



OCTOBER 2026 / SERVICE RATES 03

Gaffer.

COMMERCIAL LIGHTING DEPARTMENT LABOR

Gaffer labor for commercial shoots in the New York City area. I work with the director of photography and production team to plan and execute the agreed lighting setup.

SHOOT DAY / LABOR

\$1,100

Up to 10 hours / full-day minimum

PREP / SCOUT	\$880
Up to 8 hours	
AFTER 10 HOURS, THROUGH 12	\$165 per hour
After the included 10 hours	
AFTER 12 HOURS	\$220 per hour
Each additional hour	

SCOPE OF SERVICE

Includes lighting execution, fixture placement, coordination with the lighting crew, and setup and wrap within the booked day. The lighting plan and crew size follow the location, schedule, power requirements and creative brief.

EQUIPMENT AND CREW

Fixtures, modifiers, stands, grip, distribution, batteries, expendables, truck or van, delivery and additional electricians are quoted separately. Equipment may be selected from the rental inventory, with substitutions agreed before the shoot. Specialist rigging and electrical work require the appropriate qualified personnel.

PREP AND LOCATION PLANNING

Technical scouts, lighting plans, load planning, equipment checkout, prelight and separate load-in days are booked in advance. An 8-hour planning or prep day uses the listed prep rate; a production prelight day is quoted to its crew and schedule.

TIME AND BOOKING

Shoot hours run from call through final handoff, including setup, wrap and on-site waiting. Prep extensions are quoted separately. These are service billing terms; payroll, union agreements and applicable overtime requirements take precedence. Equipment rental week discounts do not apply to labor.

All rates are USD, excluding applicable taxes and approved expenses. The written estimate confirms scope, equipment, travel, payment, cancellation and any payroll costs. Share the location, shot list, reference images, lighting plan, available power, access times, loading conditions and the proposed crew.