lab users are trained to be independent with their projects. There are, however, situations when there is a need for NSEL equipment and lab coordinator expertise, while he is away from NSEL and the user is not able to continue his/her testing program. Below are the rules to follow in these situations:

Hydraulic Power Supply (HPS). If there is a need for HPS contact either Tim PRUNKARD at 217 333 6913, prunkard@illinois.edu or Maureen GEOGHEGAN at 708 539 8689, mgeoghe2@illinois.edu or Joseph Rudd at 224 558 0900, jrudd2@illinois.edu.

Instrumentation, sensors, and data loggers. If there is a need for any piece of instrumentation, contact Maureen Geoghegan at 708 539 8689, mgeoghe2@illinois.edu.

Student Instrumentation Workshop (SIW). If there is an issue with SIW contact either Maureen GEOGHEGAN at 708 539 8689, mgeoghe2@illinois.edu or or Joseph Rudd at 224 558 0900, jrudd2@illinois.edu or Tim PRUNKARD 217 333 6913, prunkard@illinois.edu.