Scope: To clarify Special Provisions 109-5(a)99 and 109-6(a)99 in regards to the acceptable document source to be used for calculating equipment rental rates.

Section 109.04(b)3 Differing Site Conditions, Changes & Extra Work - Equipment; and Section 109.10(a)3 Compensation for Project Delays - Equipment Costs; of the 1999 Standard Specifications require the use of the “current edition of the Contractor’s Equipment Cost Guide as published by the K III Directory Corporation for January 1 of the year in which the work was performed” to determine allowable equipment rates for disputed work.

As of January 1, 2006, this Cost Guide is no longer being published, and has been replaced by an electronic / bound publication known as the Rental Rate Blue Book for Construction Equipment as published by Equipment Watch. This change has been addressed in Special Provisions 109-5(a)99 and 109-6(a)99, which will be included in every project let beginning February, 2006.

Cost breakdowns for work performed later than 2005 on projects which were let prior to February, 2006, must use either the 2005 version of the Contractor’s Equipment Cost Guide, or the current version of the Rental Rate Blue Book for Construction Equipment to establish the equipment rate. Be certain that you document which source was used, either on the cost breakdown, on the change order, or as an attachment to the change order.

George Raymond, P.E.
Construction Engineer