

CHAPTER 12
FILING RETURNS, PAYMENT OF TAX, PENALTY AND INTEREST
[Prior to 12/17/86, Revenue Department[730]]

701—12.1(422) Returns and payment of tax. Every retailer collecting more than \$50 in tax in any one month shall make a monthly deposit with the department. A retailer collecting between \$50 and \$500 a month shall deposit the actual amount of tax collected during the month or an amount equal to not less than 30 percent of the amount of tax collected and paid during the preceding quarter. A retailer collecting \$500 or more a month shall deposit the actual amount of tax collected. This deposit is due by the twentieth of the month following the month in which the tax is collected and applies only to the first two months in the quarter.

On the quarterly return, every retailer shall report the gross sales for the entire quarter, listing allowable deductions and figuring tax for the entire quarter. Space is provided on the return for a deduction of tax deposited the first and second months of the quarter. The quarterly return is due on or before the last day of the month following the end of the quarter.

Effective January 1, 1983, retailers collecting \$50 a month and not more than \$4000 in tax in a semimonthly period shall deposit the actual amount of tax collected during the month or an amount equal to one-third of the amount of tax collected and paid during the preceding quarter.

Every retailer collecting more than \$4000 in tax in a semimonthly period shall make a semimonthly deposit with the department. A retailer collecting more than \$4000 in a semimonthly period shall deposit (1) the actual amount of tax collected or an amount equal to not less than one-sixth of the amount of tax collected and paid during the preceding quarter or (2) the actual amount of tax collected or an amount equal to not less than one-sixth of the amount of tax collected and paid during the same quarter of the previous year. The method of reporting selected by the retailer, either option 1 or option 2, shall remain consistent for at least four quarters. The first semimonthly deposit is for the period from the first of the month through the fifteenth of the month and is due on or before the twenty-fifth of the month. The second semimonthly deposit is for the period from the sixteenth through the end of the month and is due on or before the tenth day of the month following the month of collection. A deposit is not required for the last semimonthly period of the calendar quarter.

Retailers required to make semimonthly or monthly deposits under any of the above methods of estimating tax based upon a period when the tax rate was 4 percent shall adjust deposits for periods beginning on or after July 1, 1992, to reflect the increase in the tax rate to 5 percent as provided in Iowa Code section 422.43.

On the quarterly return, every retailer shall report the gross sales for the entire quarter listing all allowable deductions and figuring tax for the entire quarter. Space is provided on the return for a deduction of tax deposited for the previous five semimonthly deposits. The quarterly return is due on or before the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter.

A seasonal business retailer with gross receipts in only one quarter during the year may request, and the director may grant, permission to file and remit sales tax for only that specific quarter in which the retailer conducted business.

Effective January 1, 1980, if it is expected that the total annual tax liability of a retailer will not exceed \$120 for a calendar year, the retailer may request, and the director may grant, permission to file and remit sales tax on a calendar year basis. The returns and tax will be due and payable no later than January 31 following each calendar year in which the retailer carried on business.

Following are nonexclusive examples the department could reasonably expect to be within the guidelines for annual reporting:

1. A person selling tangible personal property or taxable services where a major portion of the business is the selling of tangible personal property or taxable services exempt from the imposition of tax; such as a wholesaler whose sales are primarily for resale, or a contractor whose business is primarily new construction.

2. A person whose business is primarily seasonal, or a person engaged in part-time selling of tangible personal property or taxable services.

3. A person whose sales are of a nontaxable service and who may, on occasion, sell tangible personal property incidental to the service.

When the due date falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the return or deposit will be due the first business day following such Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. If a return or deposit is placed in the mails, properly addressed and postage paid, and postmarked on or before the due date for filing, no penalty will attach should the return or deposit not be received until after that date. Mailed returns should be addressed to Sales/Use Tax Processing, P.O. Box 10412, Des Moines, Iowa 50306.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.14, 422.43, 422.47, 422.51, 422.52, and 423.2.

701—12.2(422,423) Remittances. The correct amount of tax collected and due shall accompany the forms prescribed by the department unless requirements for electronic transmission of remittances or deposits and related information specify otherwise. The name, address, and permit number of the sender and amount of tax for the quarterly remittance or a semimonthly or monthly deposit shall be stated unless requirements for electronic transmission of remittances or deposits and related information specify otherwise. Every return shall be signed and dated. Reporting forms and a self-addressed return envelope shall be furnished by the department to the taxpayer unless electronic transmission requirements apply; and, when feasible, the taxpayer shall use them when completing and mailing a return and remittance. All remittances shall be made payable to the Treasurer of the State of Iowa.

For tax periods starting on or after April 1, 1990, semimonthly deposits and quarterly remittances of taxpayers required to make semimonthly deposits shall be made electronically in a format and by means specified in the department. Deposit forms are not required to be filed when electronic transmission of deposits is done in the prescribed format by specified means. Quarterly returns shall be filed separately from the electronic transfer of remittances for taxpayers required to make semimonthly deposits. Deposits and remittances transmitted electronically are considered to have been made on the date that the deposit or remittance is added to the bank account designated by the treasurer of the state of Iowa. The filing of a return within the period prescribed by law and payment of the tax required to be shown thereon are simultaneous acts and if either condition is not met, a penalty shall be assessed.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.16, 422.51, 422.52, 423.6, 423.13 and 423.14.

701—12.3(422) Permits and negotiated rate agreements. A person making retail sales in Iowa is required to obtain a sales tax permit from the department of revenue. Certain qualified purchasers, users, or consumers may obtain a direct pay permit which allows qualified purchasers, users, or consumers to remit tax directly to the department rather than to the retailer at the time of purchase or use. The following provisions govern the issuance of each type of permit.

12.3(1) Sales tax permits. Sales tax permits will be required of all resident and nonresident persons making retail sales at permanent locations within the state. A permit must be held for each location except that retailers conducting business at a permanent location who also make sales at a temporary location are not required to hold a separate permit for any temporary location. All tax collected from the temporary location shall be remitted with the tax collected at the permanent location. Persons who are registered retailers pursuant to rule 701—29.1(423) relating to use tax may remit sales taxes collected at a temporary location with their quarterly retailers use tax return. Retailers conducting a seasonal business shall also obtain a regular permit. However, returns will be filed on either a quarterly or annual basis depending upon the number of quarters in which sales are made. Sales tax permits will be required of all persons, except cities and counties, who have sales activity from gambling.

12.3(2) Direct pay permits. Effective January 1, 1998, qualified purchasers, users, and consumers of tangible personal property or enumerated services pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 422, 422B, and 423 may remit tax owed directly to the department of revenue instead of the tax being collected and remitted by the seller. A qualified purchaser, user, or consumer may not be granted or exercise this direct pay option except upon proper application to the department and only after issuance of the direct pay permit by the director of the department of revenue.

a. Qualifications for a direct pay permit. To qualify for a direct pay permit, all of the following criteria must be met:

(1) The applicant must be a purchaser, user, or consumer of tangible personal property or enumerated services.

(2) The applicant must have an accrual of sales and use tax liability on consumed goods of more than \$4,000 in a semimonthly period. A purchaser, user, or consumer may have more than one business location and can combine the sales and use tax liabilities on consumed goods of all locations to meet the requirement of \$4,000 in sales and use tax liability in a semimonthly period to qualify, if the records are located in a centralized location. If a purchaser, user, or consumer is combining more than one location, only one direct pay tax return for all of the combined locations needs to be filed with the department. However, local option sales and service tax should not be included in the tax base for determining qualification for a direct pay permit. If a purchaser, user, or consumer has more than one location, but not all locations wish to remit under a direct pay permit, the purchaser, user, or consumer must indicate which locations will be utilizing the direct pay permit at the time of application.

(3) The applicant must make deposits and file returns pursuant to Iowa Code section 422.52. See subrule 12.3(2), paragraph “d,” for further details.

b. Nonqualifying purchases or uses. The granting of a direct pay permit is not allowed for any of the following:

(1) Taxes imposed on the sale, furnishing, or service of gas, electricity, water, heat, pay television service, or communication service.

(2) Taxes imposed under Iowa Code section 422C.3 (sales tax on the rental receipts of qualifying rental motor vehicles), Iowa Code section 423.7 (use tax on the sale or use of motor vehicles), or Iowa Code section 423.7A (use tax on the lease price of qualifying leased motor vehicles).

c. Application and permit information. To obtain a direct pay permit, a purchaser, user, or consumer must properly complete an application form prescribed by the director of revenue and provide certification that the purchaser, user, or consumer has paid sales and use tax to the department of revenue or vendors over the last two years prior to application, an average of \$4,000 in a semimonthly period.

Upon approval, the director will issue a direct pay permit to qualifying applicants. The permit will contain direct pay permit identifying information including a direct pay permit identification number. The direct pay permit should be retained by the permit holder. When purchasing from a vendor, a permit holder should give the vendor a certificate of exemption containing the information as set forth in rule 701—15.3(422,423).

d. Remittance and reporting. Sales, use, and local option tax that is to be reported and remitted to the department will be on a semimonthly basis. Remittance of tax due under a direct pay permit will begin with the first quarter after the direct pay permit is issued to the holder. The tax to be paid under a direct pay permit must be remitted directly to the department by electronic funds transfer (EFT) only. A permit holder need not have remitted by EFT prior to obtaining a direct pay permit to qualify for such a permit. However, a permit holder must remit taxes due by EFT for transactions entered into on or after the date the permit is issued. All local option sales and service tax due must be reported and remitted at the same time as the sales and use taxes due under the direct pay permit for the corresponding tax period. However, local option sales and service tax should not be included in the tax base for determining qualification for a direct pay permit or frequency of remittance. Reports should be filed with the department on a quarterly basis. The director may, when necessary and advisable in order to secure the collection of tax due, require an applicant for a direct pay permit or a permit holder to file with the director a qualified surety bond as set forth in Iowa Code section 422.52. A permit holder who fails to report or remit any tax when due is subject to the penalty and interest provisions set forth in Iowa Code section 422.52.

e. Permit revocation and nontransferability. A direct pay permit may be used indefinitely unless it is revoked by the director. A direct pay permit is not transferable and it may not be assigned to a third party. The director may revoke a direct pay permit at any time the permit holder fails to meet the requirements for a direct pay permit, misuses the direct pay permit, or fails to comply with the provisions in Iowa Code section 422.53. If a direct pay permit is revoked, it is the responsibility of the prior holder of the permit to inform all vendors of the revocation so the vendors may begin to collect tax at the time of

purchase. A prior permit holder is responsible for any tax, penalty, and interest due for failure to notify a vendor of revocation of a direct pay permit.

f. Record-keeping requirements. The parties involved in transactions involving a direct pay permit shall have the following record-keeping duties:

(1) Permit holder. The holder of a direct pay permit must retain possession of the direct pay permit. The permit holder must keep a record of all transactions made pursuant to the direct pay permit in compliance with rule 701—11.4(422,423).

(2) Vendor. A vendor must retain a valid exemption certificate under rule 701—15.3(422,423) which is received from the direct pay permit holder and retain records of all transactions engaged in with the permit holder in which tax was not collected, in compliance with rule 701—11.4(422,423). A vendor's liability for uncollected tax is governed by the liability provisions of a seller under an exemption certificate set forth in rule 701—15.3(422,423).

12.3(3) Negotiated rate agreements. Any person who has been issued or who has applied for a direct pay permit may request the department to enter into a negotiated rate agreement with the permit holder or applicant. These agreements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis and, if approved by the department, allow a direct pay permit holder to pay the state sales, local option sales, or use tax on a basis calculated by agreement between the direct pay permit holder and the department. Negotiated rate agreements are not applicable to sales and use taxes set out in subrule 12.3(2), paragraph "b," above, and no negotiated rate agreement is effective for any period during which a taxpayer who is a signatory to the agreement is not a direct pay permit holder.

All negotiated rate agreements shall contain the following information or an explanation for its omission:

1. The name of the taxpayer who has entered into the agreement with the department.
2. The name and title of each person signing the agreement and the name, telephone or fax number, and E-mail or physical address of at least one person to be contacted if questions regarding the agreement arise.
3. The period during which the agreement is in effect and the renewal or extension rights (if any) of each party, and the effective date of the agreement.
4. The negotiated rate or rates, the classes of sales or uses to which each separate rate is applicable, any items which will be excluded from the agreement, and any circumstances which will result in a changed rate or rates or changed composition of classes to which rates are applicable.
5. Actions or circumstances which render the agreement void, or voidable at the option of either party, and the time frame in which the agreement will be voided.
6. Rights, if any, of the parties to resort to mediation or arbitration.
7. An explanation of the department's right to audit aspects of the agreement, including any right to audit remaining after the agreement's termination.
8. The conditions by which the agreement may be terminated and the effective date of the termination.
9. The methodology used to determine the negotiated rate and any schedules needed to verify percentages.
10. Any other matter deemed necessary to the parties' mutual understanding of the agreement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.45(20) and 422.53 as amended by 1997 Iowa Acts, House File 266.

701—12.4(422) Nonpermit holders. Persons not regularly engaged in selling at retail and who do not have a permanent place of business but are temporarily engaged in selling from trucks, portable roadside stands, concessionaires at state, county, district, or local fairs, carnivals and the like shall collect and remit tax on a nonpermit basis. In such cases, a nonpermit identification certificate will be issued by the department for record-keeping purposes and may be displayed in the same manner as a sales tax permit. If the department deems it necessary and advisable in order to secure the collection of tax, transient or itinerant sellers shall be required to post a bond or certificate of deposit. A cash bond or a surety bond issued by a solvent surety company authorized to do business in Iowa shall be acceptable, provided the

bonding company is approved by the insurance commissioner as to solvency and responsibility. The amount and type of bond shall be determined according to the rules promulgated by the director.

The department shall determine the due date of returns and payment of tax for temporary permit holders, giving due consideration to the type of business and frequency of sales. Persons holding nonpermit identification certificates may be required to remit tax upon demand or at the end of the event.

Persons regularly engaged in selling tangible personal property which is exempt from tax, making nontaxable transactions, or engaged in performing a service which is not enumerated in Iowa Code section 422.43 shall not be required to obtain a sales tax permit. However, if the retailer makes taxable sales or provides taxable services, the retailer will be required to hold a permit under the provisions of this rule.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.53.

701—12.5(422,423) Regular permit holders responsible for collection of tax. A regular permit holder may operate by selling merchandise by trucks, canvassers, or itinerant salespeople over fixed routes within the county in which the permanent place of business is located or other counties in this state. When this occurs, the regular permit holder is liable for reporting and paying tax on these sales. The person doing the selling for the regular permit holder shall be required to have a form, either in possession or in the vehicle, which authorizes that person to collect tax. This form is obtained from the department and shall contain the name, address, and permit number of the retailer according to the records of the department.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.53 and 423.9.

701—12.6(422,423) Sale of business. A retailer selling the business shall file a return within the succeeding month thereafter and pay all tax due. Any unpaid tax shall be due prior to the transfer of title of any personal property to the purchaser and the tax becomes delinquent one month after the sale.

A retailer discontinuing business shall maintain the business's records for a period of five years from the date of discontinuing the business unless a release from this provision is given by the department. See 701—subrule 18.28(2) regarding possible sales and use tax consequences relating to the sale of a business.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.51(2) and 422.52.

701—12.7(422) Bankruptcy, insolvency or assignment for benefit of creditors. In cases of bankruptcy, insolvency or assignment for the benefit of creditors by the taxpayer, the taxpayer shall immediately file a return with the tax being due.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.51(2).

701—12.8(422) Vending machines and other coin-operated devices. An operator who places machines on location shall file a return which includes gross receipts from all machines or devices operated by the retailer in Iowa during the period covered by the return. The mandatory beverage container deposit required under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 455C shall not be considered part of the gross receipts.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.42(16), 422.43, 422.51, and Iowa Code chapter 455C.

701—12.9(422) Claim for refund of tax. Refunds of tax shall be made only to those who have actually paid the tax. A person or persons may designate the retailer who collects the tax as an agent for purposes of receiving a refund of tax. A person or persons who claim a refund shall prepare the claim on the prescribed form furnished by the department.

A claim for refund shall be filed with the department, stating in detail the reasons and facts and, if necessary, supporting documents for which the claim for refund is based. See 1968 O.A.G. 879. If the claim for refund is denied, and the person wishes to protest the denial, the department will consider a protest to be timely if filed no later than 30 days following the date of denial. See rule 701—7.41(17A).

For refunds denied on or after January 1, 1995, the department will consider a protest to be timely if filed no later than 60 days following the date of denial.

When a person is in a position of believing that the tax, penalty, or interest paid or to be paid will be found not to be due at some later date, then in order to prevent the statute of limitations from running out, a claim for refund or credit must be filed with the department within the statutory period provided for in Iowa Code section 422.73(1). The claim must be filed requesting that it be held in abeyance pending the outcome of any action which will have a direct effect on the tax, penalty or interest involved. Nonexclusive examples of such action would be: court decisions, departmental orders and rulings, and commerce commission decisions.

EXAMPLE: X, an Iowa sales tax permit holder, is audited by the department for the period July 1, 1972, to June 30, 1977. A \$10,000 tax, penalty and interest liability is assessed on materials the department determines are not used in processing. X does not agree with the department's position, but still pays the full liability even though X is aware of pending litigation involving the materials taxed in the audit.

Y is audited for the same period involving identical materials used to those taxed in the audit of X. However, Y, rather than paying the assessment, takes the department through litigation and wins. The final litigation is not completed until September 30, 1983.

X, on October 1, 1983, upon finding out about the decision of Y's case, files a claim for refund relating to its audit completed in June 1977. The claim will be totally denied as beyond the five-year statute of limitations. However, if X had filed a claim along with payment of its audit in June 1977, and requested that the claim be held in abeyance pending Y's litigation, then X would have received a full refund of their audit liability if the decision in Y's case was also applicable to X.

EXAMPLE: X, a utility company, filed a request for a rate increase with the commerce commission on June 30, 1967. The rate increase became effective January 1, 1968. However, a final decision of whether X was allowed this rate increase is not made until September 30, 1974. The rate increase was disallowed. X then had to refund to its customers all disallowed, but collected, rate increases plus sales tax. X files a claim for refund of the involved sales tax on December 30, 1974. Only the tax for the years 1970 to 1974 will be refunded. The tax for the years 1968 and 1969 will be denied as being beyond the five-year statute set forth in Iowa Code section 422.73(1). However, if X had filed a claim covering the rate increase any time before January 31, 1973, requesting it be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the commerce commission ruling, then X would have been allowed a full refund of all the sales tax that is refunded from the effective date of the rate increase, January 1, 1968, through September 30, 1974.

EXAMPLE: X is audited by the department for the period July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1978, and assessed July 31, 1978. X pays the assessment on December 31, 1978. No protest was filed and no claim for refund or credit was filed requesting it be held in abeyance. On January 31, 1980, X files a claim for refund relating to the entire audit. The claim is based on a recent court decision which makes the tax liability paid by X now refundable. However, only the tax paid from January 1, 1975, through June 30, 1978, will be allowed as this is the only portion within the five-year statute of limitations set forth in section Iowa Code 422.73(1). If the claim had been filed on or before December 31, 1979, then the entire audit period July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1978, could have been considered for refund as the claim would have been filed within one year of payment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.73.

701—12.10 and 12.11 Reserved.

701—12.12(422) Extension of time for filing. Upon a proper showing of the necessity for extending the due date, the director is authorized to grant an extension of time in which to file a return. The extension shall not be granted for a period longer than 30 days. The request for the extension must be received on or before the original due date of the return. It will be granted only if the person requesting the extension shall have paid by the twentieth day of the month following the close of such quarter, 90 percent of the estimated tax due.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.51.

701—12.13(422) Determination of filing status.

12.13(1) Prior to January 1, 2003. Iowa Code sections 422.51(4) and 422.52 provide, based on the amount of tax collected, how often retailers file deposits or returns with the department (see rule 12.1(422)).

The department will determine if the retailer's current filing status is correct by reviewing the most recent four quarters of the retailer's filing history.

The following criteria will be used by the department to determine if a change in filing status is warranted.

| <u>Filing Status</u> | <u>Statutory Requirement</u> | <u>Test Criteria</u> |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Semimonthly | \$4,000 in tax in a semimonthly period. | Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters exceeds \$24,000. |
| Monthly | \$50 in tax in a month. | Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters exceeds \$150. |
| Annual | \$120 or less in tax in prior year. | Retailer remits \$120 or less in tax for last 4 quarters and requests annual filing. |
| Seasonal | | Retailer remits tax for only 1 quarter during the previous calendar year and requests filing for 1 quarter only. |
| Quarterly | All other filers. | |

When it is determined that a retailer's filing status is to be changed, the retailer will be notified and will be given 30 days to provide the department with a written request to prevent the change.

Retailers may request that they be allowed to file less frequently than the filing status selected by the department but exceptions will only be granted in two instances:

a. Incorrect historical data is used in the conversion. A business may meet the criteria based on initial information available, but, upon investigation, the filing history may prove that the business does not meet the dollar criteria because of adjustments, amended returns, or requests for refunds.

b. Data available may have been distorted by the fact that it reflected an unusual pattern in tax collection. The factors causing such a distortion must be documented and approved by department.

Exceptions will not be granted in instances where the retailer's request is based on a decline in business activity, reduction in employees or other potentially temporary business action which will affect current and future reporting.

Retailers will be notified in writing of approval or denial of their request for reduced filing periods.

Retailers may request that they be allowed to file more frequently than the filing status selected by the department. Approval will be granted based upon justification contained in the retailer's request.

12.13(2) January 1, 2003, and after: Effective July 1, 2002, the department and the department of management have the authority to change the above-mentioned filing thresholds established by department rule. After review of these filing thresholds, the department has determined that new thresholds are necessary and are to be implemented January 1, 2003. Accordingly, this subrule sets forth the filing thresholds for each filer based on the amount of sales tax collected.

| <u>Filing Status</u> | <u>Threshold</u> | <u>Test Criteria</u> |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Semimonthly | Greater than \$60,000 in annual state sales tax (more than \$2,500 in a semimonthly period). | Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined exceeds \$15,000 per quarter. |
| Monthly | Between \$6,000 and \$60,000 in annual state sales tax (more than \$500 in a monthly period). | Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined exceeds \$1,500 per quarter. |
| Quarterly | Between \$120 and \$6,000 in annual state sales tax. | Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined exceeds \$30 per quarter. |
| Annual | Less than \$120 in state sales tax for the prior year. | Tax remitted in prior year is less than \$120. |
| Seasonal | Retailer remits tax for only 1 quarter during the previous calendar year and requests filing for 1 quarter only. | |

A retailer shall be notified in writing when it is determined that a retailer's filing status will be changed. A retailer has the option of requesting, within 30 days of the date of the department's notice of a change in filing frequency, that the retailer file more or less frequently than required by the department. A request to file on a less frequent basis than assigned by the department must be in writing and submitted to the department. Once such a written request is filed by the retailer, the department will review the request and issue a written determination to the retailer.

A change in assigned filing status to file on a less frequent basis will be granted in only two instances:

a. Incorrect historical data is used in the conversion. A business may meet the criteria based on the original filing data, but, upon investigation, the filing history may prove that the business does not meet the dollar criteria because of adjustments, amended returns, or requests for refunds.

b. Data available may have been distorted by the fact that the data reflected an unusual pattern in tax collection. The factors causing such a distortion must be documented and approved by the department.

A retailer may also request to file more frequently than assigned by the department; the request may be made orally, in person, or by telephone. With the exception of those retailers who previously filed on a quarterly basis and have been changed to an annual filing frequency, any retailer seeking to file on a more frequent basis than assigned shall be required to deposit revenues by electronic funds transfer if the department allows the retailer to file more frequently.

The department and the department of management may perform review of filing thresholds every five years or as needed based on department discretion. Factors the departments will consider in determining if the filing thresholds need to be changed include, but are not limited to: tax rate changes, inflation, the need to maintain consistency with required multistate compacts, changes in law, and migration between filing brackets.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.14, 422.51, and 422.52, and sections 422.54 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622, section 11, and 423.13 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2622, section 14.

701—12.14(422,423) Immediate successor liability for unpaid tax. A retailer ceasing to do business is obligated to prepare a final return and pay all tax due within the time required by law. If a retailer ceasing to do business fails to do this, any immediate successor to the retailer who purchases the business or stock of goods is obligated to withhold from the purchase price enough of the purchase price to pay the tax, interest, or penalty which the retailer owes. Any immediate successor who intentionally fails to withhold sufficient of the purchase price to pay the delinquent tax, interest, and penalty is personally liable for the payment of the tax. However, if the immediate successor's purchase of the business or stock of goods

was made in good faith that the retailer owed no tax, interest, or penalty, then the department may waive the immediate successor's liability.

12.14(1) Immediate successors having a duty to withhold. Only an immediate successor who, pursuant to a contract of sale, pays a purchase price to a retailer in return for the transfer of a going business or a stock of goods is obligated to inquire if tax, penalty, or interest is due and to withhold a portion of the purchase price if necessary. Persons who fail some aspect of this test, e.g., because they take by operation of law rather than by contract or provide no consideration, are not obligated to investigate or withhold. Nonexclusive examples of persons not so obligated are the following:

- a. A person foreclosing on a valid security interest.
- b. A person retaking possession of premises under a valid lease.
- c. A spouse electing to take under a will.
- d. A person taking by gift.
- e. Any other person taking for what would legally be considered "for value" but without the payment of a recognizable "purchase price."

Included within the meaning of the phrase "immediate successor" is a corporation resulting from the action of a sole proprietor who incorporates a business in which the sole proprietor is the only or the controlling shareholder; or a sole proprietorship established from a corporation of which the sole proprietor was the exclusive, majority, or controlling stockholder.

12.14(2) More than one immediate successor. If a retailer sells a business or stock of goods to two or more persons the following rules apply:

a. *Sale of stock of goods to two or more persons.* If a retailer sells a substantial portion of the retail business's stock of goods to another person who will in turn offer those goods for sale in a retail business, that person is an "immediate successor" and personally liable for payment of tax to the extent of tax, interest, or penalty owed or the amount of the individual purchase price, whichever is the lesser.

EXAMPLE: A sells the stock of goods from a furniture business, in unequal portions, to B, C, and D. B pays a \$5,000 purchase price for a portion of the stock of goods, C pays \$20,000 for a portion of the stock of goods, and D pays a \$30,000 purchase price for the remainder of A's stock of goods. A, at the time of the transfers, owes the department of revenue \$10,000 in sales tax, interest, and penalty. Neither B, C, nor D withholds any amount for payment of tax from the purchase price. B, C, and D individually and together are liable for payment of the tax. Each is personally liable up to the amount of the purchase price which each has paid or the amount of tax, interest, and penalty owing, whichever is the lesser. In this example, B is liable for \$5,000, the lesser amount of B's purchase price (\$5,000) and the amount of tax which A owes (\$10,000); C is liable for \$10,000, since purchase price and tax owed are equal; and D is liable for \$10,000, the lesser amount of tax owed (\$10,000) and D's purchase price (\$30,000). The department can proceed against any one, two, or all three of the immediate successors up to the amount of tax which each owes, as it chooses.

b. *Purchase of differing places of business.* If one person owns two or more places of business, each having a separate sales tax permit, each location having its own permit is a separate business and has a separate stock of goods for the purpose of determining successor liability. A person purchasing the business at one location or the stock of goods from one location would be personally liable only for the tax owed under the permit assigned to that location.

12.14(3) "Sale of a retailer's business" characterized. Usually, the sale of only the machinery or equipment used in a business without the sale or leasing of the realty of the business is not a sale of the business itself. *People v. Gabriel*, 135 P.2d 378 (Cal. App. 1943). The transfer of a retailer's machinery or equipment and business realty to a person who continues to use the machinery, equipment, and realty for the sale of any type of tangible personal property constitutes the selling of the retailer's business, and the person to whom the business is sold is an "immediate successor" and liable for tax.

EXAMPLE: A is a furniture dealer. The furniture business falls on hard times. A sells the stock of goods (the furniture offered for sale) to B. A then sells the furniture store (business realty) to C. A also sells C the office equipment and all other tangible personal property used in the operation of the furniture store except for the stock of goods (furniture). C then uses the purchased store and the office equipment in the operation of a sporting goods store. B takes the furniture purchased from A to B's furniture store

where it is sold. A owed the department \$7,000 in sales tax. Both B and C are immediate successors to A and personally liable for the sales tax.

12.14(4) *“Good faith” characterized.* An immediate successor to a retailer has purchased the retailer’s business or stock of goods “in good faith” if the immediate successor demonstrates, by suitable evidence, that one of the following situations exists. The list of situations is exclusive:

a. The department has provided the immediate successor with a certified statement that no delinquent tax, interest, or penalty is unpaid; or

b. The immediate successor has taken “in good faith” a certified statement from the licensee, retailer, or seller that no delinquent tax, interest, or penalty is unpaid as of the date of purchase. Immediate successors should not rely upon oral statements from department personnel that no tax, interest, or penalty is unpaid. An immediate successor should request a written statement to this effect. For information regarding delinquent tax, interest, or penalty and tax liens write to: Collections Section Supervisor, Iowa Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 10471, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50306. A “certified statement” from a retailer is a statement the truth of which is attested to before a notary public or other officer authorized to take oaths. A certified statement has been taken from a retailer “in good faith” if the immediate successor, in the exercise of due diligence, had no reason to believe a retailer’s statement was false or no reason to question the truth of the retailer’s statement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 421.28.

701—12.15(422,423) Officers and partners—personal liability for unpaid tax. If a retailer or purchaser fails to pay sales tax when due, any officer of a corporation or association, or any partner of a partnership, who has control of, supervision of, or the authority for remitting the sales tax payments and has a substantial legal or equitable interest in the ownership of the corporation or partnership is personally liable for payment of the tax, interest, and penalty if the failure to pay the tax is intentional. This personal liability is not applicable to sales tax due and unpaid on accounts receivable. The dissolution of a corporation, association, or partnership does not discharge a responsible person’s liability for failure to pay tax.

12.15(1) *Personal liability—how determined.* There are various criteria which can be used to determine which officers of a corporation have control of, supervision of, or the authority for remitting tax payments. Some criteria are:

- a.* The duties of officers as outlined in the corporate bylaws,
- b.* The duties which various officers have assumed in practice,
- c.* Which officers are empowered to sign checks for the corporation,
- d.* Which officers hire and fire employees, and
- e.* Which officers control the financial affairs of the corporation.

An officer in control of the financial affairs of a corporation may be characterized as one who has final control as to which of the corporation’s bills should or should not be paid and when bills which had been selected for payment will be paid. “Final control” means a significant control over which bills should or should not be paid rather than exclusive control. The observations in this paragraph are applicable to partnerships as well as corporations.

12.15(2) *“Accounts receivable” described.* Officers and partners are not responsible for sales tax due and owing on accounts receivable. An “account receivable” is a contractual obligation owing upon an open account. An open account is one which is neither finally settled or finally closed, but is still running and “open” to future payments or the assumption of future additional liabilities. The ordinary consumer installment contract is not an “account receivable.” The amount due has been finally settled and is not open to future adjustment. The usual consumer installment contract is a “note receivable” rather than an account receivable. An account receivable purchased by a factor or paid by a credit card company is, as of the date of purchase or payment, not an account receivable. An officer or partner will be liable for the value of the account receivable purchased or paid. Officers and partners have the burden of proving that tax is not due because it is a tax on an account receivable.

12.15(3) *Beginning date of personal liability.* Officers and partners are not personally liable for state sales tax due and unpaid prior to March 13, 1986. They are liable for state sales taxes which are both due

and unpaid on and after that date. See department rule 701—107.12(422B) for an explanation of officer and partner liability for unpaid local option sales tax.

701—12.16(422) Show sponsor liability. Persons sponsoring flea markets or craft, antique, coin, stamp shows, or similar events are, under certain circumstances, liable for payment of sales tax, interest, and penalty due and owing from any retailer selling property or services at the event. Included within the meaning of the term “similar event” is any show at which guns or collectibles, e.g., depression glassware or comic books, are sold or traded. To avoid liability, sponsors of these events must obtain from retailers appearing at the events proof that a retailer possesses a valid Iowa sales tax permit or a statement from the retailer, taken in good faith, that the property or service which the retailer offers for sale is not subject to sales tax. “Good faith” may demand that the sponsor inquire into the nature of the property or service sold or why the retailer believes the property or services for sale to be exempt from tax. A sponsor who fails to take these measures assumes all of the liabilities of a retailer. This includes not only the obligation to pay tax, penalty, and interest, but also to keep the records required of a retailer and to file returns.

Excluded from the requirements of this rule and from sponsor liability are organizations which sponsor events fewer than three times a year and state, county, or district agricultural fairs.

This rule is intended to implement the requirements of Iowa Code section 422.52.

701—12.17(422) Purchaser liability for unpaid sales tax. For sales occurring on and after March 13, 1986, if a purchaser fails to pay sales tax to a retailer required to collect the tax, the tax is payable by the purchaser directly to the department. The general rule is that the department may proceed against either the retailer or the purchaser for the entire amount of tax which the purchaser is, initially, obligated to pay the retailer. However, see 701—subrule 15.3(2) for a situation in which the obligation to pay the tax is imposed upon the purchaser alone.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.52.

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