

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 which are similar to argon. An “inert gas” is any gas which 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 which 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 referenced 701—subrule 18.58(1).

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

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).

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