

CHAPTER 259
ADMINISTRATION

[Prior to 1/1/96, see 701—Ch 63]
[Prior to 9/7/22, see Revenue Department[701] Ch 67]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

701—259.1(452A) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter and 701—Chapters 260 and 261, the following definitions shall govern:

“*Appropriate state agency*” or “*state agency*” means the department of revenue or the state department of transportation, whichever is responsible for control, maintenance, or supervision of the power, requirement, or duty referred to in Iowa Code chapter 452A.

“*Aviation gasoline*” means any gasoline capable of being used for propelling aircraft which is invoiced as aviation gasoline or is received, sold, stored, or withdrawn from storage for purposes of propelling aircraft. It does not include motor fuel capable of being used for propelling motor vehicles.

“*B-11*” means biodiesel blended fuel formulated with a minimum percentage of 11 percent by volume of biodiesel, if the formulation meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2. A similar notation refers to biodiesel blended fuel containing other percentages of biodiesel. For example, “*B-5*” means biodiesel blended fuel formulated with a minimum percentage of 5 percent by volume of biodiesel, if the formulation meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“*Biodiesel*” means a renewable fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long-chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, which meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“*Biodiesel blended fuel*” means a blend of biodiesel with petroleum-based diesel fuel which meets the standards, including separately the standard for its biodiesel component, provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“*Biodiesel distribution percentage*” means the number of gallons of biodiesel blended fuel classified as B-11 or higher that is distributed in this state as expressed as a percentage of the number of gallons of special fuel for diesel engines of motor vehicles distributed in this state during the determination period. The determination period is the previous calendar year.

“*Biofuel*” means ethanol or biodiesel.

“*Blender*” means a person who owns and blends two or more fuels, including ethanol or biodiesel, at a nonterminal location to produce ethanol blended gasoline or biodiesel blended fuel. The person is not restricted to blending ethanol with gasoline or biodiesel with diesel. The blend is taxed according to its fuel and alcohol content, which may result in additional tax due or an allowable refund for the blender. See rule 701—260.4(452A).

“*Carrier*” means and includes any person who operates or causes to be operated any commercial motor vehicle on any public highway in this state.

“*Common carrier*” or “*contract carrier*” means a person involved in the movement of motor fuel or special fuel from the terminal or movement of the motor fuel or special fuel imported into this state, who is not an owner of the motor fuel or special fuel.

“*Commercial motor vehicle*” means a passenger vehicle that has seats for more than nine passengers in addition to the driver, any road tractor, any truck tractor, or any truck having two or more axles which passenger vehicle, road tractor, truck tractor, or truck is propelled on the public highways by either motor fuel or special fuel. “*Commercial motor vehicle*” does not include a motor truck with a combined gross weight of less than 26,000 pounds, operated as a part of an identifiable one-way fleet and which is leased for less than 30 days to a lessee for the purpose of moving property which is not owned by the lessor.

“*Conventional blendstock for oxygenate blending*” means one or more motor fuel components intended for blending with an oxygenate or oxygenates to produce gasoline.

“*Dealer*” means a person, other than a distributor, who engages in the business of selling or distributing motor fuel or special fuel to the end user in this state.

“*Denatured ethanol*” means ethanol that is to be blended with gasoline, has been derived from cereal grains, complies with American Society of Testing Materials designation D-4806-95b, and may be

denatured only as specified in Code of Federal Regulations, Titles 20, 21, and 27. Alcohol and denatured ethanol have the same meaning.

“Department” means the department of revenue.

“Diesel fuel” or *“diesel”* means diesel as defined in Iowa Code section 214A.1.

“Director” means the director of the Iowa department of revenue or the director’s authorized representative.

“Distributor” means a person who acquires tax-paid motor fuel, special fuel, or alcohol from a supplier, restrictive supplier, or importer, or another distributor for subsequent sale at wholesale and distribution by tank cars or tank trucks or both. The department may require that the distributor be registered to have terminal purchase rights.

“E-85 gasoline” means ethanol blended gasoline formulated with a minimum percentage of between 70 and 85 percent by volume of ethanol, if the formulation meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“Eligible purchaser” means a distributor of motor fuel or special fuel who elects to make delayed payments to a licensed supplier and must use electronic funds transfer.

“End user” of special fuel means a person who has purchased a minimum of 240,000 gallons of special fuel each year in the two preceding years who elects to make delayed payments to a licensed supplier and must use electronic funds transfer.

“Ethanol” means ethyl alcohol that is to be blended with gasoline if the ethanol meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“Ethanol blended gasoline” means a formulation of gasoline which is a liquid petroleum product blended with ethanol, if the formulation meets the standards provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2. When “motor fuel” is used in these rules, it includes ethanol blended gasoline.

“Ethanol distribution percentage” means the number of gallons of ethanol blended gasoline that is distributed in this state as expressed as a percentage of the number of gallons of motor fuel, excluding aviation gasoline, distributed in this state during the determination period. The determination period is the previous calendar year.

“Export” means delivery across the boundaries of this state by or for the seller or purchaser from a place of origin in this state.

“Exporter” means a person or other entity who acquires fuel in this state for export to another state.

“Foreign supplier” means a person licensed as a supplier to collect and report the tax, but who does not have jurisdictional connections with this state.

“Fuel(s)” means and includes both motor fuel and special fuel as defined in Iowa Code chapter 452A.

“Fuel taxes” means the per gallon excise taxes imposed under division I of Iowa Code chapter 452A with respect to motor fuel and undyed special fuel.

“Gallon,” with respect to compressed natural gas, means a gasoline gallon equivalent. A gasoline gallon equivalent of compressed natural gas is five and sixty-six hundredths pounds or one hundred twenty-six and sixty-seven hundredths cubic feet measured at a base temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of fourteen and seventy-three hundredths pounds per square inch absolute. “Gallon,” with respect to liquefied natural gas, means a diesel gallon equivalent. A diesel gallon equivalent of liquefied natural gas is six and six hundredths pounds.

“Gasoline” means any liquid product prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use as, or commonly and commercially used as, motor fuel for use in a spark-ignition, internal combustion engine, and which meets the specifications provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.

“Import” means delivery across the boundaries of this state by or for the seller or purchaser from a place of origin outside this state.

“Importer” means a person who imports motor fuel or undyed special fuel in bulk or transport load into the state by truck, rail, or barge.

“Invoiced gallons” means gross gallons as shown on the bill of lading or manifest.

“Iowa urban transit system” means a system whereby motor buses are operated primarily upon the streets of cities for the transportation of passengers for an established fare and which accepts passengers who present themselves for transportation without discrimination up to the limit of the capacity of each

motor bus. "Iowa urban transit system" also includes motor buses operated upon the streets of adjoining cities, whether interstate or intrastate, for the transportation of passengers without discrimination up to the limit of the capacity of the motor bus.

Privately chartered bus services, motor carriers and interurban carriers subject to the jurisdiction of the state department of transportation, school bus services, and taxicabs shall not be construed to be an urban transit system nor a part of any such system.

"*Licensee*" means a person holding an uncanceled supplier's, restrictive supplier's, importer's, exporter's, or blender's license issued by the department or any other person who possesses fuel for which the tax has not been paid.

"*Mobile machinery and equipment*" means vehicles self-propelled by an internal combustion engine but not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property on public highways and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway including, but not limited to, corn shellers, truck-mounted feed grinders, roller mills, ditch-digging apparatus, power shovels, draglines, earth-moving equipment and machinery, and road construction and maintenance machinery such as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, paving mixers, road rollers, scarifiers, and earth-moving scrapers. However, "mobile machinery and equipment" does not include dump trucks or self-propelled vehicles originally designed for the transportation of persons or property on public highways and to which machinery, such as truck-mounted transit mixers, cranes, shovels, welders, air compressors, well-boring apparatus or lime spreaders, has been attached.

"*Motor fuel*" means a substance or combination of substances which is intended to be or is capable of being used for the purpose of operating an internal combustion engine, including but not limited to a motor vehicle, and is kept for sale or sold for that purpose and includes the following:

1. All products commonly or commercially known or sold as gasoline (including ethanol blended gasoline, casinghead, and absorption or natural gasoline) regardless of their classifications or uses, and including transmix which serves as a buffer between fuel products in the pipeline distribution process.

2. Any liquid advertised, offered for sale, sold for use as, or commonly or commercially used as a fuel for propelling motor vehicles, which when subjected to distillation of gasoline, naphtha, kerosene, and similar petroleum products (American Society of Testing Materials designation D-86), shows not less than 10 percent distilled (recovered) below 347° F (175° C) and not less than 95 percent distilled (recovered) below 464° F (240° C).

"*Motor fuel*" does not include special fuel and does not include liquefied gases which would not exist as liquids at a temperature of 60° F and a pressure of 14 7/10 pounds per square inch absolute, or naphthas and solvents unless the liquefied gases or naphthas and solvents are used as a component in the manufacture, compounding, or blending of a liquid within paragraph "2," in which event the resulting product shall be deemed to be motor fuel. "Motor fuel" also does not include methanol unless blended with other motor fuels for use in an aircraft or for propelling motor vehicles.

"*Motor vehicle*" means and includes all vehicles (except those operated on rails) which are propelled by internal combustion engines and are of such design as to permit their mobile use on public highways for transporting persons or property. A farm tractor while operated on a farm or for the purpose of hauling farm machinery, equipment, or produce shall not be deemed to be a motor vehicle. "Motor vehicle" shall not include "mobile machinery and equipment."

"*Naphthas and solvents*" means and includes those liquids which come within the distillation specifications for motor fuel, but which are designed and sold for exclusive use other than as a fuel for propelling motor vehicles.

"*Nonethanol blended gasoline*" means gasoline other than ethanol blended gasoline.

"*Nonrefiner biofuel manufacturer*" means an entity that produces, manufactures, or refines biofuel and does not directly or through a related entity refine, blend, import, or produce a conventional blendstock for oxygenate blending, gasoline, or diesel fuel.

"*Nonterminal storage facility*" means a facility where motor fuel or special fuel, other than liquefied petroleum gas, is stored that is not supplied by a pipeline or a marine vessel. "Nonterminal storage facility" includes a facility that manufactures products such as ethanol, biofuel, blend stocks, or additives which

may be used as motor fuel or special fuel, other than liquefied petroleum gas, for operating motor vehicles or aircraft.

“Person” means and includes natural persons, partnerships, firms, associations, corporations, representatives appointed by any court, and political subdivisions of this state or any other group or combination acting as a unit and the plural as well as the singular number applies.

“Petrodiesel” means petroleum-based diesel fuel. Petrodiesel contains no biodiesel.

“Public highways” means and includes any way or place available to the public for purposes of vehicular travel notwithstanding temporarily closed.

“Racing fuel” means leaded gasoline of 110 octane or more that does not meet American Society of Testing Materials designation D-4814 for gasoline and is sold in bulk for use in nonregistered motor vehicles.

“Refiner” means a person engaged in the refining of crude oil to produce motor fuel or special fuel, and includes any affiliate of such person.

“Regional transit system” means a public transit system serving one county or all or part of a multicounty area whose boundaries correspond to the same boundaries as those of the regional planning areas designated by the governor, except as agreed upon by the department. Each county board of supervisors within the region is responsible for determining the service and funding within its county. However, the administration and overhead support services for the overall regional transit system shall be consolidated into one existing or new agency to be mutually agreed upon by the participating members. Privately chartered bus services and uses other than providing services that are open and public on a shared-ride basis shall not be construed to be a regional transit system.

“Restrictive supplier” means a person not otherwise licensed as an importer who imports motor fuel or undyed special fuel into this state in amounts of less than 4,000 gallons in tank wagons or in small tanks.

“Special fuel” means fuel oils, kerosene and all combustible gases and liquids suitable for the generation of power for propulsion of motor vehicles or turbine-powered aircraft, and includes any substance used for that purpose, except that it does not include motor fuel. Kerosene and methanol shall not be considered to be special fuels, unless the kerosene or methanol is blended with other special fuels for use in a motor vehicle with a diesel engine.

“Supplier” means a person who acquires motor fuel or special fuel by pipeline or marine vessel from a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or from a foreign country for storage at and distribution from a terminal and who is registered under 26 U.S.C. § 4101 for tax-free transactions in fuel; a person who produces in this state or acquires by truck, railcar, or barge for storage at and distribution from a terminal, biofuel, biodiesel, alcohol, or alcohol derivative substances; or a person who produces, manufactures, or refines motor fuel or special fuel in this state. “Supplier” includes a person who does not meet the jurisdictional connection to this state but voluntarily agrees to act as a supplier for purposes of collecting and reporting the motor fuel or special fuel tax. “Supplier” does not include a retail dealer or wholesaler who merely blends alcohol with gasoline or biofuel with diesel before the sale or distribution of the product or a terminal operator who merely handles, in a terminal, motor fuel or special fuel consigned to the terminal operator.

“Taxpayer” means anyone responsible for paying fuel taxes directly to the department of revenue under Iowa Code chapter 452A.

“Terminal” means a motor fuel, alcohol, or special fuel storage and distribution facility that is supplied by a pipeline or a marine vessel and from which the fuel may be removed at a rack. “Terminal” does not include a facility at which motor fuel or special fuel blend stocks and additives are used in the manufacture of products other than motor fuel or special fuel and from which no motor fuel or special fuel is removed.

“Terminal operator” means the person who by ownership or contractual agreement is charged with the responsibility for, or physical control over, and operation of a terminal. If coventurers own a terminal, “terminal operator” means the person who is appointed to exercise the responsibility for, or physical control over, and operation of the terminal.

“Terminal owner” means a person who holds a legal or equitable interest in a terminal.

“Withdrawn from terminal” means physical movement from a supplier to a distributor or eligible end user or from an alcohol manufacturer to a nonterminal location and includes an importer going out of state

and obtaining fuel from a terminal and bringing the fuel into the state, and a restrictive supplier bringing fuel into the state even though not purchased directly from a terminal. Exchange of product by suppliers while in the distribution channel and the physical movement of alcohol from an alcohol manufacturer to an Iowa licensed supplier's alcohol storage at a terminal are not to be considered "withdrawn from terminal."

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.2 and 452A.59.

[ARC 1442C, IAB 4/30/14, effective 6/4/14; ARC 1805C, IAB 1/7/15, effective 2/11/15; ARC 2247C, IAB 11/25/15, effective 12/30/15; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.2(452A) Statute of limitations, supplemental assessments and refund adjustments. After a return is filed, the department must examine it, determine fuel taxes due, and give notice of assessment to the taxpayer. If no return is filed, the department may determine the tax due and give notice thereof. See rule 701—259.5(452A). The period for the examination and determination of the correct amount of tax is unlimited in the case of a false or fraudulent return made with the intent to evade tax or in the case of a failure to file a return.

The department may, at any time within the period prescribed for assessment or refund adjustment, make a supplemental assessment or refund adjustment whenever it is ascertained that any assessment or refund adjustment is imperfect or incomplete in any respect.

If the assessment or refund adjustment is appealed (protested under rule 701—7.8(17A)) and is resolved whether by informal proceedings or by adjudication, the department and the taxpayer are precluded from making a supplemental assessment or refund adjustment concerning the same issue involved in such appeal for the same tax period unless there is a showing of mathematical or clerical error or a showing of fraud or misrepresentation.

The three-year period of limitation may be extended by a taxpayer by signing a waiver agreement form to be provided by the department. The agreement must stipulate the period of extension and must also provide that a claim for refund may be filed by the taxpayer at any time during the period of extension.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.67 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, Senate File 136.

[ARC 0251C, IAB 8/8/12, effective 9/12/12; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.3(452A) Taxpayers required to keep records. The records required to be kept by this rule must be preserved for a period of three years and will be open for examination by the department during this period of time. The department, after an audit and examination of the records, may authorize the disposal of the records required to be kept upon written request by the taxpayer. For taxpayers using an electronic data interchange process or technology also see 701—subrule 11.4(4).

259.3(1) Motor fuel and special fuel supplier. Every supplier required to file a monthly return under Iowa Code section 452A.8 is required to keep and preserve the following records relating to the purchase or sale of fuel:

- a. Copies of bills of lading or manifests.
- b. Copies of sales invoices.
- c. Sales records.
- d. Copies of filed returns and supporting schedules.
- e. Record of payment.
- f. Export schedules.

259.3(2) Restrictive supplier. Every restrictive supplier required to file a monthly return under Iowa Code section 452A.8 is required to keep and preserve the following records relating to the purchase or sale of fuel:

- a. Copies of bills of lading or manifests.
- b. Purchase invoices.
- c. Copies of sales invoices.
- d. Purchase records.
- e. Sales records.
- f. Copies of filed returns and supporting schedules.

g. Record of payment.

259.3(3) Importer. Every importer required to file a semimonthly return under Iowa Code section 452A.8 is required to keep and preserve the following records relating to the purchase or sale of fuel:

- a. Copies of bills of lading or manifests.
- b. Purchase invoices.
- c. Copies of sales invoices.
- d. Purchase records.
- e. Sales records.
- f. Copies of filed returns and supporting schedules.
- g. Record of payment.

259.3(4) Exporter. Every exporter is required to keep and preserve the following records relating to the purchase of fuel for export:

- a. Copies of bills of lading or manifests.
- b. Purchase invoices and purchase records.
- c. Copies of reports, returns, and supporting schedules filed with the importing state.
- d. Record of payment.

259.3(5) Compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas dealers and users. Every compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas dealer and user is required to keep and preserve the following records:

- a. Copies of purchase invoice or bills of lading.
- b. Copies of sales invoices and sales records.
- c. Record of payment.
- d. Exemption certificates.
- e. Copies of filed returns and supporting schedules.

259.3(6) Terminal or nonterminal storage facility operator. Every person required to report under Iowa Code section 452A.15(2) or 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622, section 25, as an operator of a terminal or nonterminal storage facility shall keep and preserve the following records:

- a. Records to evidence the acquisition of fuel.
- b. Bills of lading or manifests covering the withdrawal of fuel.
- c. Copies of filed reports and supporting schedules.

259.3(7) Distributor. Every distributor handling motor fuel or special fuel is required to preserve and keep the following records:

- a. Delivery tickets.
- b. Sales invoices.
- c. Bills of lading.
- d. Record of payment.

259.3(8) Blender. Every blender is required to keep and preserve the following records:

- a. Purchase invoices for motor fuel, special fuel, and alcohol.
- b. Bills of lading.
- c. Copies of filed returns and supporting schedules.
- d. Record of payment.
- e. Copies of sales invoices.

259.3(9) Dealer. Every dealer (retailer) is required to keep and preserve the following records:

- a. Purchase invoices.
- b. Purchase records.
- c. Delivery tickets.
- d. Sales invoices.
- e. Sales records.
- f. Record of payment.

259.3(10) Microfilm and related record systems. Microfilm, microfiche, COM (computer on machine), and other related reduction in storage systems will be referred to as “microfilm” in this rule.

Microfilm reproductions of general books of account, such as a cash book, journals, voucher registers, and ledgers, are not acceptable other than those that have been approved by the Internal Revenue Service under Revenue Procedure 76-43, Section 3.02. However, microfilm reproductions of supporting records of detail, such as sales invoices and purchase invoices, may be allowed providing there is no administrative rule or Iowa Code section requiring the original and all of the following conditions are met and accepted by the taxpayer:

- a. Appropriate facilities are provided to ensure the preservation and readability of the films.
- b. Microfilm rolls are indexed, cross-referenced, labeled to show beginning and ending numbers or beginning and ending alphabetical listing of documents included, and are systematically filed.
- c. The taxpayer agrees to provide transcripts of any information contained on microfilm which may be required for purposes of verification of tax liability.
- d. Proper facilities are provided for the ready inspection and location of the particular records, including modern projectors for viewing and for the copying of records.
- e. Any audit of "detail" on microfilm may be subject to sample audit procedures, to be determined at the discretion of the director or the director's designated representative.
- f. A posting reference must be on each invoice.
- g. Documents necessary to support claimed exemptions from tax liability, such as bills of lading and purchase orders, must be maintained in an order by which they readily can be related to the transaction for which exemption is sought.

259.3(11) *Automatic data processing records.* Automatic data processing (ADP) is defined in this rule as including electronic data processing (EDP) and will be referred to as ADP.

- a. An ADP tax accounting system must have built into its program a method of producing visible and legible records which will provide the necessary information for verification of the taxpayer's tax liability.
- b. ADP records must provide an opportunity to trace any transaction back to the original source or to a final total. If detailed printouts are not made of transactions at the time they are processed, then the system must have the ability to reconstruct these transactions.
- c. A general ledger with source references will be produced as hard copy to coincide with financial reports of tax reporting periods. In cases where subsidiary ledgers are used to support the general ledger accounts, the subsidiary ledgers should also be produced periodically.
- d. Supporting documents and audit trail. The audit trail should be designed so that the details underlying the summary accounting data may be identified and made available to the director or the director's designated representative upon request. The system should be designed so that the supporting documents, such as sales invoices and purchase invoices, are readily available. (An audit trail is defined as the condition of having sufficient documentary evidence to trace an item from source, such as invoice or payment, to a financial statement or tax return or report; or the reverse, that is, to have an auditable system.)
- e. Program documentation. A description of the ADP portion of the accounting program should be available. The statements and illustrations as to the scope of operations should be sufficiently detailed to indicate:

- (1) The application being performed;
 - (2) The procedure employed in each application (which, for example, might be supported by flow charts, block diagrams or other satisfactory description of the input or output procedures); and
 - (3) The controls used to ensure accurate and reliable processing. Program and systems changes, together with their effective dates, should be noted in order to preserve an accurate chronological record.
- f. Storage of ADP output will be in appropriate facilities to ensure preservation and readability of output.

259.3(12) *Electronic data interchange or EDI technology.* The purpose of this subrule is to adopt the "Model Recordkeeping and Retention Regulation" report as promulgated by the Federation of Tax Administrators' Steering Committee Task Force on EDI Audit and Legal Issues for Tax Administration (March 1996). This subrule defines the requirements imposed on taxpayers for the maintenance and retention of books, records, and other sources of information under Iowa Code sections 452A.10, 452A.12, 452A.55, 452A.60, 452A.62, 452A.69, 452A.76, and 452A.80. It is also the purpose of this subrule to

address these requirements where all or part of a taxpayer's records are received, created, maintained, or generated through various computer, electronic, and imaging processes and systems. A taxpayer must maintain all records that are necessary for determination of the correct tax liability as set forth in this subrule and the other subrules within rule 701—259.3(452A). Upon request, all required records must be made available to the department or its authorized representatives as provided in Iowa Code sections 452A.10 and 452A.62. If a taxpayer retains records required to be retained under this subrule in both machine-sensible and hard-copy formats, the taxpayer must make the records available to the department in machine-sensible format upon request of the department. Nothing in this subrule will be construed to prohibit a taxpayer from demonstrating tax compliance with traditional hard-copy documents or reproductions thereof, in whole or in part, whether or not the taxpayer also has retained or has the capability to retain records on electronic or other storage media in accordance with this subrule. However, as previously stated, this will not relieve a taxpayer of the obligation to comply with the requirement to make records available to the department.

a. Definitions. The following definitions are applicable to this subrule:

“Database management system” means a software system that controls, relates, retrieves, and provides accessibility to data stored in a database.

“Electronic data interchange” or *“EDI technology”* means the computer-to-computer exchange of business transactions in a standardized, structured electronic format.

“Hard copy” means any documents, records, reports, or other data printed on paper.

“Machine-sensible record” means a collection of related information in an electronic format. Machine-sensible records do not include hard-copy records that are created or recorded on paper or stored in or by an imaging system such as microfilm, microfiche, or storage-only imaging systems.

“Storage-only imaging system” means a system of computer hardware and software that provides for the storage, retention, and retrieval of documents originally created on paper. It does not include any system, or part of a system, that manipulates or processes any information or data contained on the document in any manner other than to reproduce the document in hard copy or as an optical image.

“Taxpayer” as used in this subrule means any person, business, corporation, fiduciary, or other entity that is required to file a return or report with the department of revenue.

b. Record-keeping requirements — machine-sensible records. A taxpayer that maintains and retains books, records, and other sources of information in the form of machine-sensible records must comply with the following:

(1) General requirements. A taxpayer must comply with the following general requirements regarding the retention of machine-sensible records:

1. Machine-sensible records used to establish tax compliance must contain sufficient transaction-level detail information so that the details underlying the machine-sensible records can be identified and made available to the department upon request. A taxpayer has discretion to discard duplicated records and redundant information provided its responsibilities under this regulation are met.

2. At the time of an examination, the retained records must be capable of being retrieved and converted to a standard record format. The term “standard record format” does not mean that every taxpayer must keep records in an identical manner. Instead, it requires that if a taxpayer utilizes a code system to identify elements of information in each record when creating and maintaining records, the taxpayer is required to maintain a record of the meaning of each code and any code changes so that the department may effectively review the taxpayer's records.

3. Taxpayers are not required to construct machine-sensible records other than those created in the ordinary course of business. A taxpayer that does not create the electronic equivalent of a traditional paper document in the ordinary course of business is not required to construct a traditional paper document for tax purposes.

(2) Electronic data interchange requirements. A taxpayer must comply with the following requirements for records received through electronic data interchange:

1. Where a taxpayer uses an electronic data interchange process and technology, the level of record detail, in combination with other records related to the transactions, must be equivalent to that contained in an acceptable paper record. For example, for motor fuel tax purposes the retained records should contain

the following minimal information: bills of lading or manifests; invoices; sales and purchase records; returns, reports, and supporting schedules; records of payments; export schedules; exemption certificates; and delivery tickets. Codes may be used to identify some or all of the data elements, provided that the taxpayer provides a method which allows the department to interpret the coded information.

2. The taxpayer may capture the information necessary to satisfy the requirements set forth in the preceding paragraph at any level within the accounting system and need not retain the original EDI transaction records provided that the audit trail, authenticity, and integrity of the retained records can be established. For example, a taxpayer using electronic data interchange technology receives electronic invoices from its suppliers. The taxpayer decides to retain the invoice data from completed and verified EDI transactions in its accounts payable system rather than to retain the EDI transactions themselves. Since neither the EDI transaction nor the accounts payable system captures information from the invoice pertaining to product description and vendor name (i.e., they contain only codes for that information), the taxpayer also retains the other records such as its vendor master file and product code description lists and makes them available to the department. In this example, the taxpayer need not retain its original EDI transaction for tax purposes.

(3) Electronic data processing accounting systems requirements. The requirements for an electronic data processing accounting system should be similar to that of a manual accounting system, in that an adequately designed accounting system should incorporate methods and records that will satisfy the requirements of this rule. In addition, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 452A.10, 452A.12, 452A.55, 452A.60, 452A.62, 452A.69, 452A.76, and 452A.80, the department must have access to the taxpayer's EDI processing, accounting, or other systems for the purposes of verifying or evaluating the integrity and reliability of those systems to provide accurate and complete records.

(4) Business process information. To verify the accuracy of the records being retained, the taxpayer must comply with the following:

1. Upon the request of the department, the taxpayer shall provide a description of the business process that created the retained records. The description must include the relationship between the records and the tax documents prepared by the taxpayer and include the measures employed to ensure the integrity of the records.

2. The taxpayer must be capable of demonstrating the following:

- The functions being performed as they relate to the flow of data through the system;
- The internal controls used to ensure accurate and reliable processing; and
- The internal controls used to prevent unauthorized addition to, alteration of, or deletion of retained records.

3. The following specific documentation is required for machine-sensible records retained pursuant to this rule:

- Record formats or layouts;
- Field definitions (including a record of any changes in the system or codes and the meaning of all codes used to represent information);
- File descriptions (e.g., data set name); and
- Detailed charts of accounts and account descriptions.

c. *Record maintenance requirements.* The department recommends, but does not require, that taxpayers refer to the National Archives and Record Administration's (NARA) standards for guidance on the maintenance and storage of electronic records such as the labeling of records, the location and security of the storage environment, the creation of backup copies, and the use of periodic testing to confirm the continued integrity of the records. (The NARA standards may be found at 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1234, July 1, 1995, Edition.) The taxpayer's computer hardware and software must accommodate the extraction and conversion of retained machine-sensible records.

d. *Access to machine-sensible records.* If a taxpayer retains records required to be retained under this regulation in both machine-sensible and hard-copy formats, the taxpayer must make the records available to the department in machine-sensible format upon the request of the department.

(1) The manner in which the department is provided access to machine-sensible records may be satisfied through a variety of means that must take into account a taxpayer's facts and circumstances through consultation with the taxpayer.

(2) Access shall be provided in one or more of the following manners:

1. The taxpayer may arrange to provide the department with the hardware, software, and personnel resources to access the machine-sensible records.

2. The taxpayer may arrange for a third party to provide the hardware, software, and personnel resources necessary to access the machine-sensible records.

3. The taxpayer may convert the machine-sensible records to a standard record format specified by the department, including copies of files, on magnetic medium that is agreed to by the department.

4. The taxpayer and the department may agree on other means of providing access to the machine-sensible records.

e. Taxpayer's responsibility and discretionary authority. In conjunction with meeting the requirements of paragraph "b" of this subrule, a taxpayer may create files solely for the use of the department. For example, if a database management system is used, it is consistent with this subrule for the taxpayer to create and retain a file that contains the transaction-level detail from the database management system and that meets the requirements of paragraph "b" of this subrule. The taxpayer shall document the process that created the separate file to show the relationship between that file and the original records. A taxpayer may contract with a third party to provide custodial or management services of the records. Such a contract will not relieve the taxpayer of its responsibilities under this rule.

f. Alternative storage media. For purposes of storage and retention, taxpayers may convert hard-copy documents received or produced in the normal course of business and required to be retained under this rule to microfilm, microfiche, or other storage-only imaging systems and may discard the original hard-copy documents provided that the rules governing alternative storage media are met. For details regarding alternative storage, see subrule 259.3(10), "Microfilm and related record systems."

g. Effect on hard-copy record-keeping requirements. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this subrule do not relieve taxpayers of the responsibility to retain hard-copy records that are created or received in the ordinary course of business as required by existing law and rules. Hard-copy records may be retained on alternative storage media as indicated in paragraph "f" above and subrule 259.3(10).

If hard-copy records are not produced or received in the ordinary course of transacting business (e.g., when the taxpayer uses electronic data interchange technology), hard-copy records need not be created.

Hard-copy records generated at the time of the transaction with the use of a credit or debit card must be retained unless all the details necessary to determine correct tax liability relating to the transaction are subsequently received and retained by the taxpayer in accordance with this rule.

Computer printouts that are created for validation, control, or other temporary purposes need not be retained.

Nothing in this rule shall prevent the department from requesting hard-copy printouts in lieu of retained machine-sensible records at the time of examination.

259.3(13) General requirements. If a tax liability has been assessed and an appeal is pending to the department, district court or an appellate court, books, papers, records, memoranda, or documents specified in this rule that relate to the period covered by the assessment must be preserved until the final disposition of the appeal.

If the requirements of this rule are not met, the records will be considered inadequate and rule 701—259.5(452A), estimate gallonage, applies.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.6 and 452A.15 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622, and sections 452A.8, 452A.9, 452A.10, 452A.17, 452A.59, 452A.60, 452A.62, and 452A.69.

[ARC 1805C, IAB 1/7/15, effective 2/11/15; ARC 2657C, IAB 8/3/16, effective 9/7/16; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.4(452A) Audit—costs. The department has the right and duty to examine or cause to be examined the books, records, memoranda, or documents of a taxpayer for the purpose of verifying the correctness of a return filed or determining the tax liability of any taxpayer. The costs incurred in

examining the records of a taxpayer are at the taxpayer's expense when the records are kept at an out-of-state location. Cost will include meals, lodging, and travel expenses, but will not include salaries of department personnel. (See 1976 O.A.G. 611.)

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.10 and 452A.62 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155, and Iowa Code sections 452A.55 and 452A.69.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.5(452A) Estimate gallonage. It is the duty of the department to collect all taxes on fuel due the state of Iowa. In the event the taxpayer's records are lacking or inadequate to support any return filed by the taxpayer, or to determine the taxpayer's liability, the department has the power to estimate the gallonage upon which tax is due. This estimation will be based upon such factors as, but not limited to, the following: (1) prior experience of the taxpayer, (2) taxpayers in similar situations, (3) industry averages, (4) records of suppliers or customers, and (5) other pertinent information the department may possess, obtain or examine.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.64.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.6(452A) Timely filing of returns, reports, remittances, applications, or requests. The returns, reports, remittances, applications, or requests required under Iowa Code chapter 452A shall be deemed filed within the required time if (1) postpaid, (2) properly addressed, and (3) postmarked on or before midnight of the day on which due and payable. Any return that is not signed and any return which does not contain substantially all of the pertinent information are not considered "filed" until such time as the taxpayer signs or supplies the information to the department. *Miller Oil Company v. Abrahamson*, 252 Iowa 1058, 109 N.W.2d 610 (1961), *Severs v. Abrahamson*, 255 Iowa 979, 124 N.W.2d 150 (1963). The filing of a return within the period prescribed by law and payment of the tax required to be shown thereon are simultaneous acts, unless remittance is required to be transmitted electronically; and if either condition is not met, a penalty will be assessed. Remittances transmitted electronically are considered to have been made on the date the remittance is added to the bank account designated by the treasurer of the state of Iowa. If the final filing date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the next secular or business day is the final filing date. The director may require by rule that reports and returns be filed by electronic transmission. Effective for returns due after July 1, 2006, all licensees must file returns by electronic transmission. All suppliers, restricted suppliers, importers, terminals, blenders, and nonterminal storage facilities with at least 5,000 gallons of product on their return or report must also file the schedules which support the return or report by electronic transmission.

All returns, reports, remittances, applications, or requests should be mailed to: Iowa Department of Revenue, Motor Fuel Unit, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, unless electronic transmission is required.

In the event a dispute arises as to the time of filing, or a return, report, or remittance is not received by the department, the provisions of Iowa Code section 622.105 are controlling. This rule applies only when the document is not received or the postmark on the envelope is illegible, erroneous, or omitted.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.8 and 452A.61.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.7(452A) Extension of time to file. The department may grant an extension for the filing of any required return or tax payment or both.

In order for an extension to be granted, the application requesting the extension must be filed, in writing, with the department prior to the due date of the return or remittance. In determining whether an application for extension is timely filed, the provisions of rule 701—259.6(452A) shall apply. The application for extension must be accompanied by an explanation of the circumstances justifying such extension, and in no event will the extension period exceed 30 days.

In the event an extension is granted, the penalties under Iowa Code section 452A.65 applicable to late-filed returns or remittances will not accrue until the expiration of the extension period, but the interest on tax due under the same section will accrue as of the original filing date.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.61.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.8(452A) Penalty and interest. See rules 701—10.6(421) and 701—10.2(421) for failure to timely file a return or for failure to timely pay the tax. See rule 701—10.8(421) for penalty exceptions. See rule 701—10.72(452A) for interest on refunds.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.9(452A) Penalty and enforcement provisions. See rule 701—10.71(421).

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.10(452A) Application of remittance. All payments are to be first applied to the penalty and then to the interest, and the balance, if any, to the amount of tax then due. If a taxpayer remits a payment on or before the due date, but the payment is insufficient to discharge the tax liability, the entire amount of the payment applies to the tax, and the penalty and interest are based on the unpaid portion of the tax. If the department determines there is additional tax due from a taxpayer, interest and penalty shall accrue on that amount from the date it should have been reported and paid.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.59 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155, and Iowa Code sections 452A.65 and 452A.66.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.11(452A) Reports, returns, records—variations. The department will prescribe and furnish forms upon which reports, returns, and applications are to be made to the department under Iowa Code chapter 452A. Claims for refund will be made on forms provided by the department or in any other manner as prescribed by the director. Licensees may substitute forms for their use, other than official forms, if all the requirements in department rule 701—8.3(17A) are met.

If the information required in these documents is presented to the department on forms or in a manner other than the prescribed form, or approved substitute form, the return, application, or claim for refund or credit shall not be deemed “filed.” The forms may be furnished by the department (except those pertaining to division III interstate operations which are available from the department of transportation) and, therefore, the fact that the reporting party does not have the prescribed form is not an excuse for failure to file.

The department may also prescribe the form of the records which the reporting parties are required to keep in support of the reports/returns they file. The department may approve the form of the records which are being kept by any reporting party and must approve the form of record being kept if that form contains all of the information on the prescribed form, the information is compiled in such a manner as to make it easily ascertainable by department personnel, and substantially complies with the prescribed form.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.60 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, Senate File 136.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.12(452A) Form of invoice. Whenever an invoice is required to be kept or prepared by Iowa Code chapter 452A, the invoice must:

1. Be prepared by someone other than the purchaser and include the seller’s name, address, and identification number.
2. Include the purchaser’s name and address.
3. Contain a serial number of three or more digits.
4. Include the calendar date of purchase.
5. Indicate the type of fuel purchased. Diesel fuel must be designated as dyed or undyed.
6. Indicate the quantity of fuel purchased in gross gallons.
7. Indicate the total purchase price and show separately the amount of state and federal fuel tax included in the purchase price or include a statement that all state and applicable federal taxes are included in the purchase price.
8. For ethanol blended gasoline or biodiesel blended fuel, state its designation as provided in Iowa Code section 214A.2.
9. Be prepared on paper which will prevent erasure or alteration or on another form approved by the department.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.10, section 452A.12 as amended by 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 478, section 140, and section 452A.60.

[ARC 8225B, IAB 10/7/09, effective 11/11/09; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.13(452A) Credit card invoices. Credit card invoices are acceptable if they meet substantially all the requirements of rule 701—259.12(452A). (1968 O.A.G. 592)

For refund purposes, presentation of a credit card invoice or billing statement is prima facie evidence that the fuel tax has been paid.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.60 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.14(452A) Original invoice retained by purchaser—certified copy if lost. Whenever an invoice is required to be kept under Iowa Code chapter 452A, it must be the original copy which is kept. If the original copy is either lost or destroyed, a copy, certified by the seller as being a true copy of the original, will be acceptable. A copy of any invoice which is required to be kept by the purchaser must be kept by the seller for the same period of time.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.10 and 452A.60 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.15(452A) Taxes erroneously or illegally collected. Licensees, including licensed suppliers, restrictive suppliers, importers, and blenders, are entitled to a return of taxes, penalty, and interest erroneously or illegally collected by the department. The request for the return of the taxes must be (1) in writing, (2) filed with the department within one year of the time the tax was paid if paid prior to July 1, 2002, and within three years of the time the tax was paid if the tax was paid on or after July 1, 2002, (3) filed by the licensee who remitted the tax to the department, and (4) accompanied by documentation supporting the claim for refund. If the erroneous collection was the result of a computational error on the part of the taxpayer and that error is discovered by the department during an examination of the taxpayer's records within three years of the overpayment, the taxes will be refunded and a written request will not be necessary. If the request includes the return of erroneously or illegally collected (assessed) penalty or interest, the interest or penalty shall be refunded in the same proportion as the tax. A refund requested under Iowa Code section 452A.72 will be reduced by sales tax if applicable. There is no minimum refund amount for refunds claimed under the provisions of Iowa Code section 452A.72. See rule 701—220.2(422,423).

259.15(1) Motor fuel and undyed special fuel suppliers must inform the department upon which bill(s) of lading, by number, and upon which monthly return(s) the tax was erroneously paid. The gallonage upon which a refund is requested on motor fuel or undyed special fuel must be reduced by the distribution allowance provided in Iowa Code section 452A.5. An amended return must be filed for the tax period in which the error occurred.

259.15(2) Restrictive suppliers, importers, and blenders must inform the department upon which bill(s) of lading or invoice, by number, and upon which monthly or semimonthly return(s) the tax was erroneously paid and an explanation of the erroneous payment. An amended return must be filed for the tax period in which the error occurred.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.72 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2305.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.16(452A) Credentials and receipts. Employees of the department have official credentials, and the taxpayer should require proof of the identity of persons claiming to represent the department. No charges are to be made nor gratuities of any kind accepted by an employee of the department for assistance given in or out of the office of the department.

All employees authorized to collect money are supplied with official receipt forms. When cash is paid to an employee of the department, the taxpayer should require the employee to issue an official receipt.

Such receipt must show the taxpayer's name, address, and permit or license number; the purpose of the payment; and the amount of the payment. The taxpayer should retain all receipts, and the only receipts which the department will accept as evidence of a cash payment are the official receipts.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.59 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.17(452A) Information confidential. Iowa Code section 452A.63, which makes all information obtained from reports, returns, or records required to be filed or kept under Iowa Code chapter 452A confidential, applies generally to the director, deputies, auditors, agents, officers, or other employees of the department. The information may be divulged to the appropriate public officials enumerated in Iowa Code section 452A.63. These public officials include (1) member(s) of the Iowa General Assembly, (2) committees of either house of the Iowa legislature, (3) state officers, (4) persons who have responsibility for the enforcement of Iowa Code chapter 452A, (5) officials of the federal government entrusted with enforcement of federal motor vehicle fuel tax laws, and (6) officials of other states who have responsibility to enforce motor vehicle fuel tax laws and who will furnish like information to the department. An exception to this rule is that the appropriate state agency may make available to the public the total gallons of motor fuel, undyed special fuel, and ethanol blended gasoline withdrawn from terminals or imported into the state by suppliers, restrictive suppliers, and importers. The public request must be made within 45 days following the last day of the month in which the tax is required to be paid. See rule 701—6.3(17A) for procedures for requesting information.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.63 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, Senate File 136.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.18(452A) Delegation to audit and examine. Pursuant to statutory authority, the director of revenue delegates to the coadministrators of the compliance division the power to examine reports, returns, and records, make audits, and determine the correct amount of tax, interest, penalties, and fines due, and to take all actions authorized to collect the same, subject to review by or appeal to the director of revenue. The power so delegated may further be delegated by the coadministrators of the division to auditors, clerks, examiners, and employees of the division.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.62 and 452A.76.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.19(452A) Practice and procedure before the department of revenue. The practice and procedure before the department is governed by Iowa Code chapter 17A and 701—Chapter 7.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 17A.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.20(452A) Time for filing protest. Any person wishing to contest an assessment, denial of all or any portion of a refund claim, or any other department action, except licensing, which may culminate in a contested case proceeding, must file a protest with the clerk of the hearings section for the department pursuant to rule 701—7.8(17A) within 60 days of the issuance of the assessment, denial, or other department action contested. If a taxpayer failed to timely appeal a notice of assessment, the taxpayer may make payments pursuant to rule 701—7.8(17A) and file a refund claim within the period provided by law for filing claims.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.64.

[ARC 0251C, IAB 8/8/12, effective 9/12/12; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.21(452A) Bonding procedure. The director may, when necessary and advisable in order to secure the collection of the tax, require any person subject to the tax to file with the department a bond in an amount as the director may fix, or in lieu of the bond, securities approved by the director in an amount as the director may prescribe. Pursuant to the statutory authorization in Iowa Code sections 423.35 and 452A.66, the director has determined that the following procedures will be instituted with regard to bonds:

259.21(1) *When required.*

a. Classes of business. When the director determines, based on departmental records, other state or federal agency statistics, or current economic conditions, that certain segments of the petroleum business community are experiencing above average financial failures such that the collection of the tax might be jeopardized, a bond or security will be required from every licensee operating a business within this class unless it is shown to the director's satisfaction that a particular licensee within a designated class is solvent and that the licensee previously timely remitted the tax. If the director selects certain classes of licensees for posting a bond or security, rule making will be initiated to reflect a listing of the classes in the rules.

b. New applications for fuel tax permits. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph "a" above, the director has determined that importers will be required to post a bond in the amount of \$25,000 and other applicants for a new fuel tax permit will be requested to post a bond or security if (1) it is determined upon a complete investigation of the applicant's financial status that the applicant would likely not be able to timely remit the tax, or (2) the new applicant held a prior fuel tax license and the remittance record of the tax under the prior license falls within one of the conditions in paragraph "c" below, or (3) the department experienced collection problems while the applicant was engaged in business under the prior license, or (4) the applicant is substantially similar to a person who would have been required to post a bond under the guidelines as set forth in "c" or such person had a previous fuel tax permit revoked. The applicant is "substantially similar" to the extent that said applicant is owned or controlled by persons who owned or controlled the previous licensee. For example, X, a corporation, had a previous fuel tax permit revoked. X is dissolved and its shareholders create a new corporation, Y, which applies for a fuel tax permit. The persons or stockholders who controlled X now control Y. Therefore, Y will be requested to post a bond or security.

c. Existing licensees—amount of bond or security. The simultaneous late filing of the return and the late payment of the tax will count as one delinquency. See rule 701—259.24(452A). However, the late filing of the return or the late payment of the tax will not count as a delinquency if the license holder can satisfy one of the conditions set forth in Iowa Code section 421.27, penalty waiver.

(1) Suppliers will be requested to post a bond or security when they have had one or more delinquencies in remitting the fuel tax or timely filing monthly returns during the past six months.

The bond or security will be an amount sufficient to cover six months' fuel tax liability or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

(2) Restrictive suppliers will be requested to post a bond or security when they have had two or more delinquencies in remitting the fuel tax or timely filing monthly returns during the past 12 months.

The bond or security will be an amount sufficient to cover 12 months' fuel tax liability or \$2,000, whichever is greater.

(3) Blenders will be requested to post a bond or security when they have had two or more delinquencies in remitting the fuel tax or timely filing monthly returns during the past six months.

The bond or security will be an amount sufficient to cover 12 months' fuel tax liability or \$2,000, whichever is greater.

(4) Compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas dealers and users will be requested to post a bond or security when they have had two or more delinquencies in remitting the fuel tax or timely filing monthly returns during the past 12 months. The bond or security will be an amount sufficient to cover 12 months' fuel tax liability or \$500, whichever is greater.

d. Eligible purchasers and end users will be required to post a bond or security when they have failed to pay the tax to a supplier. They will not be allowed to register as an eligible purchaser or end user again until the bond or security requirement has been complied with.

The bond or security will be an amount sufficient to cover six months' fuel tax based on previous purchases.

e. Waiver of bond. If a licensee has been requested to post a bond or security or if an applicant for a license has been requested to post a bond or security, upon the filing of the bond or security if the licensee maintains a good filing record for a period of two years, the licensee may request that the department waive the continued bond or security requirement. Importer bonds will not be waived.

259.21(2) *Type of security or bond.* When it is determined that a licensee or applicant for a fuel tax permit is required to post collateral to secure the collection of the fuel tax, the following types of collateral will be considered as sufficient: cash, surety bonds, securities, or certificates of deposit. “Cash” means guaranteed funds including, but not limited to, cashier’s check, money order, or certified check. If cash is posted as a bond, the bond will not be considered filed until the final payment is made, if paid in installments. A certificate of deposit must have a maturity date of 24 months from the date of assignment to the department. An assignment from the bank must accompany the original certificate of deposit filed with the department for the bank to be released from liability. When a licensee elects to post cash rather than a certificate of deposit as a bond, conversion to a certificate of deposit will not be allowed. When the licensee is a corporation, an officer of the corporation may assume personal responsibility for the payment of fuel tax. Security requirements for the officer will be evaluated as provided in 259.21(1) above as if the officer applied for a fuel tax license as an individual.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.35 and 452A.66.

[ARC 1805C, IAB 1/7/15, effective 2/11/15; ARC 2247C, IAB 11/25/15, effective 12/30/15; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]

701—259.22(452A) Tax refund offset. The department may apply any fuel tax refund against any other liability outstanding.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.17 and 421.17.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.23(452A) Supplier, restrictive supplier, importer, exporter, blender, dealer, or user licenses.

259.23(1) *Requirements for license.* In order to become licensed as a fuel supplier, restrictive supplier, importer, exporter, blender, dealer, or user, the person must file a written application with the department. The license is valid until revoked or canceled, and is nonassignable. The application is to include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- a. The name under which the licensee will transact business in the state.
- b. The location of the principal place of business of the licensee and the mailing address if different.
- c. The social security number or federal identification number of the licensee.
- d. The type of ownership.
- e. The name and complete residency address of the owner(s) of the business or, if a corporation or association, the names and addresses of the principal officers.
- f. The type of license being requested.
- g. Exporters only — the state and license number for that state in which the fuel is being exported.
- h. The signature of the person making the application. For electronically transmitted applications, the application form shall state that, in lieu of the person’s handwritten signature, the person’s email address or the person’s fax signature will constitute a valid signature.

259.23(2) *Assignment of a license.* The following are nonexclusive situations that are considered assignments, and the acquiring person must apply for a new license.

- a. A sale of the taxpayer’s business, even if the new owner operates under the same name.
- b. A change of the name under which the licensee conducts business.
- c. A merger or other business combination which results in a new or different entity.

259.23(3) *Denial of a license.* The department may deny a license to any applicant who is, at the time of application, substantially delinquent in paying any tax due which is administered by the department or the interest or penalty on the tax and will deny a permit of an individual if the department has received a certificate of noncompliance from the child support recovery unit in regard to an individual. If the applicant is a partnership, a license may be denied if a partner is substantially delinquent in paying any tax, penalty, or interest regardless of whether the tax is in any way a liability of or associated with the partnership. If an applicant for a license is a corporation, the department may deny the applicant a license if any officer with a substantial legal or equitable interest in the ownership of the corporation owes any delinquent tax, penalty, or interest of the applicant corporation. Rule 701—201.10(423) contains a characterization of the terms “tax administered by the department” and “substantially delinquent” in paying a tax. Rule 701—7.9(17A) contains information about rights to appeal denial of an application for a license.

259.23(4) *Revocation of a license.* The department may revoke the license of any licensee who becomes substantially delinquent in paying any tax which is administered by the department or the interest or penalty on the tax and will revoke a license of an individual if the department has received a certificate of noncompliance from the child support recovery unit in regard to an individual. If a licensee is a corporation, the department may revoke the license if any officer with a substantial legal or equitable interest in the ownership of the corporation owes any delinquent tax, penalty, or interest of the applicant corporation. If the licensee is a partnership, the license may not be revoked for a partner's substantial delinquency in paying any tax, penalty, or interest which is not a liability of the partnership. Rule 701—201.10(423) contains characterizations of the terms “tax administered by the department” and “substantially delinquent” in paying a tax. The department may also revoke the license of any licensee who abuses the privileges for which the license was issued, who files a false return, or who fails to file a return (including supporting schedules), pay the full amount of tax due, produce records requested, or extend cooperation to the department. Rule 701—7.9(17A) contains more information about rights to appeal.

259.23(5) *Efficient administration of motor fuel laws.* When in the opinion of the director it is necessary for the efficient administration of Iowa Code chapter 452A, the director may regard persons or facilities in possession of motor fuel, special fuel, biofuel, alcohol, or alcohol derivative substances as blenders, dealers, eligible purchasers, exporters, importers, restrictive suppliers, suppliers, terminal operators, or nonterminal storage facility operators. The department will notify the person or facility of the various requirements under the motor fuel tax laws and will ensure that a license is issued.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 452A.4 and 452A.6.

[ARC 0251C, IAB 8/8/12, effective 9/12/12; ARC 6398C, IAB 7/13/22, effective 7/1/22; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.24(452A) Reinstatement of license canceled for cause. A license canceled for cause will be reinstated only on such terms and conditions as the cause may warrant. Terms and conditions will include payments of any applicable fuel tax liability including interest and penalty which is due the department.

Pursuant to the director's statutory authority in Iowa Code section 452A.68 to restore licenses after being canceled for cause, the director has determined that upon the cancellation of a motor vehicle fuel tax license the initial time, the licensee will be required to pay all delinquent fuel tax liabilities including interest and penalty, to file returns, and to post a bond and have refrained from activities requiring a license under sections 452A.4 and 452A.6 during the waiting period as required by the director prior to the reinstatement or issuance of a new motor vehicle fuel tax license.

As set forth above, the director may impose a waiting period during which the licensee must refrain from activities requiring a license pursuant to the penalties provided in Iowa Code section 452A.74 for a period not to exceed 90 days as a condition for the restoration of a license or the issuance of a new license after cancellation for cause. The department may require a statement that the licensee has fulfilled all requirements of said order canceling the license for cause and the dates on which the license holder refrained from restricted activities.

Each of the following situations will be considered one offense for the purpose of determining the waiting period to reinstate a license canceled for cause or issuing a new license after being canceled for cause unless otherwise noted.

Failure to post a bond as required.

Failure to file a report or return timely.

Failure to pay tax timely (including unhonored payments, failure to pay and late payments).

Failure to file a return and pay tax as shown on the return (counts as one offense).

The hearing officer or director of revenue may order a waiting period after the cancellation for cause not to exceed:

Five days for one through five offenses.

Seven days for six or seven offenses.

Ten days for eight or nine offenses.

Thirty days for ten offenses or more.

The hearing officer or director of revenue may order a waiting period not to exceed:

Forty-five days if the second cancellation for cause occurs within 24 months of the first cancellation for cause.

Sixty days if the second cancellation for cause occurs within 18 months of the first cancellation for cause.

Ninety days if the second cancellation for cause occurs within 12 months of the first cancellation for cause.

Ninety days if the third cancellation for cause occurs within 36 months of the second cancellation for cause. See 701—subrule 7.24(1) for rights to appeal.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.68 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, Senate File 136.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.25(452A) Fuel used in implements of husbandry. Dyed special fuel is exempt from tax. Motor fuel or undyed special fuel is subject to refund when used in implements of husbandry as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(32). A vehicle as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(90) is not an implement of husbandry. The department of revenue, the state department of transportation, the department of public safety, and any other peace officer as requested by such department is empowered to enforce the use of special fuel or motor fuel in any illegal manner, including the inspection and testing of fuel in the fuel supply tank of an implement of husbandry.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.76 as amended by 1995 Iowa Acts, chapter 155.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.26(452A) Excess tax collected. If a licensee collects tax on exempt fuel or collects more tax than is due, the licensee must return the excess tax paid to the purchaser if the tax has not been paid to the department. If the tax has been paid to the department, the department will return the excess tax paid to the consumer upon appropriate documentation.

This rule is intended to implement 1999 Iowa Acts, Senate File 136, section 66.

[ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22]

701—259.27(452A) Retailer gallons report. The department is required to compile information reported to it by retail dealers regarding the number of gallons of the various fuel classifications sold by retail dealers in the previous calendar year and submit a report to the governor and the legislative services agency by April 1 of each year. Each retail dealer is required to file a report with the department detailing the number of motor fuel gallons sold during the previous calendar year on both a companywide basis and a site-by-site basis as required by the department. The retail dealer report is due by January 31 following the close of the calendar year.

The report filed by the department will include information in the aggregate relating to total sales of gasoline, ethanol blended gasoline, diesel fuel and biofuels. The report will also include appropriate percentage sales of various fuel products. The report will not include individual retail dealer information, trade secret information or confidential information.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.33 as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 531.

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