

CHAPTER 230
EXEMPTIONS PRIMARILY BENEFITING MANUFACTURERS AND
OTHER PERSONS ENGAGED IN PROCESSING

Rules in this chapter include cross references to provisions in 701—Chapters 15, 18 and 26 that were applicable prior to July 1, 2004.

701—230.1 Reserved.

701—230.2(423) Carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used in processing. An expanded definition of “processing” is allowed to manufacturers of food products for human consumption using carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services. For the purposes of this rule, the rental or leasing of tangible personal property is treated as the furnishing of a taxable service and not as the sale of tangible personal property.

230.2(1) “Manufacturer” characterized. A manufacturer is a person or entity different from a merchant, dealer, or retailer. See *Commonwealth v. Thackara Mfg. Co.*, 27 A. 13 (Pa. 1893). In order for a business to be a manufacturer, the principal business of that business must be manufacturing. See *Associated General Contractors v. State Tax Commission*, 123 N.W.2d 922 (Iowa 1963). Another distinction is that a merchant or retailer sells in order to earn a profit and a manufacturer sells to take profits already earned from prior activity. See *State v. Coastal Petrol Inc.*, 198 So. 610 (Ala. 1940). A person primarily engaged in selling tangible personal property in order to earn a profit and only incidentally engaged in creating products suitable for use from raw materials is not a manufacturer. A retail grocery store, incidentally and not primarily engaged in manufacturing activities such as meat cutting or production and packaging of baked goods, is not a “manufacturer of food products for human consumption” and is not entitled to claim the special processing exemption allowed to those manufacturers. Retail food stores, restaurants, and other persons incidentally engaged in food manufacturing activities can, however, continue to claim on their incidental processing activities the processing exemption allowed to persons who are not manufacturers of food products for human consumption. See rule 701—230.3(423).

230.2(2) The following activities constitute processing when performed by a manufacturer to create food products for human consumption. Any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable services primarily used in the performance of these activities is exempt from tax.

a. Treatment of material that changes its form, context, or condition in order to produce a marketable food product for human consumption. “Special treatment” of the material to change its form, context, or condition is not necessary to lawfully claim the exemption. Examples of “treatment” which would not be “special” are the following: the washing, sorting and grading of fruits or vegetables; the washing, sorting, and grading of eggs; and the mixing or agitation of liquids. By way of contrast, sterilization would be “special treatment.”

b. Maintenance of the quality or integrity of the food product and the maintenance or the changing of temperature levels necessary to avoid spoilage or to hold the food in marketable condition. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in freezers, heaters, coolers, refrigerators, or evaporators used in cooling or heating which holds the food product at a temperature necessary to maintain quality or integrity or to avoid spoilage of the food or to hold the food product in marketable condition is exempt from tax. It is not necessary that the taxable service be used to raise or lower the temperature of the food. Also, processing of food products for human consumption does not cease when the food product is in marketable form. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to maintain or to change a temperature necessary to keep the product marketable is exempt from tax.

c. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service primarily used in the maintenance of environmental conditions necessary for the safe or efficient use of machinery or material used to produce the food product is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used to air-condition a room in which meat is stored is exempt from tax if the purpose of the air conditioning is

to maintain the meat in a condition in which it is easy to slice rather than for the comfort of the employees who work in the room.

d. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service primarily used in sanitation and quality control activities is exempt from tax. Nonexclusive examples exempt from tax include taxable services used in pH meters, microbiology counters and incubators used to test the purity or sanitary nature of a food product. For example, electricity used in egg-candling lights would be exempt from tax. Also, electricity, steam, or any taxable service used to power equipment which cleans and sterilizes food production equipment would be exempt from tax. Electricity used to power refrigerators used to store food samples for testing would be exempt from tax. Finally, electricity used to power “bug lights” or other insect-killing equipment used in areas where food products are manufactured or stored would be exempt from tax.

e. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in the formation of packaging for marketable food products for human consumption is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used in plastic bottle-forming machines by a food manufacturer is exempt from tax if the plastic bottles will be used to hold a marketable food product, such as milk. Any electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in the heating, compounding, liquefying and forming of plastic pellets into these plastic bottles is exempt.

f. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in placement of the food product into shipping containers is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used by a food manufacturer to place food products into packing cases, pallets, crates, shipping cases, or other similar receptacles is exempt.

g. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move material which will become a marketable food product or used to move the marketable food product itself until shipment from the building of manufacture is exempt from tax. This includes, but is not limited to, taxable services used in pumps, conveyors, forklifts, and freight elevators moving the material or food product and taxable services used in door openers which open doors for forklifts or other devices moving the material or product. Any loading dock which is attached to a building of manufacture is a part of that building. Any electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move any food products to a loading dock is exempt from tax. If a food product is carried outside its building of manufacture by any conveyor belt system, electricity used by any portion of the system located outside the building is taxable.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code Supplement subsection 423.3(49).

701—230.3(423) Services used in processing. Electricity, steam, or any taxable service is used in processing only if the service is used in any operation which subjects raw material to some special treatment which changes, by artificial or natural means, the form, context, or condition of the raw material and results in a change of the raw material into marketable tangible personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail. The following are nonexclusive examples of what would and would not be considered electricity, steam, or taxable services used in processing:

230.3(1) The sales price from the sale of electricity or steam consumed as power or used in the actual processing of tangible personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail would be exempt from tax. The sales price is to be distinguished from that of electricity or steam consumed for the purpose of lighting, ventilating, or heating manufacturing plants, warehouses, or offices. The latter sales price would be taxable.

230.3(2) The sales price from electricity used in the freezing of tangible personal property, ultimately to be sold at retail, to make the property marketable would be exempt from sales tax. See *Fischer Artificial Ice & Cold Storage Co. v. Iowa State Tax Commission*, 81 N.W.2d 437 (Iowa 1957).

230.3(3) Electricity used merely in the refrigeration or the holding of tangible personal property for the purpose of preventing spoilage or to preserve the property in its present state would not be “used in processing” and, therefore, its sales price would be subject to tax. See *Fischer Artificial Ice, supra*.

Measurement of taxable and nontaxable use of electricity and steam. The exemption provided in the case of electricity or steam applies only upon the sales price from the sale of electricity or steam when

the energy is consumed as power or is used in the processing of food products or other tangible personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail, as distinguished from electricity or steam which is consumed for taxable purposes. When practical, electricity or steam consumed as power or used directly in processing must be separately metered and separately billed by the supplier thereof to clearly distinguish energy so consumed from electricity or steam which is consumed for purposes or under conditions in which the exemption would not apply. If it is impractical to separately meter electricity or steam which is exempt from that electricity or steam upon which tax will apply, the purchaser must furnish an exemption certificate to the supplier with respect to what percentage of electricity or steam in the case of each purchaser is subject to the exemption. Reference 701—subrule 15.3(2). The exemption certificate must be supported by a study showing how the percentage was developed. When a certificate and study are accepted by the supplier as a basis for determining exemption, any changes in the processing method, changes in equipment or alterations in plant size or capacity affecting the percentage of exemption will necessitate the filing of a new and revised statement by the purchaser. When the electric or steam energy is separately metered, enabling the supplier to accurately apply the exemption in the case of processing energy, the purchaser need only file an exemption certificate since the supplier, under such conditions, will separately record and compute the consumption of energy which is exempt from tax apart from that energy which is subject to tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(49).

701—230.4(423) Chemicals, solvents, sorbents, or reagents used in processing. Chemicals, solvents, sorbents, and reagents directly used and consumed, dissipated, or depleted in processing tangible personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail shall be exempt from sales and use tax. For the purpose of this processing exemption rule, free newspapers and shoppers' guides are considered to be retail sales. See 701—Chapter 211 for definition of the words "chemicals," "solvents," "sorbents," and "reagents."

For the purpose of this rule, a catalyst is considered to be a chemical, solvent, sorbent, or reagent. A catalyst is a substance which promotes or initiates a chemical reaction and, as such, is exempt from tax if consumed, dissipated, or depleted during processing of tangible personal property intended to be ultimately sold at retail.

To qualify for this exemption, all of the following conditions must be met:

1. The item must be a chemical, solvent, sorbent, or reagent.
2. The chemical, solvent, sorbent, or reagent must be directly used and consumed, dissipated, or depleted during processing as defined in referenced rule 701—18.29(422,423).
3. The processing must be performed on tangible personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail.
4. The chemical, solvent, sorbent, or reagent need not become an integral or component part of the processed tangible personal property.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(50).

701—230.5(423) Exempt sales of gases used in the manufacturing process. Sales of argon and other similar gases to be used in the manufacturing process are exempt from tax. For the purposes of this rule, only inert gases are gases that are similar to argon. An "inert gas" is any gas that is normally chemically inactive. It will not support combustion and cannot be used as either a fuel or as an oxidizer. Argon, helium, neon, krypton, radon, and xenon are inert gases. Oxygen, hydrogen, and methane are nonexclusive examples of gases that are not inert. These sales are exempt only if the gas is purchased by a "manufacturer," for use in "processing," as those terms are defined in subrules 230.15(3) and 230.15(4).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(51).

[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.6(423) Sale of electricity to water companies. The sales price from the sale of electricity to water companies assessed for property tax pursuant to Iowa Code sections 428.24, 428.26, and 428.28, which is used solely for the purpose of pumping water from a river or well is exempt from sales tax. For

the purposes of this rule, “river” means a natural body of water or waterway that is commonly known as a river. “Well,” for the purposes of this rule, means an issue of water from the earth; a mineral spring; a pit or hole sunk into the earth to reach a water supply; a shaft or hole sunk to obtain oil, water, gas, etc.; or a shaft or excavation in the earth, in mining, from which run branches. *Pacific Gas and Electric Company v. Hufford*, 319 P.2d 1033, 1040 (Calif. 1957), citing Webster’s New International Dictionary, 2nd ed., unabridged.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(52).

701—230.7(423) Wind energy conversion property. The sales price from the sale of property used to convert wind energy to electrical energy or the sales price from the sale of materials used to manufacture, install, or construct property used to convert wind energy to electrical energy is exempt from tax.

For the purposes of this rule, “property used to convert wind energy to electrical energy” means any device which converts wind energy to usable electrical energy including, but not limited to, wind chargers, windmills, wind turbines, pad mount transformers, substations, power lines, and tower equipment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(53).

701—230.8(423) Exempt sales or rentals of core making and mold making equipment, and sand handling equipment. This rule is applicable to the period beginning on or after July 1, 2004.

230.8(1) Exempt sales and rentals of machinery and equipment. The sales price from sales or rentals of core making, mold making, and sand handling machinery and equipment directly and primarily used by a foundry in the mold making process is exempt from tax. For the purposes of this rule, a “foundry” is an establishment where metal, but not plastic, is melted and poured into molds. A nonexclusive list of equipment which may be exempt under this rule includes sand storage tanks, conveyers, patterns, muller controllers, and sand mixers. A nonexclusive list of items which would not be exempted by this rule includes sand and other materials (as opposed to equipment) used to build molds or cores, and supplies. Services used in the mold making process are not exempted from tax by this rule. For the purposes of this rule, core making, mold making, and sand handling equipment also include replacement parts necessary for the operation of the equipment which is used directly and primarily by a foundry in the mold making process. Reference 701—subrule 18.58(1) for definitions of “directly used,” “equipment,” “machinery,” “replacement part” and “supplies.”

230.8(2) Exempt sales of fuel and electricity. The sales price from sales of fuel used in creating heat, power, or steam for, or used for generating electric current for, or electric current sold for use in machinery or equipment the sale or rental of which is exempt under subrule 230.8(1) is exempt from tax.

230.8(3) Exempt design and installation services. The sales price from furnishing design and installation services, including electrical and electronic installation, of machinery and equipment the sale or rental of which is exempt under subrule 230.8(1) is exempt from tax. Reference rule 701—26.16(422) for characterizations of the words “installation” and “electronic installation.”

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(82).

701—230.9(423) Chemical compounds used to treat water. Chemical compounds placed in water which is ultimately sold at retail should be purchased exempt from the tax. The chemical compounds become an integral part of property sold at retail. Chemical compounds placed in water which is directly used in processing are exempt from the tax, even if the water is consumed by the processor and not sold at retail.

Chemical compounds which are used to treat water that is not sold at retail or which are not used directly in processing shall be subject to tax. An example would be chlorine or other chemicals used to treat water for a swimming pool.

Special boiler compounds used by processors when live steam is injected into the mash or substance, whereby the steam liquefies and becomes an integral part of the product intended to be sold at retail and also becomes a part of the finished product, shall be exempt from tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(50).

701—230.10(423) Exclusive web search portal business and its exemption. Effective on or after July 1, 2007, a business that qualifies as a web search portal business that has a physical location in Iowa and that meets specific criteria may obtain an exemption from sales and use tax on specific purchases that are used in the operation and maintenance of the web search portal business. This exemption from sales and use tax also applies to the affiliates of a qualifying web search portal business.

230.10(1) Definitions. For the purpose of this exemption, the following definitions apply:

a. “Affiliate” means an entity that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled with or by, or is under common control with another entity.

b. “Control” means any of the following:

(1) In the case of a United States corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 percent or more of the voting power to elect directors.

(2) In the case of a foreign corporation, if the voting power to elect the directors is less than 50 percent, the maximum amount allowed by applicable law.

(3) In the case of an entity other than a corporation, 50 percent or more ownership interest in the entity, or the power to direct the management of the entity.

c. “Web search portal business” means an entity among whose primary businesses is to provide a search portal to organize information; to access, search, and navigate the internet, including research and development to support capabilities to organize information; and to provide internet access, navigation, and search functionalities.

230.10(2) Criteria to claim exemption. The following govern whether a business qualifies for an exemption from sales and use tax on purchases made or leases executed by a web search portal business:

a. All of the following requirements must be met by a web search portal business for the purpose of this exemption:

(1) The business of the purchaser or lessee shall be as a provider of a web search portal.

(2) The web search portal business shall have a physical location in Iowa that is used for the operations and maintenance of the web search portal site on the internet, including but not limited to research and development to support capabilities to organize information and to provide internet access, navigation, and search.

(3) The web search portal business shall make a minimum investment in an Iowa physical location of \$200 million within the first six years of operation in Iowa beginning with the date the web search portal business initiates site preparation activities. The minimum investment includes the initial investment, including land and subsequent acquisition of additional adjacent land and subsequent investment at the Iowa location.

(4) The web search portal business shall purchase, option, or lease Iowa land not later than December 31, 2008, for any initial investment. However, the December 31, 2008, date shall not affect the future purchases of adjacent land and additional investment in the initial or adjacent land to qualify as part of the minimum investment for purposes of this exemption.

b. Aggregation to meet requirements. A web search portal business that is seeking an exemption from sales and use tax under this exemption may meet the requirements found in subparagraphs 230.10(2)“a”(1) to (4) above, by aggregating various Iowa investments and other requirements with its business affiliates.

c. Failure to meet investment qualifications. If a web search portal business claiming exemption from sales and use tax under this exemption fails to meet at least 80 percent of the minimum investment amount required within the first six years of operation beginning with the initiation of the site preparation activities by the web search portal business, the web search portal business will lose the right to claim this exemption from sales and use tax. Immediately following the loss of the right to claim this exemption from sales and use tax, the web search portal business is required to pay all sales or use taxes that would have been due on the purchase or rental of all purchases previously claimed exempt from sales and use tax, plus any and all applicable statutory penalty and interest due on the tax.

230.10(3) Exempt purchases. Sales and leases of the following are exempt from sales and use tax when sold or leased to a qualifying web search portal business:

- a. Computers and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of the web search portal business;
- b. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling system for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the web search portal;
- c. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling towers for the cooling system referenced in paragraph “b” above;
- d. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the temperature control infrastructure for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the web search portal;
- e. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the power infrastructure that is used for the transformation, distribution, or management of electricity used for the operation and maintenance of the web search portal. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, exterior dedicated business-owned power substations, backup power generation systems, battery systems, and related infrastructure;
- f. All equipment used in the racking system, including cabling and trays;
- g. Fuel purchased by the web search portal business that is used in the backup power generation system and in all items listed in paragraphs “a” to “f.” This provision includes the fuel used in backup generators that may be located outside of the building that are used if power is interrupted to ensure the web search portal continues operation; and
- h. Electricity purchased for use in operating the web search portal.

230.10(4) Limitation of exemption. The purchases or leases of the items listed in subrule 230.10(3) are only exempt if the items being purchased or leased are being used in the operation or maintenance of the web search portal business. Such purchases or leases will not be exempt from sales or use tax if the item is to be used in the business for another purpose not related to operations or maintenance. Examples of items included in this limitation include but are not limited to:

- a. Electricity not used for operation or maintenance, such as in the office or employee break room;
- b. Tangible personal property used in areas of the web search portal facility that is not used for operation or maintenance, such as cleaning equipment and supplies;
- c. Building materials that become part of real property, such as concrete, steel or roofing; and
- d. Tangible personal property that becomes part of real property, such as a dishwasher.

230.10(5) Initial date of exemption. The exemption from sales and use tax begins on and after the date of the initial investment in or the initiation of site preparation activities for the facility that will contain the qualifying web search portal business.

This rule is intended to implement 2007 Iowa Code Supplement section 423.3(92).

701—230.11(423) Web search portal business and its exemption. Effective on or after July 1, 2008, a business that qualifies as a web search portal business that has a physical location in Iowa and that meets specific criteria may obtain an exemption from sales and use tax on specific purchases that are used in the operation and maintenance of the web search portal business. This exemption from sales and use tax also applies to the affiliates of a qualifying web search portal business.

230.11(1) Definitions. For the purpose of this exemption, the following definitions apply:

“*Affiliate*” means an entity that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled with or by, or is under common control with another entity.

“*Control*” means any of the following:

1. In the case of a United States corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 percent or more of the voting power to elect directors.
2. In the case of a foreign corporation, if the voting power to elect the directors is less than 50 percent, the maximum amount allowed by applicable law.
3. In the case of an entity other than a corporation, 50 percent or more ownership interest in the entity, or the power to direct the management of the entity.

“*Web search portal business*” means an entity whose business among other businesses is to provide a search portal to organize information; to access, search, and navigate the Internet, including research and development to support capabilities to organize information; or to provide Internet access, navigation, or search functionalities.

230.11(2) Criteria to claim exemption. The following governs whether a business qualifies for an exemption from sales and use tax on purchases made or leases executed by a web search portal business:

a. Requirements. All of the following requirements must be met by a web search portal business for the purpose of this exemption:

(1) The business, among other businesses, of the purchaser or lessee shall be as a provider of a web search portal.

(2) The web search portal business shall have a physical location in Iowa that is used for the operations and maintenance of the web search portal site on the Internet, including but not limited to research and development to support capabilities to organize information and to provide Internet access, navigation, and search functionality.

(3) The web search portal business shall make a minimum investment in an Iowa physical location of \$200 million within the first six years of operation in Iowa beginning with the date the web search portal business initiates site preparation activities. The minimum investment includes the initial investment, including land and subsequent acquisition of additional adjacent land and subsequent investment at the Iowa location.

(4) The web search portal business shall purchase, option, or lease Iowa land not later than December 31, 2008, for any initial investment. However, the December 31, 2008, date shall not affect the future purchases of adjacent land and additional investment in the initial or adjacent land to qualify as part of the minimum investment for purposes of this exemption.

b. Aggregation to meet requirements. A web search portal business that is seeking an exemption from sales and use tax under this exemption may meet the requirements found in subparagraphs 230.11(2)“a”(1) to (4) by aggregating various Iowa investments and other requirements with its business affiliates.

c. Failure to meet investment qualifications. If a web search portal business claiming exemption from sales and use tax under this exemption fails to meet at least 80 percent of the minimum investment amount required within the first six years of operation beginning with the initiation of the site preparation activities by the web search portal business, the web search portal business will lose the right to claim this exemption from sales and use tax. Immediately following the loss of the right to claim this exemption from sales and use tax, the web search portal business is required to pay all sales or use taxes that would have been due on the purchase or rental of all purchases previously claimed exempt from sales and use tax, plus any and all applicable statutory penalty and interest due on the tax.

230.11(3) Exempt purchases. Sales and leases of the following are exempt from sales and use tax when sold or leased to a qualifying web search portal business:

a. Computers and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of the web search portal business;

b. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling system for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the web search portal business;

c. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling towers for the cooling system referenced in paragraph “b”;

d. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the temperature control infrastructure for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the web search portal business;

e. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the power infrastructure that is used for the transformation, distribution, or management of electricity used for the operation and maintenance of the web search portal business. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, exterior dedicated business-owned power substations; and back-up power generation systems, battery systems, and related infrastructure;

f. All equipment used in the racking system, including cabling and trays;

g. Fuel purchased by the web search portal business that is used in the back-up power generation system and in all items listed in paragraphs “a” to “f.” This includes the fuel used in the back-up generators that may be located outside the building and that are used if power is interrupted to ensure the web search portal business continues operation; and

h. Electricity purchased for use in operating the web search portal business.

230.11(4) *Limitation of exemption.* The purchase or lease of the items listed in subrule 230.11(3) is only exempt if the items being purchased or leased are being used in the operation or maintenance of the web search portal business. Such purchases or leases will not be exempt from sales or use tax if the item is to be used in the business for another purpose. For example, the purchase of electricity for use in the office portion of the web search portal facility would not be exempt. The purchase of building materials that become real property would not be exempt. For example, the purchase of a dishwasher that will be built into a kitchen area in the break room for employees would not be exempt from tax. The purchase of a dishwasher is the purchase of tangible personal property. However, upon installation, the dishwasher becomes part of the building and realty and is not exempt from Iowa sales or use tax.

230.11(5) *Initial date of exemption.* The exemption from sales and use tax begins on and after the date of the initial investment in or the initiation of site preparation activities for the facility that will contain the qualifying web search portal business.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3 as amended by 2008 Iowa Acts, House File 2233, section 1.

701—230.12(423) Large data center business exemption. Effective on or after July 1, 2009, a data center business that has a physical location in Iowa and that meets specific criteria may obtain an exemption from sales and use tax on specific purchases that are used in the operation and maintenance of the data center business.

230.12(1) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions apply:

“*Data center*” means a building rehabilitated or constructed to house a group of networked server computers in one physical location in order to centralize the storage, management, and dissemination of data and information pertaining to a particular business, taxonomy, or body of knowledge.

“*Data center business*” means an entity whose business, among other businesses, is to operate a data center.

230.12(2) *Criteria to claim exemption.* The following govern whether a business qualifies for an exemption from sales and use tax on purchases made or leases executed by a data center business:

a. Requirements. All of the following requirements must be met by a data center business for the purpose of this exemption:

(1) The business, among other businesses, of the purchaser or lessee shall be as a provider of a data center.

(2) The data center business shall have a physical location in Iowa that is, in the aggregate, at least 5,000 square feet in size used for the operation and maintenance of the data center.

1. A data center facility includes, but is not limited to, the centralization, storage, management and dissemination of data and information.

2. The physical location shall include the mechanical and electrical systems, redundant or backup power supplies, redundant data communications connections, environmental controls, and fire suppression systems for the data center business. The data center business’s physical location may also include a restricted access area employing advanced physical security measures such as video surveillance systems and card-based security or biometric security access systems.

(3) The data center business shall make a minimum investment in an Iowa physical location of \$200 million within the first six years of operation in Iowa beginning with the date the data center business initiates site preparation activities. The minimum investment includes the initial investment, including land and subsequent acquisition of additional adjacent land and subsequent investment at the Iowa location.

(4) The data center business shall comply with the applicable sustainable design and construction standards in Iowa Administrative Code 661—Chapter 310 as established by the state building code commissioner pursuant to Iowa Code section 103A.8B.

b. Failure to meet investment qualifications. If a data center business claiming exemption from sales and use tax under this exemption fails to meet at least 80 percent of the minimum investment amount required within the first six years of operation beginning with the initiation of the site preparation activities by the data center business, the data center business will lose the right to claim this exemption

from sales and use tax. Immediately following the loss of the right to claim this exemption from sales and use tax, the data center business is required to pay all sales and use taxes that would have been due on the purchase or rental of all purchases previously claimed exempt from sales and use tax, plus any and all applicable statutory penalty and interest due on the tax.

230.12(3) Exempt purchases. Sales and leases of the following are exempt from sales and use tax when sold or leased to a qualifying data center business:

- a. Computers and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of the data center business;
- b. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling system for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the data center business;
- c. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling towers for the cooling system referenced in paragraph “b”;
- d. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the temperature control infrastructure for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the data center business;
- e. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the power infrastructure that is used for the transformation, distribution, or management of electricity used for the operation and maintenance of the data center business. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, exterior dedicated business-owned power substations and backup power generation systems, battery systems, and related infrastructure;
- f. All equipment used in the racking system, including cabling and trays;
- g. Fuel purchased by the data center business that is used in the backup power generation system and in all items listed in paragraphs “a” to “f.” This includes the fuel used in the backup generators that may be located outside the building and that are used if power is interrupted to ensure the data center business continues operation; and
- h. Electricity purchased for use in operating the data center business.

230.12(4) Limitation of exemption. The purchase or lease of the items listed in subrule 230.12(3) is only exempt if the items being purchased or leased are being used in the operation or maintenance of the data center business. Such purchases or leases will not be exempt from sales or use tax if the item is to be used in the business for another purpose. For example:

- a. The purchase of electricity for use in the office portion of the data center business facility would not be exempt.
- b. The purchase of building materials that become real property would not be exempt. For example, the purchase of a dishwasher that will be built into a kitchen area in the break room for employees would not be exempt from tax. Although the purchase of a dishwasher is the purchase of tangible personal property, upon installation, the dishwasher becomes part of the building and realty and, therefore, is not exempt from Iowa sales and use tax.

230.12(5) Initial date of exemption. The exemption from sales and use tax begins on and after the date of the initial investment in or the initiation of site preparation activities for the facility that will contain the qualifying data center business.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3 as amended by 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 478, sections 197 through 202.

[ARC 8602B, IAB 3/10/10, effective 4/14/10]

701—230.13(423) Data center business sales and use tax refunds. Effective on or after July 1, 2009, data center businesses in Iowa meeting certain criteria may make an annual application to the department for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on the sales price of certain computers, equipment, fuel, and electricity used in the operation of the data center business.

230.13(1) Definitions. For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions apply:

“Data center” means a building rehabilitated or constructed to house a group of networked server computers in one physical location in order to centralize the storage, management, and dissemination of data and information pertaining to a particular business, taxonomy, or body of knowledge.

“*Data center business*” means an entity whose business, among other businesses, is to operate a data center.

“*Refund year*” means the year beginning with the date of initial site preparation of the data center facility.

“*Rehabilitation*” means a process of substantial repair, remodeling, or alteration, which may include but is not limited to upgrading mechanical systems, plumbing, roofing, wiring, windows, and heating and cooling systems, and performing significant interior or exterior structural modification. Although they may be included as part of an overall rehabilitation project, singular actions such as the installation of a new information system or cosmetic changes to the interior or exterior appearance of a building do not, in and of themselves, constitute a rehabilitated building.

230.13(2) Basis and criteria for refunds. The amount, type, and length of refunds available to data center businesses depend upon the dollar amount of investment made, the type of construction undertaken, and the size in square feet of the facility.

a. Investment of \$136 million to \$200 million. Data center businesses which make investments in an Iowa facility of \$136 million to \$200 million in the first six years of operations and which facility contains at least 5,000 square feet are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on qualifying computers and equipment, backup fuel, and electricity for the first seven years of operation.

b. Investment of \$10 million to \$136 million—new construction. Data center businesses which make investments of \$10 million to \$136 million in the first six years of operations in the new construction of an Iowa facility that is at least 5,000 square feet are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on qualifying computers and equipment, backup fuel, and electricity for the first ten years of operation.

c. Investment of \$5 million to \$136 million—rehabilitation. Data center businesses which make investments of \$5 million to \$136 million in the first six years of operations in the rehabilitation of an Iowa facility that is at least 5,000 square feet are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on qualifying computers and equipment, backup fuel, and electricity for the first ten years of operation.

d. Investment of \$1 million to \$10 million—new construction. Data center businesses which make investments of \$1 million to \$10 million in the first three years of operations in the new construction of an Iowa facility of any size are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on fuel and electricity for the first five years of operation.

e. Investment of \$1 million to \$5 million—rehabilitation. Data center businesses which make investments of \$1 million to \$5 million in the first three years of operations in the rehabilitation of an Iowa facility of any size are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid on fuel and electricity for the first five years of operation.

230.13(3) Purchases eligible for refunds. Sales and leases of the following are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the sales and use tax paid when sold or leased to a qualifying data center business:

a. Computers and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of the data center business;

b. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling system for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the data center business;

c. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the cooling towers for the cooling system referenced in paragraph “*b*”;

d. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the temperature control infrastructure for the computers and equipment used in the operation of the data center business;

e. All equipment used for the operation and maintenance of the power infrastructure that is used for the transformation, distribution, or management of electricity used for the operation and maintenance of the data center business. This equipment includes, but is not limited to, exterior dedicated business-owned power substations and backup power generation systems, battery systems, and related infrastructure;

f. All equipment used in the racking system, including cabling and trays;

g. Fuel purchased by the data center business that is used in the backup power generation system and in all items listed in paragraphs “a” to “f.” This includes the fuel used in the backup generators that may be located outside the building and that are used if power is interrupted to ensure the data center business continues operation; and

h. Electricity purchased for use in operating the data center business.

230.13(4) Sustainable design standards. In order to claim the refunds detailed in subrule 230.13(3), paragraphs “a” through “h,” data center businesses must comply with the sustainable design and construction standards as required by Iowa Administrative Code 661—Chapter 310 as established by the state building code commissioner pursuant to Iowa Code section 103A.8B.

230.13(5) Failure to meet investment qualifications. If a data center business claiming a refund of sales and use tax under this rule fails to meet at least 80 percent of the minimum investment amount required within the first six years of operation beginning with the initiation of the site preparation activities by the data center business, the data center business will lose the right to claim the refund of sales and use tax. Immediately following the loss of the right to claim the refund of sales and use tax, the data center business is required to return the refund of sales and use tax paid on qualifying computers, equipment, fuel, and electricity, plus any and all applicable statutory penalty and interest due on the tax.

230.13(6) Limitation of refunds.

a. *Use in operation or maintenance.* The purchase or lease of the items listed in subrule 230.13(3) is only eligible for a refund of sales and use tax if the items being purchased or leased are being used in the operation or maintenance of the data center business. Such purchases or leases will not be eligible for a refund of sales and use tax if the item is to be used in the business for another purpose. For example:

(1) The purchase of electricity for use in the office portion of the data center business facility would not be eligible for a refund.

(2) The purchase of building materials that become real property would not be eligible for a refund. For example, the purchase of a dishwasher that will be built into a kitchen area in the break room for employees would not be eligible for a refund of tax. Although the purchase of a dishwasher is the purchase of tangible personal property, upon installation, the dishwasher becomes part of the building and realty and, therefore, is not eligible for a refund of Iowa sales and use tax.

b. *State sales tax only.* Refunds issued under this rule may not exceed 5 percent of the sales price of computers and equipment listed in subrule 230.13(3) and the fuel used to create heat, power and steam for processing or generating electrical current or from the sales price of electricity consumed by computers, machinery, or other equipment for operation of the data center business facility. The refund will not include any local option sales and services taxes.

c. *Qualifying dates for fuel and electricity refund.* To qualify for the 50 percent refund, the following must be on or after the first day of the first month through the last day of the last month of the refund year:

(1) The dates of the utility billing or meter reading cycle for the sale or furnishing of metered gas and electricity;

(2) The dates of the sale or furnishing of fuel for purposes of commercial energy; and

(3) The delivery of the fuel used for purposes of commercial energy.

230.13(7) Form and filing requirements.

a. *Form.* The owner of a data center business seeking a refund of sales and use tax imposed upon the sale or lease of any qualifying computers, equipment, fuel, and electricity must complete and file with the department Form IA 843, Claim for Refund. All of the information on the Claim for Refund must be completed.

b. *Due date.* The refund request form must be filed with the department no later than one year after the purchase of the qualifying computers, equipment, fuel, or electricity and within three months after the end of the refund year. The refund for sales and use tax begins with purchases made on and after July 1, 2009, or on and after the date of the initial investment in or the initiation of site preparation activities for the facility that will contain the qualifying data center business.

c. *Date required.* The refund request must include detailed schedules of the items being claimed including dates of purchase of tangible personal property, amount of purchase, and tax paid. The purchase of fuel and electricity must be computed and documented separately from other purchases.

d. *Affidavit.* In addition to completing and filing Form IA 843, Claim for Refund, the owner of a data center business seeking a refund as specified in this rule must also complete and file with the department an affidavit certifying that qualifications for the refund have been met. The affidavit must be filed prior to any refund request and must be approved by the department before a refund claim can be filed. The following format must be used for the affidavit:

Iowa Department of Revenue
Sales Tax Refund Affidavit

NAME OF AFFIANT	}	AFFIDAVIT FOR
ADDRESS OF AFFIANT		DATA CENTER BUSINESS

The undersigned duly swears that the named data center business complies with criteria to be entitled to refund of sales tax as required in Iowa Code section 423.4 as follows:

1. The facility is a data center business as defined by Iowa Code section 423.4(8) or 423.4(9);
2. The data center business facility will be a minimum of 5,000 square feet, as applicable, located upon Iowa land; and located at _____; with total square footage of _____;
3. The data center business will make an investment of (check only one):
 - \$136 million to \$200 million within the first six years of operation (refund available for first seven years).
 - \$10 million to \$136 million for new construction within the first six years of operation (refund available for first ten years).
 - \$5 million to \$136 million for rehabilitation of an existing facility within the first six years of operation (refund available for first ten years).
 - \$1 million to \$10 million for new construction within the first three years of operation (refund of tax paid on fuel and electricity only; refund available for first five years).
 - \$1 million to \$5 million for rehabilitation of an existing facility within the first three years of operation (refund of tax paid on fuel and electricity only; refund available for first five years).
4. The data center business facility will be constructed in accordance with the sustainable design and construction standards as required by Iowa Administrative Code 661—Chapter 310 and established by the building code commissioner pursuant to Iowa Code section 103A.8B;
5. Construction of the data center business facility was commenced on or after July 1, 2009; and the date of the initial site preparation or building rehabilitation was _____; and
6. Purchases of qualifying computers, equipment, fuel or electricity were made on or after July 1, 2009.

The undersigned duly swears that he or she is the owner of the qualifying data center business or that the undersigned is the authorized representative of the qualifying data center business and has the authority to sign this document. The undersigned swears that he or she has personal knowledge regarding the facts contained in this affidavit and that the statements set forth in this affidavit are true and accurate and that the qualifying data center business has met all of the requirements as contained herein.

Name of Affiant

Date

Position of Affiant

701—230.14(423) Exemption for the sale of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment used for certain manufacturing purposes if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. Rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423) exempt the sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment used in an exempt manufacturing purpose. Rule 701—230.21(423) exempts the purchase of fuel used in such machinery and equipment. Rule 701—230.22(423) exempts the service of designing or installing such machinery and equipment. Rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.22(423) apply to sales of such products occurring as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423). A sale occurs as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, if the purchaser enters into a contract with a retailer to purchase the product and the contract date is prior to July 1, 2016, or if the purchaser enters into a contract with a contractor, subcontractor, or builder to construct or assemble the property and the contract date is prior to July 1, 2016.

230.14(1) Generally. The sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use tax if the property is any of the following:

- a. Directly and primarily used in processing by a manufacturer (see rule 701—230.15(423)).
- b. Directly and primarily used to maintain the integrity of the product or to maintain unique environmental conditions required for either the product or the computers, machinery, and equipment used in processing by a manufacturer, including test equipment used to control quality and specifications of the product (see rule 701—230.16(423)).
- c. Directly and primarily used in research and development of new products or processes of processing (see rule 701—230.17(423)).
- d. Computers used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise (see rule 701—230.18(423)).
- e. Directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing of waste products (see rule 701—230.19(423)).
- f. Pollution-control equipment used by a manufacturer, including but not limited to that required or certified by an agency of this state or of the United States government (see rule 701—230.20(423)).
- g. Fuel used in creating heat, power, steam, or for generating electrical current, or from the sale of electricity, consumed by computers, machinery, or equipment used in an exempt manner described in paragraph “a,” “b,” “c,” “e,” or “f” (see rule 701—230.21(423)).

230.14(2) Computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment.

a. *Computers.* A “computer” is an electronic device that accepts information in digital or similar form and manipulates the information for a result based on a sequence of instructions. A computer includes all devices fastened to it by means of signal cables or any communication medium that serves the function of a signal cable. Nonexclusive examples of devices fastened by a signal cable or other communication medium are terminals, printers, display units, card readers, tape readers, document sorters, optical readers, and card or tape punchers. A computer also includes any operating system or executive program, but not application software, purchased as part of the sale of the computer for which the operating system or executive program operates. For purposes of this paragraph, “operating system or executive program” means computer software that is fundamental and necessary to the functioning of a computer. The operating system or executive program controls the operation of a computer by managing the allocation of all system resources, including the central processing unit, main and secondary storage, input/output devices, and the processing of programs. This is in contrast to application software, which is a collection of one or more programs used to develop and implement the specific applications that the computer is to perform and which calls upon the services of the operating system or executive program. Application software, or an operating system or executive program priced separately or sold at a later time from the computer for which the operating system or executive program operates, may be taxable as “prewritten computer software.” See rule 701—211.1(423).

b. Machinery. “Machinery” is any mechanical, electrical, or electronic device designed and used to perform some function and to produce a certain effect or result. Machinery also includes all devices used or required to control, regulate, or operate a piece of machinery, provided such devices are directly connected with or are an integral part of the machinery and are used primarily for control, regulation, or operation of machinery. Jigs, dies, tools, and other devices necessary to the operation of or used in conjunction with the operation of what would be ordinarily thought of as machinery are also considered to be machinery. All property that is in the nature of machinery (other than structural components of a building or other inherently permanent structure) is considered tangible personal property even if located outside of a building. A structure that is essentially machinery remains tangible personal property for purposes of this paragraph. For more information on distinguishing machinery from buildings and other constructed realty, see subparagraph 230.14(2)“f”(1).

c. Equipment. In general usage, “equipment” refers to devices or tools used to produce a final product or achieve a given result. Equipment includes supplies that do not qualify as “replacement parts,” such as drill bits, grinding wheels, punches, taps, reamers, saw blades, lubricants, coolants, sanding discs, sanding belts, and air filters. All property that is in the nature of equipment (other than structural components of a building or other inherently permanent structure) is considered tangible personal property even if located outside of a building. A structure that is essentially equipment may remain tangible personal property for purposes of this paragraph. For more information on distinguishing equipment from buildings and other constructed realty, see subparagraph 230.14(2)“f”(1).

d. Replacement parts. “Replacement part” means tangible personal property other than computers, machinery, or equipment, regardless of the cost or useful life of such tangible personal property. A replacement part can be separated from the computer, machinery, or equipment. A “replacement part” is a part or component of a computer, machinery, or equipment that came with the original item purchased or has been added over time to improve or restore the computer, machinery, or equipment.

e. Materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment. “Materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment” means tangible personal property that is incorporated into a computer, machinery, or equipment when the computer, machinery, or equipment is constructed or assembled. Materials used to construct a structure that is essentially machinery or equipment are exempt from sales and use tax so long as the machinery or equipment is used in an exempt manner under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423).

f. Exclusions. Sales of the following property, or materials used to construct or self-construct the following property, are not exempt under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423) regardless of how the property is used.

(1) Constructed realty.

1. Generally. Iowa Code section 423.2(1)“b” and “c” imposes sales and use tax upon building materials, supplies, and equipment used for the erection of buildings or other realty. However, Iowa Code section 423.3(47) exempts from sales and use tax certain computers, machinery, and equipment as well as items used to construct or self-construct certain computers, machinery, and equipment. Determining whether constructed items are realty or exempt computers, machinery, or equipment under Iowa Code section 423.3(47) ultimately depends on the use of the items. In general, exempt computers, machinery, and equipment under Iowa Code section 423.3(47) are tangible personal property when purchased, and they remain tangible personal property after installation. Materials used to construct realty remain taxable when purchased by the contractor, subcontractor, or builder under Iowa Code section 423.2(1)“b” and “c.” For more information about sales and use tax on construction activities, see 701—Chapter 219.

2. Distinguishing constructed realty from tangible personal property. For purposes of rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.22(423), an item remains tangible personal property after installation if all of the following apply:

- The item can be removed without causing material damage or injury to the item or to the building that houses it or the real property upon which it is located;
- The item does not bear the weight of a building or other realty;

- The item does not in any other manner constitute an integral part of a building or other realty; and

- The item is used in an exempt manner under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423).

3. Buildings. Buildings are constructed realty. A “building” is any structure or edifice enclosing a space within its walls, and usually covered by a roof, the purpose of which is, for example, to provide shelter or housing for machinery or equipment or to provide working, office, parking, display, or sales space. Materials used to construct a building or any other realty are not exempt under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423), even if the realty is specially designed to house exempt computers, machinery, or equipment.

4. Examples.

- Property that, under normal conditions, remains tangible personal property after installation for purposes of rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.22(423) includes, but is not limited to:

- Storage tanks that rest upon a foundation and are secured with bolts.

- Industrial piping systems directly and primarily used in processing.

- Cooling towers directly and primarily used in processing.

- Structural steel, if exposed and used to support other computers, machinery, or equipment.

- Property that, under normal conditions, becomes constructed realty after installation for purposes of rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.22(423) includes, but is not limited to:

- Underground storage tanks constructed on site.

- Foundations made of concrete or other materials, regardless of whether they are used exclusively as platforms for machinery and equipment.

- Cooling towers primarily used to cool a building or other constructed realty.

- Structural steel, if used to construct a building or other constructed realty.

(2) Land.

(3) Intangible property.

(4) Hand tools. “Hand tool” means a tool that can be held in the hand or hands and is powered by human effort.

(5) Point-of-sale equipment and computers. “Point-of-sale equipment and computers” 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 is located at the counter, desk, or other specific point where the transaction occurs.

(6) Certain centrally assessed industrial machinery, equipment, and computers. Property that is centrally assessed by the department of revenue under Iowa Code sections 428.24 to 428.29 or chapters 433, 434, 437, 437A, 437B, and 438 does not qualify for exemption under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423). Property used but not owned by persons whose property is defined by such provisions of the Iowa Code, which would be assessed by the department of revenue if the persons owned the property, also does not qualify for exemption under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423).

(7) Vehicles subject to registration. The general sales and use tax does not apply to vehicles subject to registration under Iowa Code chapter 321. Instead, such vehicles are subject to the fee for new registration under Iowa Code section 321.105A. Vehicles subject to registration are not exempt from the fee for new registration under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423), unless the vehicle is directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing of waste products (see rule 701—230.19(423)).

g. Examples. When used for an exempt purpose under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423), the following items may be exempt computers, machinery, or equipment. This list is not all-inclusive.

(1) Coolers, including coolers that do not change the nature of materials stored in them.

(2) Equipment that eliminates bacteria.

(3) Palletizers.

(4) Storage bins.

(5) Property used to transport raw, semifinished, or finished goods.

(6) Vehicle-mounted cement mixers.

(7) Self-constructed machinery and equipment.

- (8) Packaging and bagging equipment, including conveyer systems.
- (9) Equipment that maintains an environment necessary to preserve a product's integrity.
- (10) Equipment that maintains a product's integrity directly.
- (11) Quality control equipment.

230.14(3) *Leased and rented property.* The exemptions under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.22(423) apply to property regardless of how it is sold, including leased or rented property. The lease of computers, machinery, or equipment may be exempt from sales and use tax if the lessee uses the property in an exempt manner under rules 701—230.14(423) to 701—230.20(423). Additionally, a lessor's purchase of computers, machinery, or equipment for lease may be an exempt sale for resale under Iowa Code section 423.3(2).

[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.15(423) Exemption for the sale of property directly and primarily used in processing by a manufacturer if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use tax when the property is directly and primarily used in processing by a manufacturer. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.15(1) *Required elements.* To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a. Computers, machinery, or equipment, including replacement parts, or materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, or equipment (see subrule 230.14(2));
- b. Directly used (see subrule 230.15(2));
- c. Primarily used (see subrule 230.15(2));
- d. Used in processing (see subrule 230.15(3)); and
- e. Used by a manufacturer (see subrule 230.15(4)).

230.15(2) *Directly and primarily used.*

a. *Directly used.*

(1) Generally. Property is “directly used” only if it is used to initiate, sustain, or terminate an exempt activity. In determining whether any property is “directly used,” consideration should be given to the following factors:

- 1. The physical proximity of the property to the exempt activity;
- 2. The temporal proximity of the use of the property to the use of other property that is directly used in the exempt activity; and
- 3. The active causal relationship between the use of the property and the exempt activity. The fact that a particular piece of property may be essential to the conduct of the activity because its use is required either by law or practical necessity does not, of itself, mean that the property is directly used.

(2) Examples. The following property typically is not directly used in an exempt manner:

- 1. Property used exclusively for the comfort of workers, such as air cooling, air conditioning, or ventilation systems.
- 2. Property used in support operations, such as a machine shop, where production machinery is assembled, maintained, or repaired.
- 3. Property used by administrative, accounting, or personnel departments.
- 4. Property used by security, fire prevention, first aid, or hospital stations.
- 5. Property used in communications or safety.

b. *Primarily used.* The primary use of property is the activity or activities for which the property is used more than half of the time.

230.15(3) *Processing.*

a. *Generally.* “Processing” means a series of operations in which materials are manufactured, refined, purified, created, combined, transformed, or stored by a manufacturer, ultimately into tangible personal property. Processing encompasses all activities commencing with the receipt or producing of raw materials by the manufacturer and ending at the point products are delivered for shipment or

transferred from the manufacturer. Processing includes, but is not limited to, refinement or purification of materials; treatment of materials to change their form, context, or condition; maintenance of the quality or integrity of materials, components, or products; maintenance of environmental conditions necessary for materials, components, or products; quality control activities; construction of packaging and shipping devices; placement into shipping containers or any type of shipping device or medium; and the movement of materials, components, or products until shipment from the processor. "Receipt or producing of raw materials" means activities performed upon tangible personal property only. With respect to raw materials produced from or upon real estate, "production of raw materials" is deemed to occur immediately following the severance of the raw materials from the real estate.

b. The beginning of processing. Processing begins with a processor's receipt or production of raw material. Thus, when a processor produces its own raw material, it is engaged in processing. Processing also begins when a supplier transfers possession of raw materials to a processor.

c. The completion of processing. Processing ends when the finished product is transferred from the processor or delivered for shipment by the processor. Therefore, a processor's packaging, storage, and transport of a finished product after the product is in the form in which it will be sold at retail are part of the processing of the product.

d. Examples of the beginning, intervening steps, and the ending of processing. Of the following, Examples A and B illustrate when processing begins under various circumstances; Example C demonstrates the middle stages of processing; and Example D demonstrates when the end of processing takes place.

EXAMPLE A: Company A manufactures fine furniture. Company A owns a grove of walnut trees that it uses as raw material. Company A's employees cut the trees, transport the logs to Company A's facility, store the logs in a warehouse to begin the curing process, and eventually take the logs to Company A's sawmill. The walnut trees are real property while they are growing. Thus, no "production of raw materials" has occurred with regard to the trees until they have been severed from the soil and transformed into logs. Processing of the logs begins when they are placed on vehicles for transport to Company A's factory. However, if the transport vehicles are "vehicles subject to registration," they are not exempt from the fee for new registration under this rule (see subparagraph 230.14(2) "f"(7)).

EXAMPLE B: Company A from the previous example also buys mahogany logs from a supplier in Honduras. Company A uses its equipment to offload the logs from railroad cars at its facility. Company A then stores and saws the logs as previously described in Example A. Processing begins when Company A offloads the logs from the railroad cars.

EXAMPLE C: Company C is a microbrewery. It uses a variety of kettles, vats, tanks, tubs, and other containers to mix, cook, ferment, settle, age, and store the beer it brews. Company C also uses a variety of pipes and pumps to move the beer among the various containers involved in the activity of brewing. All stages of this brewing are part of processing, including fermentation or aging (the transformation of the raw materials from one state to another) as well as the storage of hops in a bin and the storage of beer prior to bottling (the holding of materials in an existing state). Any movement of the product between containers is also a part of processing.

EXAMPLE D: After the brewing process is complete, Company C places its beer in various containers, stores the beer, and moves the beer to Company C's customers by a common carrier that picks up the beer at Company C's facility. Company C's activities of placing the beer into bottles, cans, and kegs, storing it after packaging, and moving the beer by use of a forklift to the common carrier's pickup site are part of processing.

230.15(4) Manufacturer.

a. Generally. "Manufacturer" means a person that purchases, receives, or holds personal property of any description for the purpose of adding to its value by a process of manufacturing, refining, purifying, or combining of different materials, or by the packing of meats, with a view to selling the property for gain or profit, but also includes contract manufacturers. A "contract manufacturer" is a manufacturer that otherwise falls within the definition of manufacturer, except that a contract manufacturer does not sell the tangible personal property the contract manufacturer processes on behalf of other manufacturers. A business engaged in activities subsequent to the extractive process of quarrying or mining, such as

crushing, washing, sizing, or blending of aggregate materials, is a manufacturer with respect to these activities. A person does not need to be primarily engaged in an activity listed in this subrule in order to qualify as a manufacturer for purposes of this rule.

b. Nonexclusive examples. Those who are in the business of printing, newspaper publication, bookbinding, lumber milling, and production of drugs and agricultural supplies are illustrative, nonexclusive examples of manufacturers. Construction contracting; repairing of tangible personal property (such as automobile engines); provision of health care; farming; transportation for hire; and the activities of restaurateurs, hospitals, medical doctors, and those who merely process data are illustrative, nonexclusive examples of businesses that ordinarily are not manufacturers.

EXAMPLE A: Company A owns and operates a gravel pit. Company A sells the gravel extracted from the pit to others who use the gravel for surfacing roads and as an ingredient in concrete manufacture. Company A removes overlay and raw gravel from the pit and then transports the gravel to a plant where washing and sizing of the gravel take place. Company A is a manufacturer, but only with respect to those activities that occur after it extracts the gravel from the ground.

EXAMPLE B: Company B owns a manufacturing plant. Company B also owns a machine shop where it uses a metal press machine to fabricate patterns. All of these patterns are used in Company B's manufacturing plant as part of processing, and the metal press machine is used solely to fabricate these patterns. The sales price of the metal press machine is not exempt from sales and use tax under this rule because Company B does not use the metal press machine to manufacture a product for sale at a gain or profit. However, the computers, machinery, and equipment in Company B's manufacturing plant may be exempt if they are directly and primarily used in processing.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) "a"(1).
[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.16(423) Exemption for the sale of property directly and primarily used by a manufacturer to maintain integrity or unique environmental conditions if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use tax when the property is directly and primarily used to maintain the integrity of the product or to maintain unique environmental conditions required for either the product or the computers, machinery, and equipment used in processing by a manufacturer, including test equipment used to control quality and specifications of the product. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.16(1) Required elements. To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a.* Computers, machinery, or equipment, including replacement parts, or materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment (see subrule 230.14(2));
- b.* Directly used (see subrule 230.15(2));
- c.* Primarily used (see subrule 230.15(2));
- d.* Used by a manufacturer (see subrule 230.15(4)); and
- e.* Used to maintain:
 - (1) A manufactured product's integrity;
 - (2) Unique environmental conditions required for a manufactured product; or
 - (3) Unique environmental conditions required for other computers, machinery, or equipment directly and primarily used in processing by a manufacturer.

230.16(2) Example of property directly and primarily used to maintain integrity or unique environmental conditions. A manufacturer purchases a cooling tower to directly and primarily maintain the proper temperature of its machinery and equipment. The manufacturer uses such machinery and equipment directly and primarily in processing. Because the cooling tower maintains the environmental conditions necessary for machinery and equipment that is directly and primarily used in processing,

the cooling tower and materials used to construct or self-construct the cooling tower are exempt from sales and use tax under this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “a”(2).
[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.17(423) Exemption for the sale of property directly and primarily used in research and development of new products or processes of processing if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use tax when the property is directly and primarily used in research and development of new products or processes of processing. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.17(1) Required elements. To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a. Computers, machinery, or equipment, including replacement parts, or materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment (see subrule 230.14(2));
- b. Directly used (see subrules 230.15(2) and 230.17(3));
- c. Primarily used (see subrule 230.15(2)); and
- d. Used in research and development (see subrule 230.17(2)) of:
 - (1) New products; or
 - (2) Processes of processing.

230.17(2) “Research and development” means experimental or laboratory activity that has as its ultimate goal the development of new products or processes of processing.

230.17(3) Property is used “directly” in research and development only if it is used in actual experimental or laboratory activity that qualifies as research and development under this rule.

230.17(4) Example of property directly and primarily used in research and development of new products or processes of processing. A hybrid seed producer maintains a research and development laboratory for use in developing new varieties of corn seed. The hybrid seed producer purchases the following items for use in its research and development laboratory: a laboratory computer for processing data related to the genetic structure of various corn plants, an electron microscope for examining the structure of corn plant genes, a steam cleaner for cleaning rugs in the laboratory offices, and a desktop computer for use by the laboratory receptionist. The laboratory computer and the microscope are “directly” used in the research in which the laboratory is engaged; the steam cleaner and the receptionist’s computer are not directly used in research. Therefore, the sales prices of the laboratory computer and the microscope are exempt from sales and use tax. The sales prices of the steam cleaner and the receptionist’s computer are not exempt from tax under this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “a”(3).
[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.18(423) Exemption for the sale of computers used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of computers is exempt from sales tax when the computers are used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.18(1) Required elements. To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a. Computers (see paragraph 230.14(2) “a”);
- b. Used in processing or storage of data or information (see subrule 230.18(2)); and
- c. Used by:
 - (1) An insurance company (see subrule 230.18(3));
 - (2) A financial institution (see subrule 230.18(3)); or
 - (3) A commercial enterprise (see subrule 230.18(3)).

230.18(2) *Processing or storage of data or information.* All computers store and process information. However, only if the “final output” for a user or consumer is stored or processed data will the computer be eligible for exemption from tax under this rule.

230.18(3) *Insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise.*

a. Insurance company. An insurance company is an insurer organized or operating under Iowa Code chapter 508, 514, 515, 518, 518A, 519, or 520 or an insurer authorized to do business in Iowa as an insurer or as a licensed insurance producer under Iowa Code chapter 522B. Excluded from the definition of “insurance company” are benevolent associations governed by Iowa Code chapter 512A, fraternal benefit societies governed by Iowa Code chapter 512B, and health maintenance organizations governed by Iowa Code chapter 514B. This list of exclusions is not intended to be exclusive.

b. Financial institution. A financial institution is any bank incorporated under the provisions of any state or federal law, any savings and loan association incorporated under the provisions of federal law, any credit union organized under the provisions of any state or federal law, any corporation licensed as an industrial loan company under Iowa Code chapter 536A, and any affiliate of a bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or industrial loan company.

c. Commercial enterprise. A commercial enterprise is a business or manufacturer conducted for profit, other than an insurance company or financial institution. “Commercial enterprise” includes centers for data processing services to insurance companies, financial institutions, businesses, and manufacturers, but excludes professions and occupations as well as nonprofit organizations. A hospital that is a not-for-profit organization is not a commercial enterprise. The term “profession” means a vocation or employment requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation. The term “occupation” means the principal business of an individual, such as the business of farming. A professional entity that carries on any profession or occupation, such as an accounting firm, is not a commercial enterprise.

230.18(4) *Examples of computers used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise.* A health insurance company has four computers. Computer A is used to monitor the temperature within the insurance company’s building. Computer A transmits messages to the building’s heating and cooling systems, which tell the systems when to raise or lower the level of heating or air conditioning. Computer B is used to store patient records and to recall those records on demand. Computer C is used to tabulate statistics regarding the amount of premiums paid in and the amount of benefits paid out for various classes of insured. Computer D is used to train the insurance company’s employees to perform various additional tasks or to better perform work the employees can already do. Computer D uses various canned programs to accomplish this function. The final output of Computer A is neither stored nor processed information. Therefore, Computer A does not meet the definition of an exempt computer. The final output of Computer B is stored information. The final output of Computer C is processed information. The final output of Computer D is processed information consisting of the training exercises appearing on the computer monitor. The sales prices of Computers B, C, and D are exempt from sales and use tax as computers used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “a”(4).

[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.19(423) Exemption for the sale of property directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing of waste products if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of computers, machinery, and equipment, including replacement parts, and materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment is exempt from sales and use tax when the property is directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing of waste products. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.19(1) Required elements. To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a. Computers, machinery, or equipment, including replacement parts, or materials used to construct or self-construct computers, machinery, and equipment (see subrule 230.14(2));
- b. Directly used (see subrule 230.15(2));
- c. Primarily used (see subrule 230.15(2)); and
- d. Used in:
 - (1) Recycling of waste products (see subrule 230.19(2)); or
 - (2) Reprocessing of waste products (see subrule 230.19(2)).

230.19(2) *Recycling and reprocessing.*

a. “Recycling” is any process by which waste or materials that would otherwise become waste are collected, separated, or processed and revised or returned for use in the form of raw materials or products. Recycling includes, but is not limited to, the composting of yard waste that has been previously separated from other waste. Recycling does not include any form of energy recovery.

b. “Reprocessing” is not a subcategory of processing. Reprocessing of waste products is an activity separate and independent from the processing of tangible personal property.

c. Recycling or reprocessing generally begins when the waste products are collected or separated. Recycling or reprocessing generally ends when waste products are in the form of raw material or another non-waste product. Activities that occur between these two points and are an integral part of recycling or processing qualify as recycling or reprocessing.

230.19(3) *Examples.*

a. Computers, machinery, and equipment that may be exempt from sales and use tax under this rule include, but are not limited to, compactors, balers, crushers, grinders, cutters, and shears if directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing.

b. End loaders, forklifts, trucks, conveyor systems, and other moving devices directly and primarily used in the movement of waste products during recycling or reprocessing may be exempt from sales and use tax under this rule.

c. A bin or other container used to store waste products before collection for recycling or reprocessing is not directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing, and its sales price is not exempt from sales and use tax under this rule.

d. A vehicle used directly and primarily for collecting waste products for recycling or reprocessing could be a vehicle used for an exempt purpose under this rule, and such a vehicle could be exempt from the fee for new registration. Thus, a garbage truck could qualify for this exemption if the truck is directly and primarily used in recycling; however, a garbage truck primarily used to haul garbage to a landfill does not qualify for exemption under this rule.

EXAMPLE A: Company A recycles household waste. Company A uses several machines in its facility to separate waste products into recyclable and nonrecyclable materials and to further separate the recyclable materials into paper, plastic, or glass. The sales prices of all separating machines are exempt from sales and use tax as machines directly and primarily used in recycling of waste products.

EXAMPLE B: Company B uses grinding machines to convert logs, stumps, pallets, crates, and other waste wood into wood chips. Company B then uses its trucks to deliver the wood chips to local purchasers. The sales prices of the grinding machines are exempt from sales and use tax as machines directly and primarily used in recycling or reprocessing of waste products. The trucks used to transport the wood chips are not used in recycling or reprocessing because the wood chips are in their final form when loaded onto the trucks.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “a”(5).

[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.20(423) Exemption for the sale of pollution control equipment used by a manufacturer if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of pollution control equipment, including but not limited to equipment required or certified by an agency of Iowa or of the United States government, is exempt from sales and use tax when the property is used by a manufacturer. For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

230.20(1) Required elements. To qualify for exemption under this rule, the purchaser must prove the property is:

- a. Pollution control equipment (See subrule 230.20(2)); and
- b. Used by a manufacturer (See subrule 230.15(4)).

230.20(2) “Pollution control equipment” is any disposal system or apparatus used or placed in operation primarily for the purpose of reducing, controlling, or eliminating air or water pollution. Pollution control equipment does not include any apparatus used to eliminate noise pollution. Liquid, solid, and gaseous wastes are included within the meaning of the word “pollution.” Pollution control equipment specifically includes, but is not limited to, any equipment the use of which is required or certified by an agency of this state or of the United States government. Wastewater treatment equipment, dust mitigation systems, and scrubbers used in smokestacks are examples of pollution control equipment. However, pollution control equipment does not include any equipment used only for worker safety, such as a gas mask.

EXAMPLE: A manufacturer constructs a wastewater treatment facility to treat wastewater from its manufacturing facility. The wastewater treatment facility uses aboveground piping and other equipment to divert wastewater from the local water treatment plant. The facility then converts wastewater into a biogas, which the manufacturer uses as an energy source in its manufacturing facility. The equipment used for the wastewater treatment facility is pollution control equipment used by a manufacturer. The sales price of the equipment is exempt from sales and use tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “a”(6).
[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.21(423) Exemption for the sale of fuel or electricity used in exempt property if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price of fuel or electricity consumed by property that is exempt from sales and use tax under rule 701—230.14(423), 701—230.15(423), 701—230.16(423), 701—230.17(423), 701—230.19(423), or 701—230.20(423) is also exempt from sales and use tax. The sales price of electricity or other fuel consumed by computers used in processing or storage of data or information by an insurance company, financial institution, or commercial enterprise remains subject to tax even if such computers are exempt under rule 701—230.18(423). For sales occurring as part of a contract entered into prior to July 1, 2016, see rule 701—18.58(422,423).

EXAMPLE: A manufacturer operates a power plant. The manufacturer uses energy from the power plant to operate machinery and equipment used directly and primarily in processing at its manufacturing facility. The fuel consumed in the manufacturer’s power plant is exempt from sales and use tax.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(47) “b.”
[ARC 2349C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16]

701—230.22(423) Exemption for the sale of services for designing or installing new industrial machinery or equipment if the sale occurs as part of a contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016. The sales price from the services of designing or installing new industrial machinery or equipment is exempt from sales and use tax. The enumerated services of electrical or electronic installation are included in this exemption.

230.22(1) Required elements. To qualify for the exemption, the purchaser must prove the service is:

- a. A design or installation service (see subrule 230.22(2));
- b. Of new (see subrule 230.22(3)); and
- c. Industrial machinery or equipment (see subrule 230.22(4)).

230.22(2) Design or installation services include electrical and electronic installation. “Design or installation” services do not include any repair service.

230.22(3) “New” means never having been used or consumed by anyone. The exemption does not apply to design or installation services on reconstructed, rebuilt, repaired, or previously owned machinery or equipment.

230.22(4) Industrial machinery or equipment.

a. Generally. “Industrial machinery or equipment” means machinery or equipment, as defined in subrule 230.14(2). The sale of industrial machinery or equipment must also qualify for exemption under any of the following:

(1) Property used directly and primarily in processing by a manufacturer (see rule 701—230.15(423)).

(2) Property used directly and primarily by a manufacturer to maintain the integrity of the manufacturer’s product or to maintain unique environmental conditions for computers, machinery, or equipment (see rule 701—230.16(423)).

(3) Property used directly and primarily in research and development of new products or processes of processing (see rule 701—230.17(423)).

(4) Property used directly and primarily in recycling or reprocessing of waste products (see rule 701—230.19(423)).

(5) Pollution control equipment used by a manufacturer (see rule 701—230.20(423)).

b. Exclusions. The following property is not industrial machinery or equipment regardless of how the purchaser uses it:

(1) Computers (see paragraph 230.14(2) “a”).

(2) Supplies, including but not limited to drill bits, grinding wheels, punches, taps, reamers, saw blades, lubricants, coolants, sanding discs, sanding belts, and air filters.

(3) Replacement parts (see paragraph 230.14(2) “d”).

230.22(5) Billing. The sales price for designing or installing new industrial machinery or equipment must be separately identified, charged separately, and reasonable in amount for the exemption to apply. The exemption applies to new industrial machinery or equipment regardless of how it is purchased, including leased or rented machinery or equipment.

EXAMPLE: Dealer sells and installs two new machines for Manufacturer. Manufacturer uses one machine on its production floor, where it is directly and primarily used in processing. Manufacturer uses the other machine in its machine shop, where it is not directly and primarily used in processing. Dealer gives an invoice to Manufacturer that separately itemizes the sales prices for each machine and each installation. The machine used on the production floor is new industrial machinery or equipment, and the sales prices of the machine and its installation are exempt from sales and use tax. The machine used in the machine shop is not new industrial machinery or equipment, and the sales prices of the machine and its installation are taxable.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(48).

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