

423.4 Refunds.

1. A private nonprofit educational institution in this state, nonprofit Iowa affiliate of a nonprofit international organization whose primary activity is the promotion of the construction, remodeling, or rehabilitation of one-family or two-family dwellings for low-income families, nonprofit private museum in this state, tax-certifying or tax-levying body or governmental subdivision of the state, including the state board of regents, state department of human services, state department of transportation, a municipally owned solid waste facility which sells all or part of its processed waste as fuel to a municipally owned public utility, and all divisions, boards, commissions, agencies, or instrumentalities of state, federal, county, or municipal government which do not have earnings going to the benefit of an equity investor or stockholder, may make application to the department for the refund of the sales or use tax upon the sales price of all sales of goods, wares, or merchandise, or from services furnished to a contractor, used in the fulfillment of a written contract with the state of Iowa, any political subdivision of the state, or a division, board, commission, agency, or instrumentality of the state or a political subdivision, a private nonprofit educational institution in this state, a nonprofit Iowa affiliate described in this subsection, or a nonprofit private museum in this state if the property becomes an integral part of the project under contract and at the completion of the project becomes public property, is devoted to educational uses, becomes part of a low-income one-family or two-family dwelling in the state, or becomes a nonprofit private museum; except goods, wares, or merchandise, or services furnished which are used in the performance of any contract in connection with the operation of any municipal utility engaged in selling gas, electricity, or heat to the general public or in connection with the operation of a municipal pay television system; and except goods, wares, and merchandise used in the performance of a contract for a "project" under chapter 419 as defined in that chapter other than goods, wares, or merchandise used in the performance of a contract for a "project" under chapter 419 for which a bond issue was approved by a municipality prior to July 1, 1968, or for which the goods, wares, or merchandise becomes an integral part of the project under contract and at the completion of the project becomes public property or is devoted to educational uses.

a. Such contractor shall state under oath, on forms provided by the department, the amount of such sales of goods, wares, or merchandise, or services furnished and used in the performance of such contract, and upon which sales or use tax has been paid, and shall file such forms with the governmental unit, private nonprofit educational institution, nonprofit Iowa affiliate, or nonprofit private museum which has made any written contract for performance by the contractor. The forms shall be filed by the contractor with the governmental unit, educational institution, nonprofit Iowa affiliate, or nonprofit private museum before final settlement is made.

b. Such governmental unit, educational institution, nonprofit Iowa affiliate, or nonprofit private museum shall, not more than one year after the final settlement has been made, make application to the department for any refund of the amount of the sales or use tax which shall have been paid upon any goods, wares, or merchandise, or services furnished, the application to be made in the manner and upon forms to be provided by the department, and the department shall forthwith audit the claim and, if approved, issue a warrant to the governmental unit, educational institution, nonprofit Iowa affiliate, or nonprofit private museum in the amount of the sales or use tax which has been paid to the state of Iowa under the contract.

c. Refunds authorized under this subsection shall accrue interest at the rate in effect under section 421.7 from the first day of the second calendar month following the date the refund claim is received by the department.

d. Any contractor who willfully makes a false report of tax paid under the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor and in addition shall be liable for the payment of the tax and any applicable penalty and interest.

2. The refund of sales and use tax paid on transportation construction projects let by the state department of transportation is subject to the special provisions of this subsection.

a. A contractor awarded a contract for a transportation construction project is considered

the consumer of all building materials, building supplies, and equipment and shall pay sales tax to the supplier or remit consumer use tax directly to the department.

b. The contractor is not required to file information with the state department of transportation stating the amount of goods, wares, or merchandise, or services rendered, furnished, or performed and used in the performance of the contract or the amount of sales or use tax paid.

c. The state department of transportation shall file a refund claim based on a formula that considers the following:

(1) The quantity of material to complete the contract, and quantities of items of work.

(2) The estimated cost of these materials included in the items of work, and the state sales or use tax to be paid on the tax rate in effect in section 423.2. The quantity of materials shall be determined after each letting based on the contract quantities of all items of work let to contract. The quantity of individual component materials required for each item shall be determined and maintained in a database. The total quantities of materials shall be determined by multiplying the quantities of component materials for each contract item of work by the total quantities of each contract item for each letting. Where variances exist in the cost of materials, the lowest cost shall be used as the base cost.

d. Only the state sales or use tax is refundable. Local option taxes paid by the contractor are not refundable.

3. A relief agency may apply to the director for refund of the amount of sales or use tax imposed and paid upon sales to it of any goods, wares, merchandise, or services furnished, used for free distribution to the poor and needy.

a. The refunds may be obtained only in the following amounts and manner and only under the following conditions:

(1) On forms furnished by the department, and filed within the time as the director shall provide by rule, the relief agency shall report to the department the total amount or amounts, valued in money, expended directly or indirectly for goods, wares, merchandise, or services furnished, used for free distribution to the poor and needy.

(2) On these forms the relief agency shall separately list the persons making the sales to it or to its order, together with the dates of the sales, and the total amount so expended by the relief agency.

(3) The relief agency must prove to the satisfaction of the director that the person making the sales has included the amount thereof in the computation of the sales price of such person and that such person has paid the tax levied by this subchapter or subchapter III, based upon such computation of the sales price.

b. If satisfied that the foregoing conditions and requirements have been complied with, the director shall refund the amount claimed by the relief agency.

4. A person in possession of a wind energy production tax credit certificate pursuant to chapter 476B or a renewable energy tax credit certificate issued pursuant to chapter 476C may apply to the director for refund of the amount of sales or use tax imposed and paid upon purchases made by the applicant.

a. The refunds may be obtained only in the following manner and under the following conditions:

(1) On forms furnished by the department and filed by January 31 after the end of the calendar year in which the tax credit certificate is to be applied, the applicant shall report to the department the total amount of sales and use tax paid during the reporting period on purchases made by the applicant.

(2) The applicant shall separately list the amounts of sales and use tax paid during the reporting period.

(3) If required by the department, the applicant shall prove that the person making the sales has included the amount thereof in the computation of the sales price of such person and that such person has paid the tax levied by this subchapter or subchapter III, based upon such computation of the sales price.

(4) The applicant shall provide the tax credit certificates issued pursuant to chapter 476B or 476C to the department with the forms required by this paragraph "a".

b. If satisfied that the foregoing conditions and requirements have been complied with,

the director shall refund the amount claimed by the applicant for an amount not greater than the amount of tax credits issued in tax credit certificates pursuant to chapter 476B or 476C.

5. a. For purposes of this subsection:

(1) “*Automobile racetrack facility*” means a sanctioned automobile racetrack facility located as part of a racetrack and entertainment complex, including any museum attached to or included in the racetrack facility but excluding any restaurant, and which facility is located, on a maximum of two hundred thirty-two acres, in a city with a population of at least fourteen thousand five hundred but not more than sixteen thousand five hundred residents, which city is located in a county with a population of at least thirty-five thousand but not more than forty thousand residents and where the construction on the racetrack facility commenced not later than July 1, 2006, and the cost of the construction upon completion was at least thirty-five million dollars.

(2) “*Change of control*” means any of the following:

(a) Any change in the ownership of the original or any subsequent legal entity that is the owner or operator of the automobile racetrack facility such that less than twenty-five percent of the equity interests in the legal entity is owned by individuals who are residents of Iowa, an Iowa corporation, or combination of both.

(b) The original owners of the legal entity that is the owner or operator of the automobile racetrack facility shall collectively cease to own at least twenty-five percent of the voting equity interests of such legal entity.

(3) “*Iowa corporation*” means a corporation incorporated under the laws of Iowa where at least twenty-five percent of the corporation’s equity interests are owned by individuals who are residents of Iowa.

(4) “*Owner or operator*” means a for-profit legal entity where at least twenty-five percent of its equity interests are owned by individuals who are residents of Iowa, an Iowa corporation, or combination of both and that is the owner or operator of an automobile racetrack facility and is primarily a promoter of motor vehicle races.

(5) “*Population*” means the population based upon the 2000 certified federal census.

b. The owner or operator of an automobile racetrack facility may apply to the department for a rebate of sales tax imposed and collected by retailers upon sales of tangible personal property or services furnished to purchasers at the automobile racetrack facility.

c. The rebate may be obtained only in the following amounts and manner and only under the following conditions:

(1) On forms furnished by the department within the time period provided by the department by rule, which time period shall not be longer than quarterly.

(2) The owner or operator shall provide information as deemed necessary by the department.

(3) The transactions for which sales tax was collected and the rebate is sought occurred on or after January 1, 2006, but before January 1, 2016. However, not more than twelve million five hundred thousand dollars in total rebates shall be provided pursuant to this subsection.

(4) Notwithstanding subparagraph (3), the rebate of sales tax shall cease for transactions occurring on or after the date of the change of control of the automobile racetrack facility.

(5) The automobile racetrack facility has not received or shall not receive any grants under the community attraction and tourism program pursuant to chapter 15F, subchapter II, or the vision Iowa program pursuant to chapter 15F, subchapter III.

d. To assist the department in determining the amount of the rebate, the owner or operator shall identify to the department retailers located at the automobile racetrack facility who will be collecting sales tax. The department shall verify such identity and ensure that all proper permits have been issued. For purposes of this subsection, advance ticket and admissions sales shall be considered occurring at the automobile racetrack facility regardless of where the transactions actually occur.

e. Upon determining that the conditions and requirements of this subsection and the department are met, the department shall issue a warrant to the owner or operator in the amount equal to the amount claimed and verified by the department.

f. Notwithstanding the state sales tax imposed in section 423.2, a rebate issued pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed an amount equal to five percent of the sales price of the

tangible personal property or services furnished to purchasers at the automobile racetrack facility. Any local option taxes paid and collected shall not be subject to rebate under this subsection.

g. This subsection is repealed June 30, 2016, or thirty days following the date on which twelve million five hundred thousand dollars in total rebates have been provided, or thirty days following the date on which rebates cease as provided in paragraph “c”, subparagraph (4), whichever is the earliest.

6. a. (1) The owner of a collaborative educational facility in this state may make application to the department for the refund of the sales or use tax upon the sales price of all sales of goods, wares, or merchandise, or from services furnished to a contractor, used in the fulfillment of a written construction contract with the owner of the collaborative educational facility for the original construction, or additions or modifications to, a building or structure to be used as part of the collaborative educational facility.

(2) To receive the refund under this subsection, a collaborative educational facility must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) The contract for construction of the building or structure is entered into on or after April 1, 2003.

(b) The building or structure is located within the corporate limits of a city in the state with a population in excess of one hundred ninety-five thousand residents.

(c) The sole purpose of the building or structure is to provide facilities for a collaborative of public and private educational institutions that provide education to students.

(d) The owner of the building or structure is a nonprofit corporation governed by chapter 504 or former chapter 504A which is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) References to “building” or “structure” in subparagraph (2), subparagraph divisions (a) through (d) include any additions or modifications to the building or structure.

b. Such contractor shall state under oath, on forms provided by the department, the amount of such sales of goods, wares, or merchandise, or services furnished and used in the performance of such contract, and upon which sales or use tax has been paid, and shall file such forms with the owner of the collaborative educational facility which has made any written contract for performance by the contractor.

c. (1) The owner of the collaborative educational facility shall, not more than one year after the final settlement has been made, make application to the department for any refund of the amount of the sales or use tax which shall have been paid upon any goods, wares, or merchandise, or services furnished, the application to be made in the manner and upon forms to be provided by the department, and the department shall forthwith audit the claim and, if approved, issue a warrant to the owner of the collaborative educational facility in the amount of the sales or use tax which has been paid to the state of Iowa under the contract.

(2) Refunds authorized under this subsection shall accrue interest at the rate in effect under section 421.7 from the first day of the second calendar month following the date the refund claim is received by the department.

d. Any contractor who willfully makes a false report of tax paid under the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor and in addition shall be liable for the payment of the tax and any applicable penalty and interest.

7. a. The owner of a data center business, as defined in section 423.3, subsection 95, located in this state may make an annual application for up to five consecutive years to the department for the refund of fifty percent of the sales or use tax upon the sales price of all sales of fuel used in creating heat, power, and steam for processing or generating electrical current, or from the sale of electricity consumed by computers, machinery, or other equipment for operation of the data center business facility.

b. A data center business shall qualify for the refund in this subsection if all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The data center business shall make an investment in an Iowa physical location within the first three years of operation in Iowa beginning with the date on which the data center business initiates site preparation activities.

(2) The amount of the investment in an Iowa physical location, including the value of

a lease agreement, or an investment in land or buildings, and the capital expenditures for computers, machinery, and other equipment used in the operation of the data center business shall equal at least one million dollars, but shall not exceed ten million dollars for a newly constructed building or five million dollars for a rehabilitated building.

(3) If the data center business is leasing a building to house operations, the data center business shall enter into a lease that is at least five years in duration.

(4) The data center business shall comply with the sustainable design and construction standards established by the state building code commissioner pursuant to section 103A.8B.

c. The refund may be obtained only in the following manner and under the following conditions:

(1) The applicant shall use forms furnished by the department.

(2) The applicant shall separately list the amounts of sales and use tax paid during the reporting period.

(3) The applicant may request when the refund begins, but it must start on the first day of a month and proceed for a continuous twelve-month period.

d. In determining the amount to be refunded, if the dates of the utility billing or meter reading cycle for the sale or furnishing of metered gas and electricity are on or after the first day of the first month through the last day of the last month of the refund year, fifty percent of the amount of tax charged in the billings shall be refunded. In determining the amount to be refunded, if the dates of the sale or furnishing of fuel for purposes of commercial energy and the delivery of the fuel are on or after the first day of the first month through the last day of the last month of the refund year, fifty percent of the amount of tax charged in the billings shall be refunded.

e. To receive refunds during the five-year period, the applicant shall file a refund claim within three months after the end of each refund year.

f. The refund in this subsection applies only to state sales and use tax paid and does not apply to local option sales and services taxes imposed pursuant to chapter 423B. Notwithstanding the state sales tax imposed in section 423.2, a refund issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed an amount equal to five percent of the sales price of the fuel used to create heat, power, and steam for processing or generating electrical current or from the sale price of electricity consumed by computers, machinery, or other equipment for operation of the data center business facility.

8. a. The owner of a data center business, as defined in section 423.3, subsection 95, paragraph "e", located in this state that is not eligible for the exemption under section 423.3, subsection 95, may make an annual application to the department for the refund of fifty percent of the sales or use tax upon all of the following:

(1) The sales price from the sale or rental of computers and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of a data center business and property whether directly or indirectly connected to the computers, including but not limited to cooling systems, cooling towers, and other temperature control infrastructure; power infrastructure for transformation, distribution, or management of electricity used for the maintenance and operation of the data center business including but not limited to exterior dedicated business-owned substations, backup power generation systems, battery systems, and related infrastructure; and racking systems, cabling, and trays, which are necessary for the maintenance and operation of the data center business.

(2) The sales price of backup power generation fuel that is purchased by a data center business for use in the items listed in subparagraph (1).

(3) The sales price of electricity purchased for use in providing data center services.

b. A data center business shall qualify for the partial refund in this subsection if all of the following criteria are met:

(1) The data center business shall have a physical location in the state which is at least five thousand square feet in size.

(2) The data center business shall make a minimum investment of at least ten million dollars, in the case of new construction, or at least five million dollars in the case of a rehabilitated building, in an Iowa physical location within the first six years of operation in Iowa, beginning with the date on which the data center business initiates site preparation

activities. The minimum investment includes the initial investment, including the value of a lease agreement or the amount invested in land and subsequent acquisition of additional adjacent land and subsequent investment at the Iowa location.

(3) If the data center business is leasing a building to house operations, the data center business shall enter into a lease that is at least five years in duration.

(4) The data center business shall comply with the sustainable design and construction standards established by the state building code commissioner pursuant to section 103A.8B.

c. The refund allowed under this subsection shall be available for the following periods of time:

(1) For an investment of at least ten million dollars, in the case of new construction, or at least five million dollars, in the case of a rehabilitated building, but less than one hundred thirty-six million dollars, ten years.

(2) For an investment of at least one hundred thirty-six million dollars, but less than two hundred million dollars, seven years.

d. The refund may be obtained only in the following manner and under the following conditions:

(1) The applicant shall use forms furnished by the department.

(2) The applicant shall separately list the amounts of sales and use tax paid during the reporting period.

(3) The applicant may request when the refund begins, but it must start on the first day of a month and proceed for a continuous twelve-month period.

e. In determining the amount to be refunded, if the dates of the utility billing or meter reading cycle for the sale or furnishing of metered gas and electricity are on or after the first day of the first month through the last day of the last month of the refund year, fifty percent of the amount of tax charged in the billings shall be refunded. In determining the amount to be refunded, if the dates of the sale or furnishing of fuel for purposes of commercial energy and the delivery of the fuel are on or after the first day of the first month through the last day of the last month of the refund year, fifty percent of the amount of tax charged in the billings shall be refunded.

f. To receive refunds during the applicable refund period, the applicant shall file a refund claim within three months after the end of each refund year.

g. The refund in this subsection applies only to state sales and use tax paid and does not apply to local option sales and services taxes imposed pursuant to chapter 423B. Notwithstanding the state sales tax imposed in section 423.2, a refund issued pursuant to this section shall not exceed an amount equal to five percent of the sales price of the items listed in paragraph "a", subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3).

9. A person who qualifies as a biodiesel producer as provided in this subsection may apply to the director for a refund of the amount of the sales or use tax imposed and paid upon purchases made by the person.

a. The person must be engaged in the manufacturing of biodiesel who has registered with the United States environmental protection agency as a manufacturer according to the requirements in 40 C.F.R. §79.4. The biodiesel must be for use in biodiesel blended fuel in conformance with section 214A.2. The person must comply with the requirements of this subsection and rules adopted by the department pursuant to this subsection.

b. The amount of the refund shall be calculated by multiplying a designated rate by the total number of gallons of biodiesel produced by the biodiesel producer in this state during each quarter of a calendar year. The designated rate shall be as follows:

(1) For the calendar year 2012, three cents.

(2) For the calendar year 2013, two and one-half cents.

(3) For the calendar year 2014, two cents.

c. A biodiesel producer shall not be eligible to receive a refund under this subsection on more than twenty-five million gallons of biodiesel produced each calendar year by the biodiesel producer at each facility where the biodiesel producer manufactures biodiesel.

d. A person shall obtain a refund by completing forms furnished by the department and filed by the person on a quarterly basis as required by the department. The department shall

refund the amount claimed by the person after subtracting any amount owing from the sales or use taxes imposed and paid upon purchases made by the person.

e. This subsection is repealed on January 1, 2015.

2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §97, 205; 2005 Acts, ch 110, §2; 2005 Acts, ch 134, §2; 2005 Acts, ch 160, §4, 14; 2006 Acts, ch 1001, §3; 2006 Acts, ch 1136, §3; 2006 Acts, ch 1185, §128; 2007 Acts, ch 126, §69; 2007 Acts, ch 199, §2; 2008 Acts, ch 1004, §3, 7; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §52; 2008 Acts, ch 1128, §2, 15; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §253; 2009 Acts, ch 60, §7; 2009 Acts, ch 179, §39, 198, 199, 202, 211, 212; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §87, 181; 2011 Acts, ch 25, §143; 2011 Acts, ch 113, §59, 60; 2011 Acts, ch 131, §66, 78

[SP] 2008 amendment to subsection 4 takes effect May 1, 2008, and applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2008; 2008 Acts, ch 1128, §15

[SP] 2009 amendments to subsection 7 and amendment adding subsection 8 apply to sales and use tax paid on or after July 1, 2009; 2009 Acts, ch 179, §202; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §87, 181

[T] Subsection 9 takes effect January 1, 2012; 2011 Acts, ch 113, §60; 2011 Acts, ch 131, §78

[T] Code editor directive applied

[T] NEW subsection 9