



## Sound systems and trucks

Hiring of sound systems, generators and trucks are expensive and are often the largest area of expenditure in your budget. You may be able to secure discounts if you can offer a number of dates to companies as part of your tour. And of course receiving sponsorship or in-kind support from local firms will help to keep your costs down.

You will also need to hire a generator to power the sound system.

A number of mas bands or carnival groups purchase their own sound systems to reduce the overall touring costs as equipment does not need to be hired for each carnival. It also enables a band to charge others to use their equipment and they can run their own activities such as fund-raising events.

If you do own your own equipment, you will need to budget for repairs and maintenance, storage and insurance. Increasingly, event organisers will want to see your electrical equipment has current Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) Certification. Others will only allow diesel, silent running generators to be used at the events. In addition, you should also set aside funds to cover depreciation of the equipment. Depreciation is the reduction in value of an asset over time as its useable life is exhausted. It is charged before calculation of profit, on the grounds that the use of capital assets is one of the costs of being in business and one of the contributors to profit. Depreciation is an accounting procedure and has no effect on your cash flow.

### **Vehicle Special Order (VSO)**

Floats must conform to the road traffic legislation that applies to all road-going vehicles. If your float (truck) does not comply fully with the regulations you can apply for a Vehicle Special Order (VSO) from the Department for Transport. The VSO Scheme, which has existed for many years (primarily used by companies operating heavy haulage equipment) is used to regulate carnival vehicles.

A carnival club can apply for a VSO for a vehicle or combination of vehicles for a carnival that are otherwise not legal for road use. This covers construction and use of vehicles or trailers temporarily adapted or specially constructed for the purpose of a carnival.

If approved, the vehicle is issued with a Vehicle Special Order usually for a limited time period and certain conditions may be imposed.

Further information is available from [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)