Hoover Dam
Commercial Use Authorization Program

Commercial Use Authorization Handbook

This handbook provides information to assist applicants in learning about the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permitting process and commercial operation at Hoover Dam. Additional information and applications forms can be found at: https://go.usa.gov/xVGJW

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Fee Schedule

**Application Fee - $100:** is due annually with your completed and signed application. Payments made through our website.

**Administrative Costs - $200:** is due annually following the initial review, we’ll notify you by email whether your application appears appropriate for further processing. You must pay the administrative costs before we can continue to process your application.

**Use Fee - $5 per person per entry (beginning April 5, 2020).** Company employees like drivers and guides are exempt from paying the Use Fee.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**What is a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA)?**

A commercial use authorization (CUA) allows an individual, group, company, or other for-profit entity to conduct commercial activities and provide specific visitor services at Hoover Dam. CUAs for Hoover Dam are issued by the Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Dams Office. A CUA is issued to a qualified operator to permit the provision of appropriate commercial services to Hoover Dam visitors. A qualified operator is an individual or an organization that Reclamation determines can satisfactorily provide visitor services and carry out the terms of the CUA.

**What are the general criteria for receiving a CUA?**

- Payment of administrative and use fees.
- The commercial activity to be authorized under a CUA will have minimal impact on Reclamation’s resources and values, and be consistent with all applicable Reclamation management plans, policies and regulations.
- The CUA holder agrees to comply with all the Terms and Conditions described in the CUA.

**What commercial visitor services may be authorized under a CUA at Hoover Dam?**

A CUA is required if you provide any goods, activities, services, agreements, or other function for members, clients, or the public that:

- Take place at least in part on lands, waterbodies or facilities managed by Reclamation,
- Use Reclamation resources,
- Result in compensation, monetary gain, benefit, or profit.
For what length of time is a CUA issued?
CUAs are issued for a period of one year. The application period began on October 1 and is ongoing. Companies will need to reapply each year. If you apply anytime during the year the CUA Permit will be good for 1 year from the date of issuance.

Why does the Bureau of Reclamation charge a fee for a CUA?
In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 429.3 - It is illegal to conduct business on Reclamation lands, facilities or water bodies without a use authorization. Additionally, 43 CFR 429.1 requires Reclamation to collect application and use fees and to recover administrative costs. 100% of CUA use fees stay at Hoover Dam and are used to recover program costs, including repair and maintenance of facilities.

When are Annual fees due?
The Application Fee is due at the time of the initial application and renewal. Administrative costs payments are due following initial review and upon the issuance of a CUA pre-authorization form.

What are the insurance requirements?
Comprehensive general liability coverage is required for all CUA’s and is identified in the application. Please refer to the “Minimum Coverage Amounts for Liability Insurance” document for minimum coverage amounts by type of activity. The policy shall be underwritten by a United States company naming the United States of America as an additional insured.

How long does it take to obtain a CUA?
Depending on the time of year, it takes a few days up to 7 days for us to issue a CUA. Your application may be delayed if materials are not submitted accurately or completely. Please be sure it is typed and fill in ALL the blanks in your application forms. **We do not accept typed signatures so please print, sign and scan the signature pages.** We cannot process incomplete packets, and we cannot expedite processing. **Note:** Applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Incomplete applications are not placed in the queue until they are complete. Make sure to plan in advance if you need a CUA by a particular date.
How do I fill out the application?

The following is a step-by-step example on the sections of the application that need completed.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Fill in all fields
2. Check the **New** box for a first-time application, **Renewal** to renew a Use Authorization
3. Leave blank
4. Leave blank
5. Leave blank
6. Leave blank
7. Insert name of insurance carrier
8. Provide answer
9. Insert the date
10. Print, sign and scan the signature page
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Insert the names of people who are authorized to act as representatives of your organization.
2. Check the box for your correct business type.
3. Insert your Business License Number
4. Insert your Employer Identification Number
5. You will need to obtain and attach proof of insurance for your business to operate within the Hoover Dam Security Zone (see Attachment B).
6. Insert the requested information for each vehicle to be operating within the Hoover Dam Security Zone.
7. Identify whether you or a family member are employed by the Bureau of Reclamation.
8. Instructions on payment.
9. Provide information about any violations occurring in the last five years.
10. Print, sign and scan the signature page.

**How do I submit an application?**

Once you have all of the required documentation, you can submit electronically (preferred) or by mail.

**Electronically:** HooverCUA@usbr.gov

**By Mail:** Bureau of Reclamation CUA Program - (LCD-21102)
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006

The application process, forms, directions, payment portal, requirements and other related information can all be found at https://go.usa.gov/xVGJW.

**What happens once I submit an application?**

1. Once we’ve received all required documents, we will send you an email followed by a CUA pre-authorization form you must sign and return. Administrative cost fees are due at that time.
2. You will then need to sign and return the CUA pre-authorization form for final approval by Reclamation.
3. We will then review and process your application.
4. We sign the official CUA Permit and issue it to the company along with a Vehicle CUA Permit.
5. Once you’ve received your approved, fully executed CUA Permit, you may begin operations at Hoover Dam within your authorization dates. Any representative of your business must have a copy of your permit at all times while conducting business within the Hoover Dam Security Zone.
6. The entrance station will be notified of all current CUA holders.
7. You will need to submit an application, application documents, make application and administrative fee payments, and comply with all CUA conditions, operating plan and all laws, to continue to operate commercially in the Hoover Dam Security Zone.
Application Payment Instructions

1. On-line, through the browser on your computer type the web address.
   www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/cua/commercial.html

2. After arriving at this page, locate the “Pay CUA Fees Here” link.

3. Click on the link to proceed to the next step.

4. Once on the page select “Today” under the Date section

5. Add One in the field for quantity of Application Fee under the Tickets section

6. Click on the “Add One Ticket to Order” button in the bottom right corner.
7. Once on the Order Summary page, review that you have One Application Fee, then click the **Proceed to Checkout** button.

![Order Summary](image1.png)

8. You will then be taken to a Pay for Your Order page, begin by filling out the **Your Information** info completely.

![Pay for Your Order](image2.png)

9. Next fill out the **Payment Details** section.

10. Click the **Complete Order** button to finish.

11. You will be emailed a receipt upon completion.
Administrative Cost Payment Instructions

Reclamation / Lower Colorado Region / Hoover Dam / Commercial Use Authorizations

1. On-line, through the browser on your computer type the web address.

   www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/cua/commercial.html

2. After arriving at this page, locate the “Pay CUA Fees Here” link.

3. Click on the link to proceed to the next step.

4. Once on the page select **Today** under the Date section

5. Add **One** in the field for quantity of Administration Fee under the Tickets section

6. Click on the **Add One Ticket to Order** button in the bottom right corner.
7. Once on the Order Summary page, review that you have One Administration Fee, then click the Proceed to Checkout button.

8. You will then be taken to a Pay for Your Order page, begin by filling out the Your Information info completely.

9. Next fill out the Payment Details section.

10. Click the Complete Order button to finish.

11. You will be emailed a receipt upon completion.
Temporary Authorization

A Temporary Authorization (TA) allows a tour operator to conduct short-term commercial activities at Hoover Dam without a CUA Permit. A TA is issued for a period of seven days and requires a $300 penalty fee be paid to the CUA Station at the Security Checkpoint.

If the operator pursues a CUA Permit, they will be responsible for submitting a completed Use Authorization Application within **seven days** of the TA being issued. Once the application is submitted, the TA will be added as an attachment to the application and the $300 penalty fee will go towards the Application Fee and Administrative Costs for processing the application pending approval.

If the tour operator decides not to pursue a CUA Permit, they will pay the $300 penalty fee any time they enter the Hoover Dam Security Zone after the initial TA expires. Failure to obtain a TA while conducting commercial services in the Hoover Dam Security Zone may result in fines for each violation up to $5,000.00 and a mandatory court appearance.
Application Checklist

Applications must be completed by new operators and by current operators seeking to renew the use authorization.

☐ Complete the fully typed CUA Application Form. Print, sign and scan the signature pages to submit electronically. Submit with application package.

☐ USDOT Number/FMCSA Number (if applicable) – Displayed on exterior of vehicles.
  • [https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/do-i-need-usdot-number](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/do-i-need-usdot-number)

☐ Proof of Insurance – Insurance certificates must submit the following information, or it will delay processing:
  • the United States of America is a named additional insured (Your Certificate of Insurance must include a statement verifying the United States of America is named as an additional insured on your policy.)
  • The name and address of your business should match the name used on your application and Business License.

☐ $100 Application Fee Payment. Payment can be made online via the Hoover Dam website.

☐ $200 Administrative Costs Payment. Following the initial review, we’ll notify you by email whether your application appears appropriate for further processing. You must pay the administrative costs before we can continue to process your application.