

CHAPTER 240  
RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE STREAMLINED SALES  
AND USE TAX AGREEMENT

**701—240.1(423) Allowing use of the lowest tax rate within a database area and use of the tax rate for a five-digit area when a nine-digit zip code cannot be used.** Any database maintained by the department which displays tax rates and tax jurisdictional boundaries based on either a five-digit or nine-digit zip code system shall, if an area encompassing one zip code has two or more rates of tax, provide to retailers a means of identifying and applying the lowest rate within the area for use in computing tax due. If a nine-digit zip code designation is not available for a street address or if a seller is unable to determine the nine-digit zip code designation of a purchaser after exercising due diligence to determine the designation, the seller may apply the lowest rate for the five-digit zip code area.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code section 423.55.

**701—240.2(423) Permissible categories of exemptions.**

**240.2(1) Definitions.**

*“Entity-based exemption”* means an exemption based on who purchases the product or who sells the product.

*“Product-based exemption”* means an exemption based on the description of the product and not based on who purchases the product or how the purchaser intends to use the product.

*“Use-based exemption”* means an exemption based on the purchaser’s use of the product.

**240.2(2) Product-based exemptions.** Iowa will enact a product-based exemption without restriction only if the agreement does not have a definition for the product or for a term that includes the product. If the agreement has a definition for the product or for a term that includes the product, Iowa will exempt all items included within the definition but will not exempt only part of the items included within the definition unless the agreement sets out the exemption for part of the items as an acceptable variation.

**240.2(3) Entity-based and use-based exemptions.** Iowa will enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption without restriction only if the agreement has no definition for the product whose use or purchase by a specific entity is exempt or for a term that includes the product. If the agreement has a definition for the product whose use or specific purchase is exempt, Iowa will enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption that applies to that product only if the exemption utilizes the agreement’s definition of the product. If the agreement does not have a definition for the product whose use or specific purchase is exempt but has a definition for a term that includes the product, Iowa has the power to enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption for the product without restriction.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.3(423) Requirement of uniformity in the filing of returns and remittance of funds.** Any model 1, 2, or 3 seller may submit its sales or use tax returns in a simplified format that does not include more data fields than permitted by the governing board. The department will require only one remittance for each return except as otherwise allowed by the agreement. If any additional remittance is required, it will only be required from sellers that have collected more than \$30,000 in sales and use taxes in Iowa during the preceding calendar year. The amount of the additional remittance shall be determined through a calculation method rather than actual collections and shall not require the filing of an additional return.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.4(423) Allocation of bad debts.** If a seller is entitled under the provisions of 2005 Iowa Code section 423.21 to deduct bad debts owed to it and those bad debts consist of any sales price or purchase price upon which tax has been paid to the state of Iowa as well as a state or states other than Iowa, then allocation of the bad debt is allowed. The seller must support an allocation of the bad debts between Iowa and the other state or states through the proper accounting of its books and records.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.5(423) Purchaser refund procedures.** Iowa law allows a purchaser to seek a return of overcollected sales or use taxes from the seller who collected them. See 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.45(2). In connection with any purchaser's request of a seller that the seller return sales or use tax alleged to have been overcollected, the seller to whom the request is directed shall be rebuttably presumed to have a reasonable business practice if, in the collection of such sales or use tax, the seller uses either a provider or a system, including a proprietary system, which is certified by this state; and has remitted all taxes collected by the use of that provider system to the department, less any deductions, credits, or collection allowances.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.6(423) Relief from liability for reliance on taxability matrix.** Iowa provides and maintains a taxability matrix in a database that is in a downloadable format approved by the governing board. All sellers and certified service providers are relieved from liability to Iowa and any jurisdiction imposing a local option tax under Iowa Code chapter 423B or 423E for having charged and collected the incorrect amount of sales or use tax resulting from the seller's or certified service provider's reliance on erroneous data provided by that taxability matrix.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.7(423) Effective dates of taxation rate increases or decreases when certain services are furnished.** Certain taxable services are usually furnished over an extended period of time (e.g., utilities, janitorial, and ministorage services), and the user of such a service is billed at regular intervals (e.g., monthly or quarterly). The beginning date when a rate change is imposed on the sales price of this type of service differs, depending upon whether a rate increase or rate decrease is involved. If the rate of taxation has been increased, the beginning date of the rate change shall be the first day of the first billing period occurring after the effective date of the rate increase. If the rate of taxation has been decreased, the beginning date of the rate change shall be the date on which the first bill for furnishing the service is rendered for payment, subsequent to the effective date of the rate decrease.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—240.8(423) Prospective application of defining "retail sale" to include a lease or rental.** The definition of "retail sale" which includes leasing or renting (see 701—Chapter 211) is applied only prospectively from the date of July 1, 2004, and will have no retroactive impact on leases or rentals existing prior to that date. This definition of "retail sale" does not impact any Iowa exemption or exclusion in force prior to July 1, 2004, and applicable to a sale-leaseback transaction, nor does the definition preclude this state from adopting a sale-leaseback exemption or exclusion after July 1, 2004.

This rule is intended to implement 2003 Iowa Acts, First Extraordinary Session, chapter 2, section 205.

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