Cost calculation trip

This article gives an overview how to setup cost calculations to automatically rate on trips giving visibility Trip cost and profitability.

Updated 30 October 2026

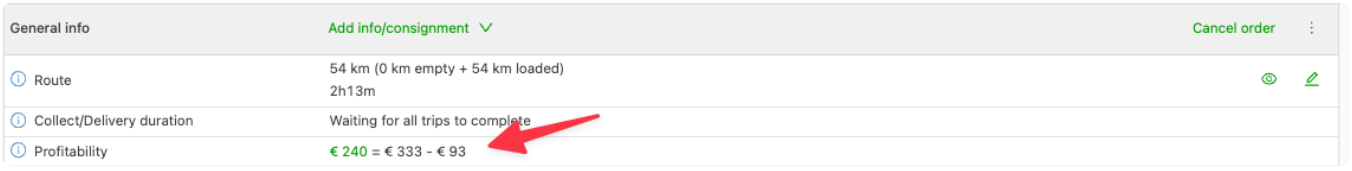
Introduction

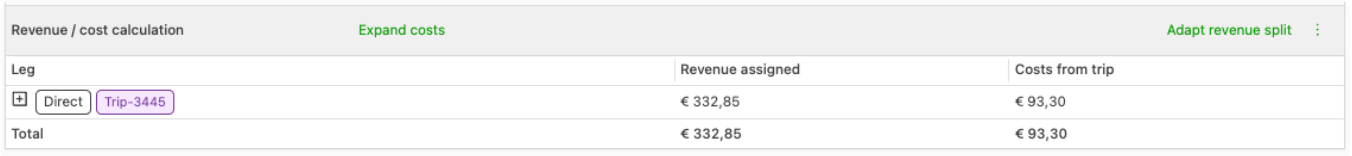
You can set up cost calculations that will help to calculate what each trip costs. Once a price list is configured, the cost will be shown on each order that matches the configured criteria . The default cost distribution is based on either **Distance or Time**, however other options can be configured.

- Chargeable Weight
- Loading meters
- Pallet Spaces
- Volume
- Weight

> 📚 Please contact Qargo Support if you would like to update the method of cost calculation distribution.

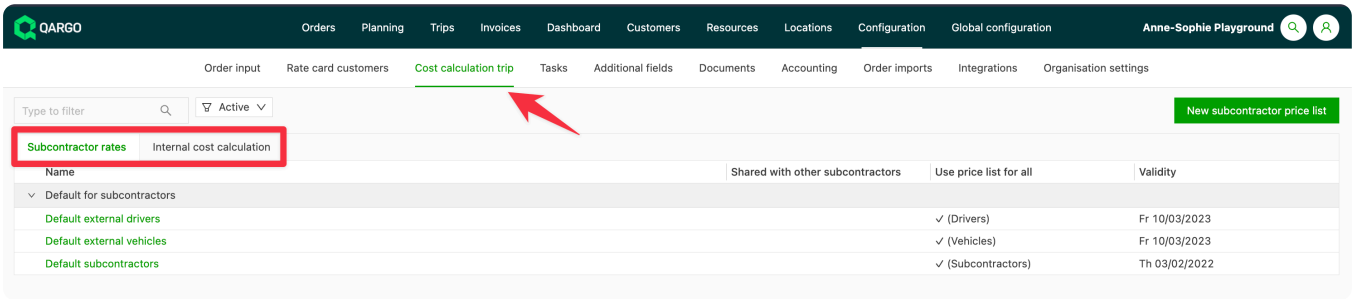
Based on the rate cards, the revenue will also be calculated for that same order. The difference between the revenue and the costs is the profitability shown on each order.





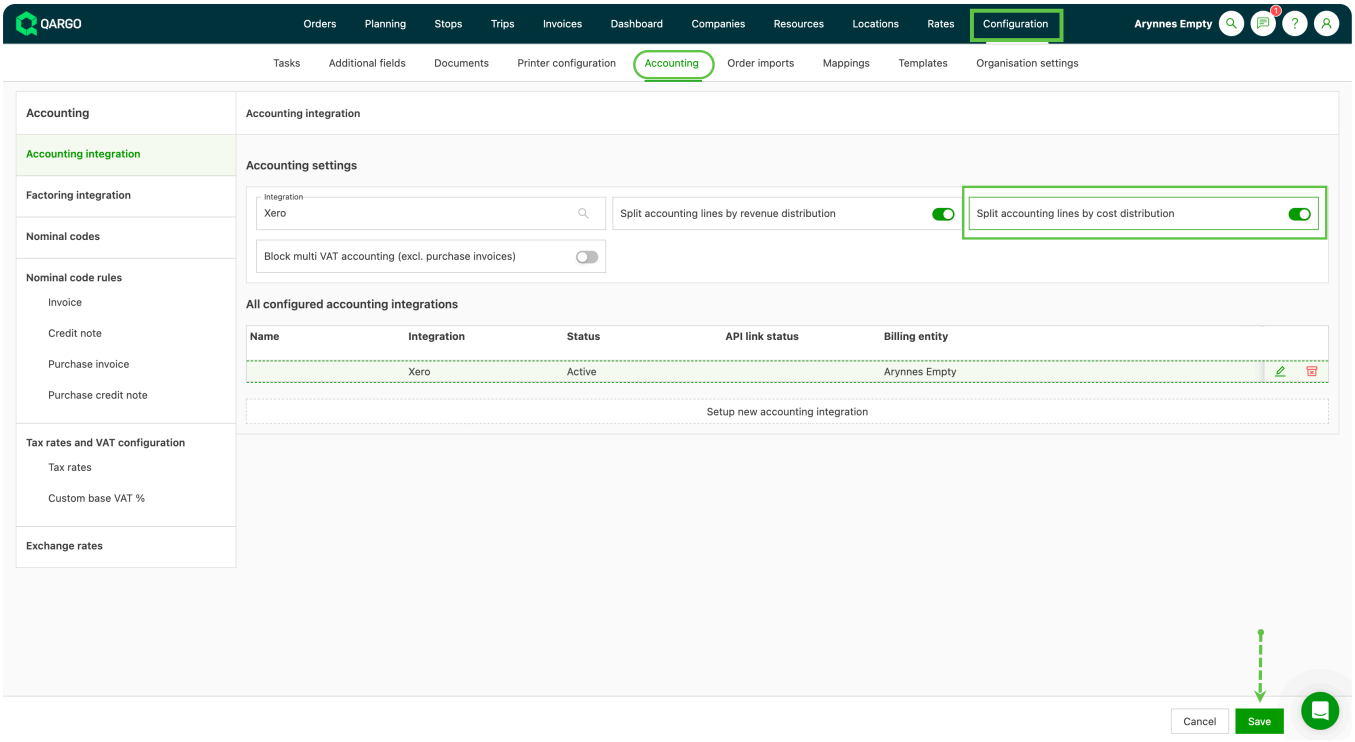
Setup Cost Calculations

- Navigate to Rates
- Click on **Cost calculation trip** in the header



Here you can configure cost calculations for your own drivers and vehicles (internal cost calculation) as well as for subcontractors. These calculations are setup the same way as the rate cards.
👉 Click HERE to see how to set up the Internal Cost Calculations.

Cost charges linked to a trip can now be **split across multiple orders for accounting** connectors and exports. Using a new ***'Split lines by cost distribution'*** toggle, costs are automatically allocated per order based on configured trip cost distributions, with separate accounting lines created for each split.

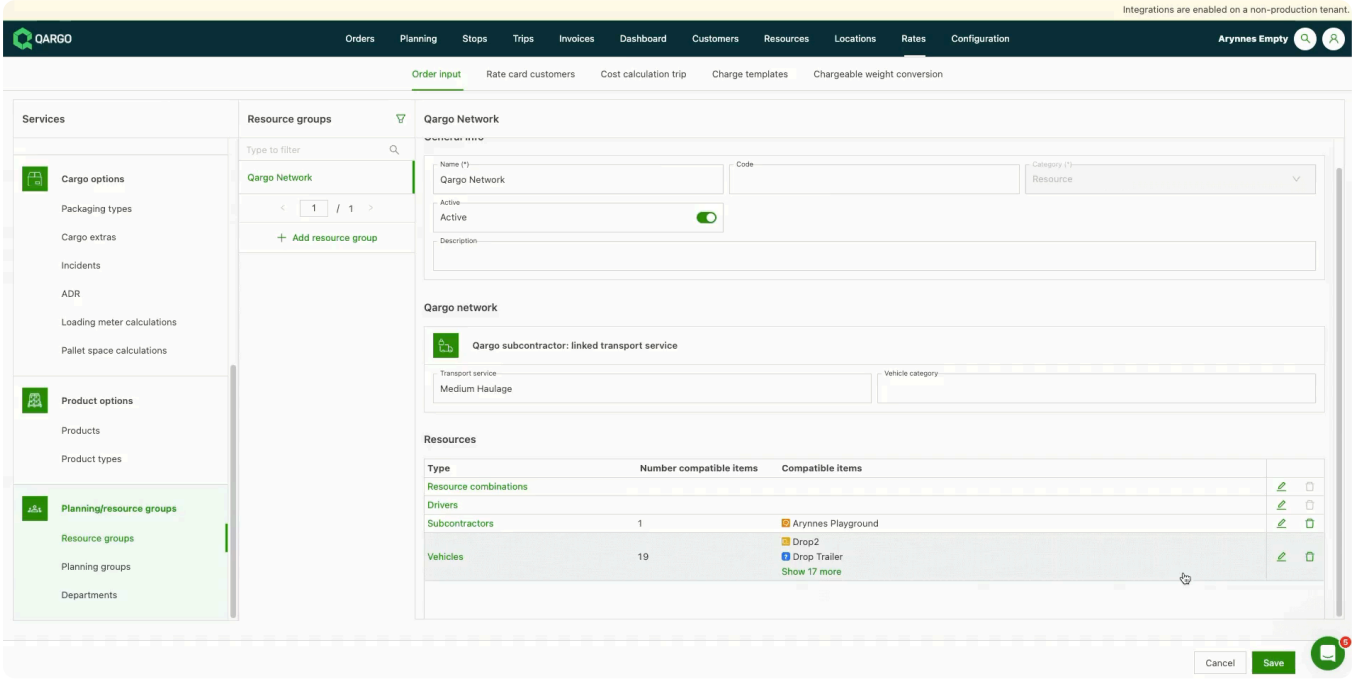


📚 **Restricted to Qargo Admin and Super Admin users.**

Compatible Resources

Select resources that are linked to the specific cost card that is created.

- Under **RATES > *Cost Trip Calculations***, navigate to the **'Linked Resources'** panel if the toggle *'use price list for all'* is **OFF**, the Resource Type options will show.
- Click into the appropriate line to open the resource types
- Select single, multiple or all with a simple click.

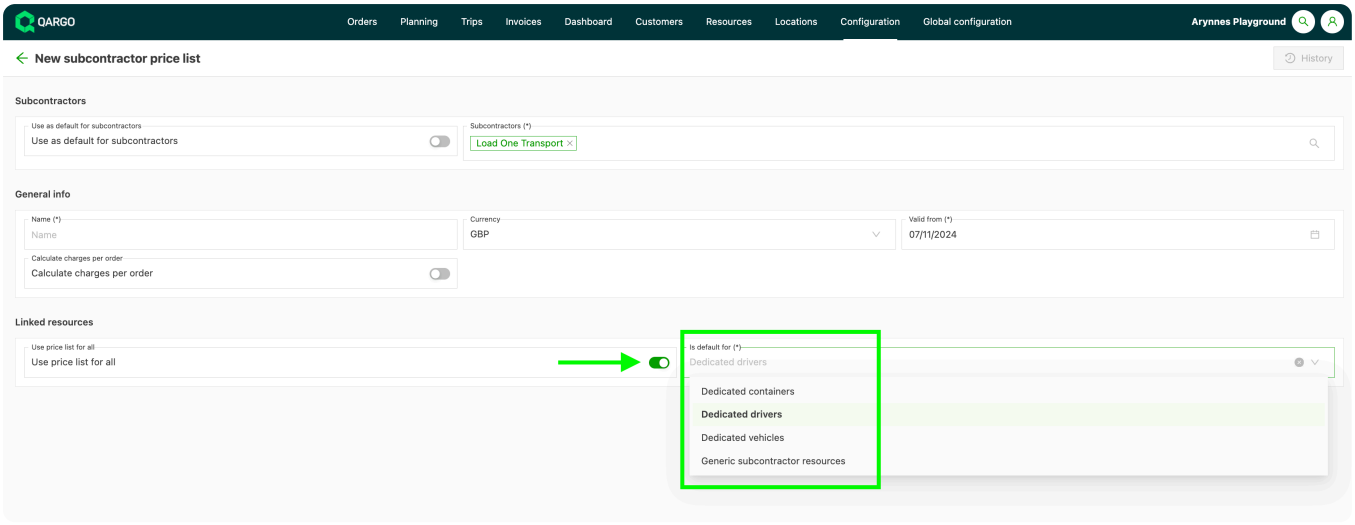


Set up a subcontractor price list

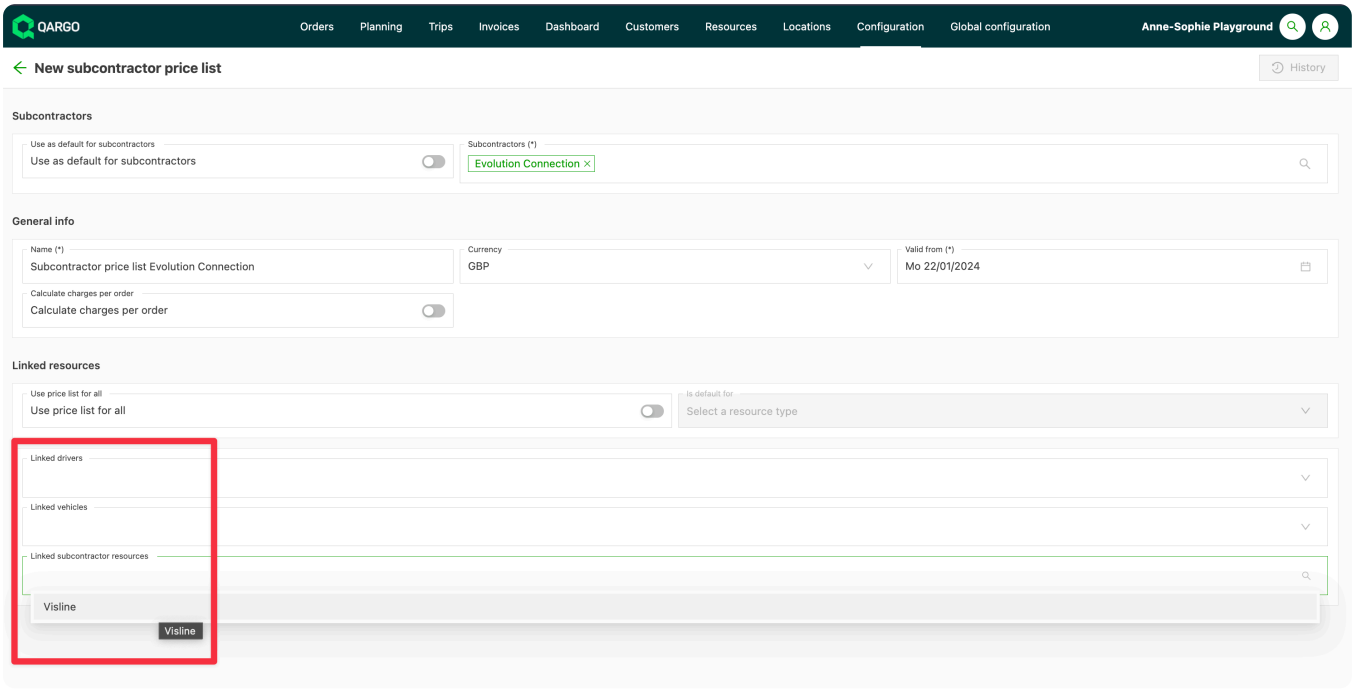
- Click on New subcontractor price list

You can create a **Subcontractor Price List** that is the default for all subcontractors, or you can opt to only use it for only one or a set of subcontractors. Once the subcontractor is chosen and a name for the price list is completed, you can link the resources. Be cautious when setting up subcontractor price lists to avoid situations where duplicate costs may arise. For example, ensure the same resource is not allocated more than once within the same trip.

You can opt to use that price list for all resources that are linked to that subcontractor(s):



If you only want to use that price list for a set of resources, click the toggle off for “Use price list of all” and pick the resources of your choice.



Here you can select the resources that are linked to that subcontractor. This can be set in Resources (Combinations, Drivers, Vehicles).

Once selected, save the price list. Now you can add the prices to your price list. You can edit prices for these costs the same way as you did for price list for customers.

Below you watch a video where we explain how to set up subcontractor cost calculations and add a price list to these cost calculations.

▶ https://www.loom.com/embed/7dc1a41336754b3bbba7c382b176911f

Set up a internal cost calculation

- Click on Internal cost calculation
- Click on New internal cost calculation

Follow the same steps as above for subcontractors.

Below you watch a video where we explain how to set up Internal Cost Calculations for own drivers, and add a price list to these cost calculations.

▶ https://www.loom.com/embed/dcdb0dce5f3a48f5bad18b41d925ce8b

Calculate charges per order

When creating an internal cost, the “Calculate charges per order” toggle controls whether the cost is calculated separately for each order on a trip, or once for the entire trip.

The switch is set at rate card (cost price list) level. Once it is active on the rate card, each individual charge on the price list gets its own “Calculate charges per order” toggle in the Edit price window, so you can still switch the behaviour on or off per charge. A charge-level toggle only becomes available once the setting is enabled on the rate card itself.

- **Toggle On:** Qargo calculates the cost per individual order, then sums those order-level costs for the trip.
- Example:
  - Rule: 90% of assigned revenue per order
  - Orders: €400, €300, €300
  - Cost: €360 + €270 + €270 = €900
  - Outcome: Clear per-order costs that sum to trip total
- **Toggle Off:** Qargo calculates one cost for the whole trip based on trip-level totals, not per-order breakdowns.
- Example:
  - Rule: 90% of trip’s total assigned revenue
  - Trip total revenue: €1,000
  - Cost: €900
- **Outcome:** One trip-level cost, no per-order breakdown

‼️ If “Calculate charges per order” is enabled, subcontractor costs may be applied repeatedly for each order in a trip, potentially leading to duplicate charges.
‼️ **Toll costs:** Qargo cannot yet calculate toll on each order’s own route on the cost side, so a true per-order toll is not possible. With ‘Calculate charges per order’ switched on, the toll of the full trip route is applied to every order on the trip (for example, a trip toll of 100 on 4 orders gives 400 in total).
To get the correct trip total, create a new charge with the same toll calculation and ‘Calculate charges per order’ switched off, set a valid-until date on the old charge, then recalculate the costs on the trip. The trip toll is then split across the orders.
The setting cannot be changed on an existing charge, which is why a new charge is needed. A toll per order based on each order’s own route would need **a feature request:** kindly send it to success@qargo.com.

Consolidate order revenue on the same trip

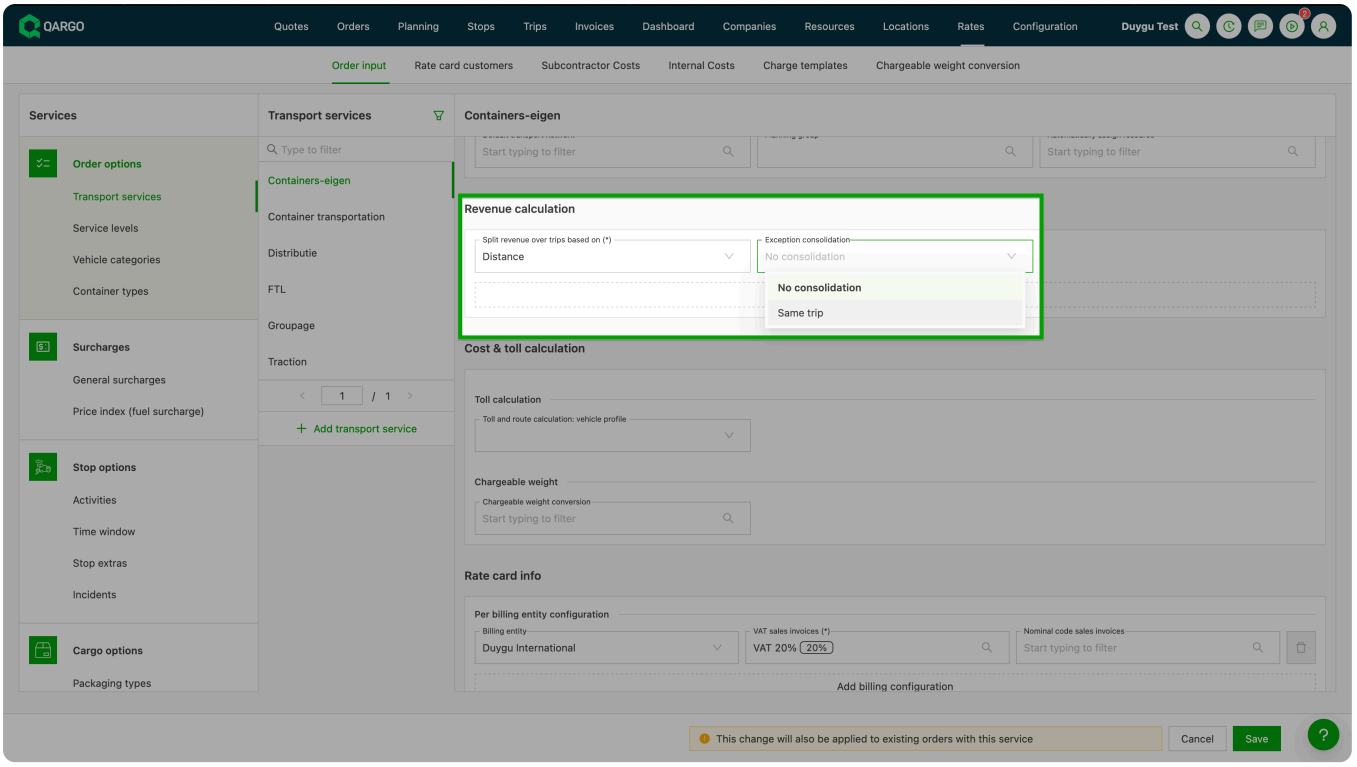
By default, the *revenue distribution override table* evaluates each order’s metrics independently. For carriers whose rates are based on the **combined volume of all orders on a trip**, this produces inaccurate *cost and profit figures* - the

per-order lookup does not reflect the actual negotiated rate.

The **Consolidation** setting on a transport service lets you pool all orders on the same trip together, use their combined metrics, and **split the result equally across those orders**.

Configure consolidation

The Consolidation setting is on the transport service, under the revenue distribution configuration. It applies uniformly to all exceptions in the override table for that service — there is no mix-and-match per exception.



1. **NAVIGATE** to **RATES > Order Input > Transport Services** and open the relevant transport service.
2. **SCROLL** to the **Revenue calculation** panel.
3. **SET** the **Consolidation** dropdown to the appropriate option:
   - **Don't consolidate** (default). Each order's metrics are looked up individually per exception. **This is the existing behaviour.**
   - **Consolidate per trip** — all orders on the same trip are pooled. The combined metrics are used, and the resulting amount is split **equally** across all orders on that trip.
4. **CLICK** Save.

📚 The consolidation setting applies to all exceptions configured on that transport service. If a trip includes orders from multiple transport services with different consolidation settings, each transport service is evaluated independently.

How it works

When **Consolidate per trip** is set:

- Qargo sums the metrics (e.g. chargeable weight) across all orders on the trip.
- That amount is split **equally** across all orders on the trip.
- If an order is added to or removed from the trip, the calculation updates automatically for all orders in the consolidated group.

- Cancelled orders are excluded from the consolidation group.

Example

Two orders are planned on the same pickup trip. The override table uses a fixed charge (€250) and a metric charge (€1/kg). The transport service is set to **Consolidate per trip**.

	Order 1	Order 2
Weight	200 kg	100 kg
Revenue	€175.53	€175.53

Without consolidation — each order looked up individually:

- Order 1: €250 + (200 kg × €1) = **€450**
- Order 2: €250 + (100 kg × €1) = **€350**

These amounts do not reflect the actual negotiated rate, which is based on the combined weight.

With Consolidate per trip:

- Combined weight: 200 + 100 = 300 kg
- Override table lookup on 300 kg → €250 fixed + (300 kg × €1) = €550 total
- Equal split across 2 orders: €550 ÷ 2 = **€275 per order**

The consolidated lookup matches the actual negotiated rate. Note that the equal split means smaller orders absorb a higher percentage of the total than their individual metrics would suggest.

Limitations

- Revenue is split **equally** across all consolidated orders. Proportional split — for example, by order revenue or by each order's individual metric contribution — is not available.

🔎 Troubleshooting Common Cost Calculation Errors

- **Edit icon missing on the resource assignment**: The linked cost price list isn't Active at the time of assignment, or the assignment doesn't allow inline edits.
- Fix:
  - Verify the intended cost price list is Active.
  - If the icon still isn't available, remove the resource from the trip, re-assign the resource and select the correct Active cost price list.

Tips to Avoid Future Errors

- Regularly audit rate card configurations to ensure they align with billing policies.
- Verify that resources are assigned only once within a trip to prevent duplicate allocations.
- Perform periodic checks on subcontractor setups to ensure accuracy.
- **Duplicate subcontractor costs due to rate card configurations**: When the "calculate charge per order" setting is enabled, subcontractor costs may be applied to each order on a trip, leading to repeated charges.
  - **Fix:** Review the rate card configuration and adjust the setting as needed.

- **Duplicate resource allocation**: Adding the same subcontractor resource in multiple roles (e.g., as a trailer and a primary resource) can result in duplications.
    - **Fix:** Review resource allocations within the trip and remove any duplicates.