CHAPTER 71
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES AND EQUALIZATION
[Prior to 12/17/86, Revenue Department[730]]

701—71.1(405,427A,428,441,499B) Classification of real estate.

71.1(1) *Responsibility of assessors.* All real estate subject to assessment by city and county assessors shall be classified as provided in this rule. It shall be the responsibility of city and county assessors to determine the proper classification of real estate. The determination shall be based upon the best judgment of the assessor following the guidelines set forth in this rule and the status of the real estate as of January 1 of the year in which the assessment is made. See subrule 71.1(8) for an exception to the general rule that property is to be classified according to its use. The classification shall be utilized on the abstract of assessment submitted to the department of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code section 441.45. See rule 71.8(428,441).

71.1(2) *Responsibility of boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers.* Whenever local boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers exercise assessment functions allowed or required by law, they shall classify property as provided in this rule and adhere to the requirements of this rule.

71.1(3) *Agricultural real estate.* Agricultural real estate shall include all tracts of land and the improvements and structures located on them which are in good faith used primarily for agricultural purposes except buildings which are primarily used or intended for human habitation as defined in subrule 71.1(4). Land and the nonresidential improvements and structures located on it shall be considered to be used primarily for agricultural purposes if its principal use is devoted to the raising and harvesting of crops or forest or fruit trees, the rearing, feeding, and management of livestock, or horticulture, all for intended profit.

Vineyards and any buildings located on a vineyard and used in connection with the vineyard shall be classified as agricultural real estate if the primary use of the land and buildings is an activity related to the production or sale of wine.

Agricultural real estate shall also include woodland, wasteland, and pastureland, but only if that land is held or operated in conjunction with agricultural real estate as defined in this subrule.

71.1(4) *Residential real estate.* Residential real estate shall include all lands and buildings which are primarily used or intended for human habitation, including those buildings located on agricultural land. Buildings used primarily or intended for human habitation shall include the dwelling as well as structures and improvements used primarily as a part of, or in conjunction with, the dwelling. This includes but is not limited to garages, whether attached or detached, tennis courts, swimming pools, guest cottages, and storage sheds for household goods. Residential real estate located on agricultural land shall include only buildings as defined in this subrule. Buildings for human habitation that are used as commercial ventures, including but not limited to hotels, motels, rest homes, and structures containing three or more separate living quarters shall not be considered residential real estate. However, regardless of the number of separate living quarters, multiple housing cooperatives organized under Iowa Code chapter 499A and land and buildings owned and operated by organizations that have received tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the rental income from the property is not taxed as unrelated business income under Iowa Code section 422.33(1A), shall be considered residential real estate.

An apartment in a horizontal property regime (condominium) referred to in Iowa Code chapter 499B which is used or intended for use for human habitation shall be classified as residential real estate regardless of who occupies the apartment. Existing structures shall not be converted to a horizontal property regime unless building code requirements have been met.

71.1(5) *Commercial real estate.* Commercial real estate shall include all lands and improvements and structures located thereon which are primarily used or intended as a place of business where goods, wares, services, or merchandise is stored or offered for sale at wholesale or retail. Commercial realty shall also include hotels, motels, rest homes, structures consisting of three or more separate living quarters and any other buildings for human habitation that are used as a commercial venture. Commercial real estate shall also include data processing equipment as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1)*"j,"* except data processing equipment used in the manufacturing process. However, regardless of the number of separate living quarters or any commercial use of the property, single- and two-family dwellings, multiple housing cooperatives organized under Iowa Code chapter 499A, and land and buildings used primarily for human habitation and owned and operated by organizations that have received tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the rental income from the property is not taxed as unrelated business income under Iowa Code section 422.33(1A), shall be classified as residential real estate.

An apartment in a horizontal property regime (condominium) referred to in Iowa Code chapter 499B which is used or intended for use as a commercial venture, other than leased for human habitation, shall be classified as commercial real estate. Existing structures shall not be converted to a horizontal property regime unless building code requirements have been met.

71.1(6) *Industrial real estate.*

a. *Land and buildings.*

(1) Industrial real estate includes land, buildings, structures, and improvements used primarily as a manufacturing establishment. A manufacturing establishment is a business entity in which the primary activity consists of adding to the value of personal property by any process of manufacturing, refining, purifying, the packing of meats, or the combination of different materials with the intent of selling the product for gain or profit. Industrial real estate includes land and buildings used for the storage of raw materials or finished products and which are an integral part of the manufacturing establishment, and also includes office space used as part of a manufacturing establishment.

(2) Whether property is used primarily as a manufacturing establishment and, therefore, assessed as industrial real estate depends upon the extent to which the property is used for the activities enumerated in subparagraph 71.1(6)*"a"*(1). Property in which the performance of these activities is only incidental to the property's primary use for another purpose is not a manufacturing establishment. For example, a grocery store in which bakery goods are prepared would be assessed as commercial real estate since the primary use of the grocery store premises is for the sale of goods not manufactured by the grocery and the industrial activity, i.e., baking, is only incidental to the store premises' primary use. However, property which is used primarily as a bakery would be assessed as industrial real estate even if baked goods are sold at retail on the premises since the bakery premises' primary use would be for an industrial activity to which the retail sale of baked goods is merely incidental. See *Lichty v. Board of Review of Waterloo,* 230 Iowa 750, 298 N.W. 654 (1941).

Similarly, a facility which has as its primary use the mixing and blending of products to manufacture feed would be assessed as industrial real estate even though a portion of the facility is used solely for the storage of grain, if the use for storage is merely incidental to the property's primary use as a manufacturing establishment. Conversely, a facility used primarily for the storage of grain would be assessed as commercial real estate even though a part of the facility is used to manufacture feed. In the latter situation, the industrial use of the property — the manufacture of feed — is merely incidental to the property's primary use for commercial purposes — the storage of grain.

(3) Property used primarily for the extraction of rock or mineral substances from the earth is not a manufacturing establishment if the only processing performed on the substance is to change its size by crushing or pulverizing. See *River Products Company v. Board of Review of Washington County,* 332 N.W.2d 116 (Iowa Ct. App. 1982).

b. Machinery.

(1) Machinery includes equipment and devices, both automated and nonautomated, which is used in manufacturing as defined in Iowa Code section 428.20. See *Deere Manufacturing Co. v. Beiner,* 247 Iowa 1264, 78 N.W.2d 527 (1956).

(2) Machinery owned or used by a manufacturer but not used within the manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. For example, "X" operates a factory which manufactures building materials for sale. In addition, "X" uses some of these building materials in construction contracts. The machinery which "X" would primarily use at the construction site would not be used in a manufacturing establishment and, therefore, would not be assessed as industrial real estate.

(3) Machinery used in manufacturing but not used in or by a manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. See *Associated General Contractors of Iowa v. State Tax Commission,* 255 Iowa 673, 123 N.W.2d 922 (1963).

(4) Where the primary function of a manufacturing establishment is to manufacture personal property that is consumed by the manufacturer rather than sold, the machinery used in the manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. See *Associated General Contractors of Iowa v. State Tax Commission,* 255 Iowa 673, 123 N.W.2d 922 (1963).

71.1(7) *Point-of-sale equipment.* As used in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1)*"j,"* the term "point-of-sale equipment" means input, output, and processing equipment used to consummate a sale and to record or process information pertaining to a sale transaction at the time the sale takes place and which is located at the counter, desk, or other specific point at which the transaction occurs. As used in this subrule, the term "sale" means the sale or rental of goods or services and includes both retail and wholesale transactions. Point-of-sale equipment does not include equipment used primarily for depositing or withdrawing funds from financial institution accounts.

71.1(8) *Housing development property.* A county board of supervisors may adopt an ordinance providing that property acquired and subdivided for development of housing be classified the same as it was prior to its acquisition until the property is sold or, depending on a county's population, for a specified number of years from the date of subdivision, whichever is shorter. The applicable time period is five years in counties with a population of less than 20,000 and three years in counties with a population of 20,000 or more. The property is to be classified as residential or commercial, whichever is applicable, in the assessment year following the year in which it is sold or the applicable time period has expired. For purposes of this subrule, "subdivided" means to divide a tract of land into three or more lots.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 405.1, 427A.1, 428.4 and 441.22 and chapter 499B and Iowa Code Supplement section 441.21 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2584.

701—71.2(421,428,441) Assessment and valuation of real estate.

71.2(1) *Responsibility of assessor.* The valuation of real estate as established by city and county assessors shall be the actual value of the real estate as of January 1 of the year in which the assessment is made. New parcels of real estate created by the division of existing parcels of real estate shall be assessed separately as of January 1 of the year following the division of the existing parcel of real estate.

71.2(2) *Responsibility of other assessing officials.* Whenever local boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers exercise assessment functions allowed or required by law, they shall follow the provisions of subrule 71.2(1) and rules 71.3(421,428,441) to 71.7(421,427A,428,441).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.3(421,428,441) Valuation of agricultural real estate. Agricultural real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21 by giving exclusive consideration to its productivity and net earning capacity. In determining the actual value of agricultural real estate, city and county assessors shall use the "Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual" and any other guidelines issued by the department of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18).

In determining the productivity and net earning capacity of agricultural real estate the assessor shall also use available data from Iowa State University, the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service, the department of revenue and finance, or other reliable sources. The assessor shall also consider the results of a modern soil survey, if completed.

The assessor shall determine the actual valuation of agricultural real estate within the assessing jurisdiction and spread such valuation throughout the jurisdiction so that each parcel of real estate is assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.4(421,428,441) Valuation of residential real estate. Residential real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

In determining the actual value of residential real estate, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18) as well as a locally conducted assessment/sales ratio study, an analysis of sales of comparable properties, and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.5(421,428,441) Valuation of commercial real estate. Commercial real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. In determining the actual value of commercial real estate, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18) as well as a locally conducted assessment/sales ratio study, an analysis of sales of comparable properties, and any other relevant data available.

71.5(1) *Property of long distance telephone companies.* The director of revenue and finance shall assess the property of long distance telephone companies as defined in Iowa Code section 476.1D(10) which property is first assessed for taxation on or after January 1, 1996, in the same manner as commercial real estate.

71.5(2) *Low-income housing subject to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

a. *Income approach.* In the event the market value of the property cannot be readily established by the comparable sales approach method of valuation considering only arm's-length sales of other low-income housing properties subject to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, the assessor shall use the income approach to valuation as one of the other uniform and recognized methods of appraisal to value the Section 42 property. However, properties under construction that are not expected to generate rental revenue during the current assessment year shall be valued pursuant to subrule 71.8(2), paragraph *"f."*

b. Direct capitalization method. The income approach to valuation shall be applied using the direct capitalization method. The assessor may use the discounted cash flow method as a test of the reasonableness of the results produced by the direct capitalization method. The direct capitalization method of the income approach involves dividing the Net Operating Income (NOI) on a cash basis by an overall capitalization rate to derive an indication of the value of the property for the assessment year.

In applying the direct capitalization method, the assessor shall develop a normalized measure of annual NOI based on the productive and earning capacity of the development utilizing (1) the actual rent schedule applicable for each of the available units as of January 1 of the year of assessment indicating the actual rent to be paid by the resident plus any Section 8 rental assistance or other direct cash rental subsidy provided to the resident by federal, state or local rent subsidy programs as limited pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, (2) a normal vacancy/collection allowance, (3) the prior year's actual and current year's projected annual operating expenses associated with the property, excluding noncash items such as depreciation and amortization, but including property taxes and those actual costs expected to be incurred and paid as required by Internal Revenue Code Section 42 regulations, provisions, and restrictions as applicable to the assessment year, and (4) an appropriate provision for replacement reserves.

If no separate line item is included for reserves for replacement in the historic income and expense data, then the maintenance and repair categories of the historic expense data must be itemized. For properties that have attained a normalized operating history, the NOI results of the prior three years (as represented in the statements variously named as the Income and Loss Statement, the Profit and Loss Statement, the Income Statement, the Actual to Budget Comparison Statement, Balance Sheet, or some name variation of these) may be used to provide the basis for determining the normalized NOI used for purposes of applying the direct capitalization method for the year of assessment, provided an appropriate replacement reserve is included in the NOI determination and provided any additional costs required as a result of Section 42 regulation or compliance changes for the assessment year are included as an operating expense in the NOI determination. In addition, the assessor may utilize the current year operating budget to develop a measure of NOI for the assessment year. The assessor, in developing the measure of annual NOI on a cash basis, shall not consider as income any potential rental income differential that could otherwise be received from the property if the rents were not limited pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, any tax credit equity, any tax credit value, or other subsidized financing.

c. Filing of reports. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to file income and expense data with the local assessor by March 1 of each year. The assessor may require the filing of additional information if deemed necessary.

d. Capitalization rate. The overall capitalization rate to be used in applying the direct capitalization method for a Section 42 property is developed through the band-of-investment technique. The capitalization rate will be calculated annually by the Iowa department of revenue and finance and distributed to all Iowa assessors by March 1. The capitalization rate is a composite rate weighted by the proportions of total property investment represented by debt and equity. The capital structure weights equity at 80 percent and debt at 20 percent unless actual market capital structure can be verified to the assessor. The yield, or market rate of return, for equity is calculated using the capital asset pricing model (CAPM). The yield for debt is equivalent to the average yield on 25-year Treasury bonds referred to as the Treasury long-term average rate. An example of the band-of-investment technique to be utilized is as follows:

	% to Total	Yield	Composite
Equity	80%	11.05%	8.84%
Debt	20%	5.94%	1.19%
	100%		10.03%

e. *Capital asset pricing model.* The capital asset pricing model (CAPM) is utilized to develop the equity rate. The formula is:

$$Re = B (Rm - Rf) + Rf$$

Where:

Re	=	return on equity
B	=	beta
Rm	=	return on the market
Rf	=	risk-free rate of return
Rm - Rf	=	market-risk premium

The beta is assumed to be 1 which indicates the risk level to be consistent with the market as a whole. The risk-free rate is calculated by finding the average of the three-month and six-month Treasury bill. The return on the market is calculated by taking the average of the return on the market for the Merrill Lynch Universe and Standard and Poor's 500 or by reference to other published secondary sources.

f. *Properties under construction.* For Section 42 properties under construction, the assessor may value the property by applying the percentage of completion to the replacement cost new (RCN) as calculated from the Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual and adding the fair market value of the land. Alternatively, projected income and expense data may be utilized if available.

g. *Negative or minimal NOI.* If the Section 42 property shows a negative or minimal net operating income (NOI), the indicator of value as set forth in these rules shall not be utilized.

h. *Eligibility withdrawn.* The property owner shall notify the assessor when property is withdrawn from Section 42 eligibility under the Internal Revenue Code. The notification must be provided by March 1 of the assessment year or the owner is subject to a penalty of $500.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4, 441.21 as amended by 2004 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2296, and 476.1D(10).

701—71.6(421,428,441) Valuation of industrial land and buildings. Industrial real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

In determining the actual value of industrial land and buildings, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 421.17(18), and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.