

CHAPTER 231  
EXEMPTIONS PRIMARILY OF BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS

Rules in this chapter include cross references to provisions in 701—Chapters 15 to 20, 21, 26, 30, 32 and 33 that were applicable prior to July 1, 2004.

**701—231.1(423) Newspapers, free newspapers and shoppers' guides.**

**231.1(1)** *In general.* The sales price from the sales of newspapers, free newspapers, and shoppers' guides is exempt from tax. The sales price from the sales of magazines, newsletters, and other periodicals which are not newspapers is taxable. Cases decided by the United States Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Iowa prohibit exempting from taxation the sale of any periodical if that exemption from taxation is based solely upon the contents of that periodical. See *Arkansas Writers' Project, Inc. v. Ragland*, 481 U.S. 221, 107 S.Ct. 1722, 95 L.Ed.2d 209 (1987) and *Hearst v. Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance*, 461 N.W.2d 295 (Iowa 1990).

**231.1(2)** *General characteristics of a newspaper.* "Newspaper" is a term with a common definition. A "newspaper" is a periodical, published at short, stated, and regular intervals, usually daily or weekly. It is printed on newsprint with news ink. The format of a newspaper is that of sheets folded loosely together without stapling. A newspaper is admitted to the U.S. mails as second-class material. Other frequent characteristics of newspapers are the following:

- a. Newspapers usually contain photographs.
- b. Information printed on newspapers is usually contained in columns on the newspaper pages.
- c. The larger the cross section of the population which reads a periodical in the area where the periodical circulates, the more likely it is that the department will consider that periodical to be a "newspaper."

**231.1(3)** *Characteristics of newspaper publishing companies.* Often, companies publishing larger newspapers will subscribe to various syndicates or wire services. A larger newspaper will employ a general editor and a number of subordinate editors as well, for example, sports and lifestyle editors; business, local, agricultural, national, and world news editors; and editorial page editors. A larger newspaper will also employ a variety of reporters and staff writers. Smaller newspapers may or may not have these characteristics or may consolidate these functions.

**231.1(4)** *Characteristics which distinguish a newsletter from a newspaper.* A "newsletter" is generally distributed to members or employees of a single organization and not usually to a large cross section of the general public. It is often published at irregular intervals by a volunteer, rather than by a paid individual who usually publishes a newspaper. A newsletter is often printed on sheets which are held together at one point only by a staple, rather than folded together.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(54).

**701—231.2(423) Motor fuel, special fuel, aviation fuels and gasoline.**

**231.2(1)** *In general.* The sales price from the sale of motor fuel, including gasohol, and special fuel is exempt from sales tax under 2005 Iowa Code section 423.3(55) if (a) the fuel is consumed for highway use, in watercraft, or in aircraft, (b) the Iowa fuel tax has been imposed and paid, and (c) no refund or credit of fuel tax has been made or will be allowed. The sales price from the sale of special fuel for diesel engines used in commercial watercraft on rivers bordering Iowa is exempt from sales tax, even though no fuel tax has been imposed and paid, providing the seller delivers the fuel to the owner's watercraft while it is afloat.

**231.2(2)** *Refunds or credits of motor fuel and special fuel.* Claims for refund or credit of fuel taxes under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 452A must be reduced by any sales or use tax owing the state unless a sales tax exemption is applicable. Generally, refund claims or credits are allowed where fuel is purchased tax-paid and used for purposes other than to propel a motor vehicle or used in watercraft.

**231.2(3)** *Refunds of tax on fuel purchased in Iowa and consumed outside of Iowa.* Even though fuel is purchased in Iowa, fuel tax is paid in Iowa, and the fuel tax is subject to refund under the provisions of division III of Iowa Code chapter 452A relating to interstate motor vehicle operations, the refund of

the fuel tax does not subject the purchase of the fuel to sales tax. Subjecting the purchase of the fuel to sales tax has the effect of imposing sales tax when fuel is consumed in interstate commerce while fuel consumed on Iowa highways in intrastate commerce is exempt from sales tax pursuant to 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(55). The effect for sales tax purposes is to impose a greater tax burden on non-Iowa highway fuel consumption than Iowa highway fuel consumption, thereby discriminating against interstate commerce. In addition, the effect of imposing sales tax on interstate excess purchases where intrastate highway use is not subject to the tax constitutes an export duty for purchasing fuel in Iowa and exporting it for use in another state. Such effects are in violation of the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. *Boston Stock Exchange v. State Tax Commission*, 1977, 429 U.S. 319, 97 S.Ct. 599, 50 L.Ed.2d 514 and *Coe v. Errol*, 1886, 116 U.S. 517, 6 S.Ct. 475, 29 L.Ed. 715.

**231.2(4) Tax base.** The basis for computing the Iowa sales tax will be the retail sales price of the fuel less any Iowa fuel tax included in such price. Federal excise tax should not be removed from the sales price in determining the proper sales tax due. *W. M. Gurley v. Army Rhoden* supra. Also reference rule 701—15.12(422,423).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsection 423.3(55).

**701—231.3(423) Sales of food and food ingredients.** On and after July 1, 2004, the sales price from all sales of food and food ingredients is exempt from tax. For the purposes of this rule, “food and food ingredients” means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value.

**231.3(1)** Most substances can easily be classified either as food, food ingredients, or nonfood items. There are, however, certain substances that are not readily distinguishable as food or nonfood and may present problems in judgment. The following guidelines apply to some of the more unique categories of eligible foods and food ingredients and ineligible nonfood items about which questions may arise. The guidelines and their lists are not to be considered all-inclusive:

*a.* Foods eligible for purchase with food coupons. Sales of almost all substances which may be purchased with food coupons issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under the regulations in effect on July 1, 1974, remain exempt from tax on and after July 1, 2004. However, since the exemption no longer depends on ability to be purchased with food stamps (reference 701—subrule 20.1(1)), sales of certain substances which can be purchased with food stamps but are neither food nor food ingredients are taxable on and after July 1, 2004.

These taxable sales include garden seeds and plants sold for use in gardens to produce food for human consumption. Seeds and plants eligible for purchase with food coupons include vegetable seeds and food-producing plants such as tomato and green pepper plants and fruit trees, food-producing roots, bushes, and bulbs (e.g., asparagus roots and onion sets) and seeds and plants used to produce spices for use in cooking foods. Sales of all these substances are taxable. Sales of chewing gum are taxable as sales of “candy” on and after July 1, 2004.

*b.* Distilled water and ice. These substances, although having some nonfood uses, are largely used as food or as ingredients in food for human consumption. Unless these substances are specifically labeled for nonfood use or the recipient indicates that they will be used for some purpose other than as food for human consumption or as ingredients in food for human consumption, their sales are exempt from tax.

*c.* Specialty foods. This category of eligible foods includes special dietary foods (e.g., diabetic and dietetic), enriched or fortified foods, infant formulas, and certain foods commonly referred to as health food items. These substances are food products which are substituted for more commonly used food items in the diet, and thus they are purchased for ingestion by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value. Examples of items in this category of eligible foods are Metrecal, Enfamil, Sustegen, wheat germ, brewer’s yeast, sunflower seeds which are packaged for human consumption, and rose hips powder which is used for preparing tea. It is not possible to formulate a comprehensive list of eligible specialty foods. The guideline to be used to determine the eligibility of a specific product is the ordinary use of the product.

NOTE: If the product is primarily used as a food or as an ingredient in food, then it is an eligible item; if it is primarily used for medicinal purposes as either a therapeutic agent or a deficiency corrector and only occasionally used as a food, the product is not an eligible item.

*d.* Snack foods. These substances are food items and, therefore, are usually eligible for the exemption. Typical examples of snack foods are cheese puffs; corn chips; popcorn; peanuts; potato chips and sticks; packaged cookies, cupcakes, and donuts; and pretzels. Alcoholic beverages, candy, and soft drinks are examples of snack foods the sales of which are not exempt from tax; see subrule 231.3(2).

*e.* Others. There are certain eligible food substances which are normally consumed only after being incorporated into foods sold for ingestion or chewing by humans. Sales of substances which are ingredients of items identical to those which are eligible for exemption when sold as finished products are sales eligible for exemption. Since these substances are food ingredients, their sales are exempt. An example is pectin. Pectin is the generic term for products marketed under various brand names and commonly used as a base in making jams and jellies. When pectin is incorporated into jams or jellies, it becomes part of a food for human consumption and, therefore, is an eligible food item. Other examples are lard and vegetable oils.

*f.* The following general classifications of food products are also exempt from tax unless taxable as prepared food; see rule 701—231.5(423):

Bread and flour products

Bottled water, unless it is a sweetened bottled water and thus taxable as a soft drink (a change from previous law; reference 701—subparagraph 20.1(3) “b”(1))

Cereal and cereal products

Cocoa and cocoa products, unless taxable in the form of candy as in rule 701—231.4(423)

Coffee and coffee substitutes, unless taxable as soft drinks; see paragraph 231.3(2) “f”

Dietary substitutes, other than dietary supplements; see paragraphs 231.3(1) “c” and 231.3(2) “a”

Eggs and egg products

Fish and fish products

Frozen foods

Fruits and fruit products including fruit juices, unless taxable as soft drinks; see paragraph 231.3(2) “f”

Margarine, butter, and shortening

Meat and meat products

Milk and milk products, including packaged ice cream products

Milk substitutes, such as soy and rice milk substitutes (a change from previous law; reference 701—subparagraph 20.1(3) “b”(2))

Spices, condiments, extracts, and artificial food coloring

Sugar and sugar products and substitutes, unless taxable in the form of candy as in rule 701—231.4(423)

Tea, unless taxable as a soft drink; see paragraph 231.3(2) “f”

Vegetables and vegetable products

**231.3(2)** Substances excluded from the term “food and food ingredients.” Sales of alcoholic beverages, candy, dietary supplements, food sold through vending machines, prepared food, soft drinks, and tobacco are not sales of “food” and are not exempt from tax by this rule.

*a.* “Alcoholic beverages” means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one-half of 1 percent or more of alcohol by volume.

*b.* “Candy.” See rule 701—231.4(423).

*c.* “Dietary supplement” means any product, other than tobacco, intended to supplement the diet that contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients:

- (1) A vitamin.
- (2) A mineral.
- (3) An herb or other botanical.
- (4) An amino acid.

(5) A dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake.

(6) A concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any of the ingredients in subparagraphs (1) through (5) that is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the “supplement facts” box found on the label and as required pursuant to 21 Code of Federal Regulations 101.36.

Dietary supplements, as their name indicates, serve as supplements to food or food products rather than as “food,” and, therefore, are not included within the definition of that word. Since these substances serve as deficiency correctors or therapeutic agents to supplement diets deficient in essential nutrition rather than as foods, they are not eligible for the food and food ingredients exemption. In addition to vitamin and mineral tablets or capsules, this category includes substances such as cod liver oil, which is used primarily as a source of vitamins A and D. It is not possible to provide a comprehensive list of other such items which are primarily used for medicinal purposes or as health aids and which may be stocked by authorized firms.

*d.* “Food sold through vending machines” means food dispensed from a machine or other mechanical device that accepts payment, other than food which would be qualified for exemption if purchased with coupons (commonly known as “food stamps”) issued under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, 7 United States Code 2011 et seq. Alcoholic beverages, candy, dietary supplements, prepared food, soft drinks, and tobacco sold through vending machines are sold subject to tax in all instances because they are specifically excluded from this rule’s definition of “foods”; see subrule 231.3(2) generally. This paragraph “*d*” should be interpreted in such a fashion that if the sale of a substance is exempt from tax because it is a sale of “food” when the substance is sold by means other than a vending machine, then the sale of that same substance through a vending machine will also be exempt from tax. Conversely, if the sale of a substance by any means other than through a vending machine is taxable, then the sale of that same substance through a vending machine will also be taxable.

*e.* “Prepared food.” See rule 701—231.5(423).

*f.* “Soft drinks” means nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. Soft drinks may be noncarbonated. “Soft drinks” does not include beverages that contain milk or milk products; soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes; coffee and tea which are not sweetened; effervescent, noneffervescent, and mineral water sold in containers; beverages that contain greater than 50 percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume. This latter is a change from the law as it existed prior to July 1, 2004, which required a volume of only 15 percent for exemption.

Taxable soft drinks are noncarbonated water and soda water if naturally or artificially sweetened; soft drinks carbonated and noncarbonated including but not limited to colas, ginger ale, near beer, and root beer; bottled and sweetened tea and coffee; lemonade, orangeade, and all other drinks or punches with natural fruit or vegetable juice less than 50 percent by volume.

Beverage mixes and ingredients intended to be made into soft drinks are taxable. Beverage mixes or ingredients may be liquid or frozen, concentrated or nonconcentrated, dehydrated, powdered, granulated, sweetened or unsweetened, seasoned or unseasoned. Sales of beverage mixes to which a sweetener is to be added before drinking are taxable. Concentrates intended to be made into beverages which contain natural fruit or vegetable juice of less than 50 percent by volume are taxable.

Beverages, the sales of which are otherwise exempt, are taxable if sold as prepared food under rule 701—231.5(423).

Nondairy coffee “creamers” in liquid, frozen or powdered form are not beverages. Sugar or other artificial or natural sweeteners sold separately are not taxable as beverage ingredients. Specialty foods that are liquids or that are to be added to a liquid and that are intended to be a substitute in the diet for more commonly used food items are not beverages and are not taxable as beverages. These foods include infant formula.

*g.* “Tobacco” means cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other item that contains tobacco.

**231.3(3)** Other substances which are not food or food ingredients. Various products are not purchased for ingestion or chewing by humans or, if they are, are not consumed for their taste or nutritional value. Therefore, they are not purchased exempt from tax under this rule. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

*a. Health aids.* Over-the-counter medicines and other products used primarily as health aids or therapeutic agents are not foods since they are consumed for their medicinal value as opposed to their nutritional value or taste. Such products include aspirin, cough drops or syrups and other cold remedies, antacids, and all over-the-counter medicines or other products used as health aids. In addition to these commonly used health aids, any product used primarily for medicinal purposes is ineligible. An example of such products is slippery elm powder, a demulcent which is used to soothe sore throats.

*b. Items not exempt.* The following general classifications of products are subject to tax:

Cosmetics

Household supplies

Paper products

Pet foods and supplies

Soaps and detergents

Tobacco products

Toiletry articles

Tonics

Lunch counter foods or foods prepared for consumption on the premises of the retailer

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code subsection 423.3(56).

#### **701—231.4(423) Sales of candy.**

**231.4(1) Definition.** Sales of candy were excluded from exemption prior to July 1, 2004; however, the definition of “candy” applicable to the exclusion was slightly different from the definition set out in this rule. Reference rule 701—21.1(422,423). For the purposes of this rule, “candy” means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. Candy shall not include any preparation containing flour and shall require no refrigeration. Any preparation to which flour has been added only for the purpose of excluding its sales from tax and not for any legitimate purpose, culinary or otherwise, shall not be sold exempt from tax under this rule.

**231.4(2) Candy, candy-coated items and candy products.** Candy-coated items and candy products include those products normally considered to be “candy.” Their sales were taxable prior to July 1, 2004, and remain taxable after that date.

*a. Candy.* Candy is a prepared food made of a sugar paste or syrup or other natural or artificial sweeteners often enriched and varied with coloring and flavoring and formed into various shapes.

*b. Candy-coated items.* Candy-coated items are products like fruit or nuts which are dipped or otherwise substantially covered with candy and which would normally be considered candy and which are “candy” under the definition set out in subrule 231.4(1).

*c. Candy products.* Candy products include mixtures containing both candy and noncandy items. The inclusion of candy merely as an incidental ingredient in a product does not make the item a candy product.

*d. Taxable candy, candy-coated items, and candy products.* Candy, candy-coated items, and candy products include: preparation of fruits, nuts or other ingredients in combination with sugar, honey or other natural or artificial sweeteners in the form of bars, drops or pieces; hard or soft candies including jelly beans, taffy, licorice, and mints; dried fruit leathers or other similar products prepared with natural or artificial sweeteners; cotton candy; candy breath mints; chewing gum; and mixes of candy pieces, dried fruits, nuts, and similar items.

Sales of items which are normally sold for use as ingredients in recipes but which can be eaten as candy are taxable on and after July 1, 2004. Examples of these items include but are not limited to the following: white, milk, and German chocolate baking squares; unsweetened or sweetened baking chocolate in bars or pieces; white and dark chocolate almond bark; toffee bits; M&M’s sold for

baking; candy primarily intended for decorating baked goods; and the following baking chips: mint, mint-chocolate, peanut butter, peanut butter and chocolate, butterscotch, chocolate, and butterscotch and chocolate.

*e. Nontaxable items and products.* Candy, candy-coated items, or candy products do not include: jams, jellies, preserves, or syrups; frostings; dried fruits; marshmallows; breakfast cereals; prepared fruit in a sugar or similar base; ice cream or other frozen desserts covered with chocolate or similar coverings; caramel-coated or other candy-coated apples or other fruit; candy-coated popcorn; cakes, cookies, and similar products covered with chocolate or other similar coating; and granola bars. However, these and similar items are taxable if sold as prepared food under rule 701—231.5(423).

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(56).

**701—231.5(423) Sales of prepared food.** On and after July 1, 2004, sales of “prepared food” are subject to tax as such sales were taxable prior to that date. However, before and after that date, the definitions of “prepared food” differ slightly. Reference rule 701—20.5(423) for a description of the taxation of “prepared food” prior to July 1, 2004.

**231.5(1) Prepared food.**

*a.* On and after July 1, 2004, “prepared food” means any of the following:

- (1) (1) Food sold in a heated state or heated by the seller, including food sold by a caterer.
- (2) Two or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item.
- (3) Food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws. A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport food.

The types of retailers who are generally considered to be offering prepared food for sale include restaurants, coffee shops, cafeterias, convenience stores, snack shops, and concession stands including those at recreation and entertainment facilities. Other retailers that often offer prepared food include vending machine retailers, mobile vendors, and concessionaires operating facilities for such activities as education, office work, or manufacturing.

If food is sold for consumption on the premises of a retailer, the food is rebuttably presumed to be prepared food. “Premises of a retailer” means the total space and facilities under control of the retailer or available to the retailer, including buildings, grounds, and parking lots that are made available or that are available for use by the retailer, for the purpose of sale of prepared food and drink or for the purpose of consumption of prepared food and drink sold by the retailer. Availability of self-service heating or other preparation facilities or eating facilities such as tables and chairs and knives, forks, and spoons, indicates that food, food products, and drinks are sold for consumption on the premises of the retailer and are subject to tax as sales of prepared food.

The following examples are intended to show some of the situations in which sales are taxable as sales of prepared food and drink.

EXAMPLE A. A movie theater owner operates a movie theater and a concession stand in the lobby of the theater. There is not a separate area set aside for eating facilities. Sales of prepared food and drink through the concession stand are taxable.

EXAMPLE B. As a convenience to employees, a manufacturer owns and operates several food and drink vending machines located on the premises of the plant. No separate seating or other facilities for eating are provided. Sales of prepared food and drink through the vending machines are taxable.

EXAMPLE C. Mobile vendor units located throughout an office are operated by the owner of the business and are stocked with snack food priced to cover the cost of the items to the employer. No separate eating facilities are provided. Sales of prepared food through the mobile vendors are taxable.

EXAMPLE D. An insurance company hires a caterer to run a cafeteria which provides food, at a low cost, to its employees. The insurance company also pays the caterer an amount, per month, which varies with the number of meals the caterer serves to provide this food service. The caterer does not lease the cafeteria premises; thus the premises remains under the control of the insurance company. In this case, the caterer sells the food in a space made “available to the retailer [caterer],” and the amount which the

insurance company pays, on a monthly basis, to the caterer is presumed to be the taxable sales price from the sale of prepared food, as well as the amount paid by the employees to the caterer.

*b.* “Prepared food,” for the purposes of this rule, does not include food that is any of the following:

(1) Only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller.

(2) Eggs, fish, meat, poultry, and foods containing these raw animal foods requiring cooking by the consumer as recommended by the United States Food and Drug Administration in Chapter 3, Part 401.11 of its Food Code, so as to prevent food-borne illnesses.

(3) Bakery items sold by the seller that baked them. The term “bakery items” includes but is not limited to breads, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, Danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, and tortillas. On and after July 1, 2004, baked goods sold for consumption on the premises by the seller that baked them are sold exempt from tax. This is a change from previous law; reference 701—subrule 20.5(2), Example D.

(4) Food sold in an unheated state as a single item without eating utensils provided by the seller which is priced by weight or volume.

**231.5(2) Examples.** The following are additional examples of foods that either are or are not “prepared foods,” the sales price of which is taxable.

EXAMPLE A: A supermarket retailer cuts Bibb and romaine lettuce, mixes them together, and places them in a bag for sale. This is food which is only cut and repackaged. Its sale is not the sale of prepared food; thus its sale is exempt from tax.

EXAMPLE B: The same factual situation as Example A above applies, except that the lettuce is mixed with a salad dressing, placed in a container, and sold as a salad which is ready to eat. Sale of the salad is a taxable sale of “prepared food.”

EXAMPLE C: A supermarket retailer slices a roll of cotto salami and a roll of regular salami. The retailer places ten slices of each in the same container and sells the combination as an Italian luncheon meat variety pack. This is, again, the sale of food which is only cut and repackaged. The sale of the salami is exempt from tax.

EXAMPLE D: The same factual circumstances as in Example C apply, except that the retailer takes the sliced salami, places it between two slices of bread, adds some condiments, surrounds the meat, bread, and condiments with plastic, and sells the result as a ready-to-eat sandwich. This is prepared food, “two or more food ingredients . . . combined by the seller for sale as a single item,” and more is done to the ingredients than cutting and repackaging. Sales of the sandwiches are taxable.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(56).

**701—231.6(423) Prescription drugs, medical devices, oxygen, and insulin.** Sales of prescription drugs and medical devices as defined in subrule 231.6(1) and dispensed for human use or consumption in accordance with subrules 231.6(3) and 231.6(4) shall be exempt from sales tax. Rentals of medical devices as defined in subrule 231.6(1) are also exempt from tax. The sales price from the sales of any oxygen or insulin purchased for human use or consumption (whether or not the oxygen or insulin is prescribed) is exempt from tax.

**231.6(1) Definitions.**

“*Medical device*” means durable medical equipment or mobility enhancing equipment intended to be prescribed by a practitioner for human use. See rule 701—231.8(423) for definitions of those terms.

“*Prescription drug*” means a drug intended to be dispensed to an ultimate user pursuant to a prescription drug order, formula, or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner, or oxygen or insulin dispensed for human consumption with or without a prescription drug order or medication order.

“*Ultimate user*” means any individual who has lawfully obtained and possesses a prescription drug or medical device for the individual’s own use or for the use of a member of the individual’s household, or an individual to whom a prescription drug or medical device has been lawfully supplied, administered, dispensed or prescribed. The phrase does not include any entity created by law, such as a corporation or partnership.

**231.6(2) Tax exemption.** The sale of a prescription drug is exempt from tax only if the drug is intended to be prescribed or dispensed to an ultimate user. A drug is intended to be prescribed or dispensed to an ultimate user only if the drug is obtained by or supplied or administered to an ultimate user for placement on or in the ultimate user's body.

EXAMPLE A: A physician prescribes a tranquilizer for a patient who is chronically nervous. The patient uses the prescription to purchase the tranquilizer at a pharmacy. The purchase is exempt from tax.

For purposes of this subrule, any drug prescribed in writing by a licensed physician, surgeon, osteopath, osteopathic physician or surgeon, or other person authorized by law to an ultimate user for human use or consumption shall be deemed a drug exempt from tax if a prescription is required or permitted under Iowa state or federal law.

EXAMPLE B: A common painkiller is sold over the counter in doses of 200 milligrams per tablet. In doses of 600 milligrams per tablet, federal law requires a prescription before the drug can be dispensed. Sales of 600 milligram tablets by prescription are exempt from tax.

EXAMPLE C: A federal law permits but does not require the painkiller mentioned in Example B to be prescribed by a practitioner in dosages of 200 milligrams per tablet. A practitioner might prescribe the painkiller in the over-the-counter dosage, for example, to impress upon a patient the importance of taking the drug. Sales of 200 milligram tablets by prescription are exempt from tax.

See rules 701—231.7(423) and 701—231.8(423) for examples of medical devices sold without a prescription but exempt from tax.

**231.6(3) Persons authorized to dispense prescription drugs or prescription devices.** In order for a prescription drug or device to qualify for an exemption, it must be dispensed by one of the following persons:

- a. Any store or other place of business where prescription drugs are compounded, dispensed or sold by a person holding a license to practice pharmacy in Iowa, and where prescription orders for prescription drugs or devices are received or processed in accordance with pharmacy laws.
- b. Persons licensed by the state board of medical examiners to practice medicine or surgery in Iowa.
- c. Persons licensed by the state board of medical examiners to practice osteopathic medicine or surgery in Iowa.
- d. Persons licensed by the state board of podiatry examiners to engage in the practice of podiatry in Iowa.
- e. Persons licensed by the state board of dental examiners to practice dentistry in Iowa.
- f. Persons licensed by the state board of optometry examiners as therapeutically certified optometrists.
- g. Persons licensed by the state board of chiropractic examiners to practice chiropractic in Iowa, when dispensing in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 151.
- h. Persons licensed as advanced registered nurse practitioners by the board of nursing when prescribing and dispensing in accordance with Iowa Code subsection 147.107(8).
- i. Any other person authorized under Iowa law to dispense prescription drugs or devices in this state.
- j. Any person licensed in another state in a health field in which, under Iowa law, licensees in this state may legally prescribe drugs or devices.

**231.6(4) Disposition of prescription drugs and devices.** Prescription drugs or devices may be dispensed either directly from one of the persons licensed in 231.6(3) who may also prescribe drugs or devices or by a pharmacist upon receipt of a prescription from one of the persons licensed to prescribe. A prescription received by a licensed pharmacist from one of the persons licensed in 231.6(3) who may also prescribe drugs or devices shall be sufficient evidence that a drug or device is exempt from sales tax. When a person who prescribes a drug or device is also the dispenser, the drug or device will not require a prescription by such person, but the drug or device must be recorded as if a prescription would have been issued or required. If this condition is met, the sales price from the sale of the drug or device shall be exempt from sales tax.



**231.6(5) Others required to collect sales tax.** Any person other than those who are allowed to dispense drugs or devices under 231.6(3) shall be required to collect sales tax on any prescription drugs or devices.

**231.6(6) Prescription drugs and devices purchased by hospitals for resale.** This subrule applies to for-profit hospitals only. Hospitals have purchased prescription drugs or devices for resale to patients and not for use or consumption in providing hospital services only if the following circumstances exist: (a) the drug or device is actually transferred to the patient; (b) the drug or device is transferred in a form or quantity capable of a fixed or definite price value; (c) the hospital and the patient intend the transfer to be a sale; and (d) the sale is evidenced in the patient's bill by a separate charge for the identifiable drug or device. Reference rule 701—18.31(422,423) for a discussion generally of sales for resale by persons performing a service. Also reference rule 701—18.59(422,423) for the exemption applicable to all purchases of goods and services by a nonprofit hospital licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135B.

EXAMPLE A: A hospital purchases a bone saw blade and uses the blade to cut the bone of patient X during hip replacement surgery. This dulls the blade to the point that the blade cannot be used again and is discarded. The hospital bills patient X for "one bone saw blade—\$30." In spite of the separate charge for an identifiable piece of property, the hospital did not purchase the bone saw blade for resale. The blade was used up by the hospital, not transferred to the ownership of X. Since there was no transfer, there was no sale, thus no purchase for resale.

EXAMPLE B: A hospital buys lotion for use in massages given to patients by a nurse's aide. In spite of the fact that one can argue that a transfer of ownership of the lotion from hospital to patient occurred, the lotion was not purchased for resale. No real intent to sell the lotion to patients ever existed; the lotion was not transferred to patients in a quantity capable of a definite price value; and there is no separate charge for the lotion.

A hospital's purchase of a prescription drug for purposes other than resale will still be exempt from tax if a drug is intended to be prescribed to an ultimate user and the hospital's use of the drug is otherwise exempt under 231.6(1).

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code Supplement subsection 423.3(60).

**701—231.7(423) Exempt sales of other medical devices which are not prosthetic devices.** A prescription is not required for sales of the medical devices listed in subrule 231.7(1) to be exempt from tax if those devices are purchased for human use or consumption.

**231.7(1) Definitions.**

"*Anesthesia trays*" includes, without limit, paracervical anesthesia trays, saddle block anesthesia trays, spinal anesthesia trays, and continuous epidural anesthesia trays.

"*Biopsy*" means the removal and examination of tissue from a living body, performed to establish a precise diagnosis.

"*Biopsy needles*" includes, without limit, needles used to perform liver, kidney, other soft tissue, bone, and bone marrow biopsies. Menghini technique aspirating needles, Rosenthal-type needles, and "J" Jamshidi needles are all examples of biopsy needles.

"*Cannula*" means a tube inserted into a body duct or cavity to drain fluid, insert medication including oxygen, or to open an air passage. Examples are lariat nasal cannulas and ableson cricothyrotomy cannulas.

"*Catheter*" means a tubular, flexible, surgical instrument used to withdraw fluids from or introduce fluids into a body cavity, or for making examinations. Examples are: Robinson/nelation catheters, all types of Foley catheters (e.g., pediatric and irrigating), three-way catheters, suction catheters, IV catheters, angiocath catheters and male and female catheters.

"*Catheter trays*." Universal Foley catheter trays, economy Foley trays, urethral catheterization trays and catheter trays with domed covers are nonexclusive examples of these trays.

"*Diabetic testing materials*" means all materials used in testing for sugar or acetone in the urine, including, but not limited to, Clinitest, Tes-tape, and Clinistix; also, all materials used in monitoring the glucose level in the blood, including, but not limited to, bloodletting supplies and test strips.

“*Drug infusion device*” means a device designed for the slow introduction of a drug solution into the human body. The term includes devices which infuse by means of pumps or gravity flow (drip infusion).

“*Fistula*” means an abnormal passage usually between the internal organs or between an internal organ and the surface of the body.

“*Hypodermic syringe*” means an instrument for applying or administering liquid into any vessel or cavity beneath the skin. This includes the needle portion of the syringe if it accompanies the syringe at the time of purchase, and it also includes replacement needles.

“*Insulin*” means a preparation of the active principle of the pancreas, used therapeutically in diabetes and sometimes in other conditions.

“*Kit*” means a combination of medical equipment and supplies used to perform one particular medical procedure which is packaged and sold as a single item.

“*Myelogram*” means a radiographic picture of the spinal cord. A “radiographic picture” is one taken using radiation other than visible light.

“*Nebulizer*” means a mechanical device which converts a liquid to a spray or fog.

“*Other medical device,*” for the purposes of this rule, means medical equipment or supplies intended to be dispensed for human use with or without a prescription to an ultimate user.

“*Oxygen equipment*” means all equipment used to deliver medicinal oxygen including, but not limited to, face masks, humidifiers, cannulas, tubing, mouthpieces, tracheotomy masks or collars, regulators, oxygen concentrators and oxygen accessory racks or stands.

“*Set.*” See “kit” above.

“*Tray.*” See “kit” above.

**231.7(2)** Sales of the following other medical devices are exempt from tax:

- a. Sales of insulin, hypodermic syringes, and diabetic testing materials.
- b. Sales and rentals of oxygen equipment.
- c. Sales of hypodermic needles, anesthesia trays, biopsy trays and needles, cannula systems, catheter trays, invasive catheters, dialyzers, drug infusion devices, fistula sets, hemodialysis devices, insulin infusion devices, irrigation solutions, intravenous administering sets, solutions and stopcocks, myelogram trays, nebulizers, small vein infusion kits, spinal puncture trays, transfusion sets and venous blood sets, all of which are not taxable.

**231.7(3)** Component parts. Sales of any component parts of the trays, systems, devices, sets, or kits listed above are taxable unless the sale of a component part, standing alone, is otherwise exempt under these rules. For instance, the sale of a biopsy needle or an invasive catheter will be exempt from tax whether or not it was purchased for use as a component part in a biopsy tray or catheter tray, so long as the needle or catheter will be dispensed for human use to an ultimate user. Conversely, sales of catheter introducers, disposable latex gloves, rayon balls, forceps, and specimen bottles are exempt when those items are sold as part of a catheter tray, but are not exempt when those items are sold individually.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code Supplement subsection 423.3(60).

### **701—231.8(423) Prosthetic devices, durable medical equipment, and mobility enhancing equipment.**

**231.8(1)** *Prosthetic devices.* Sales or rental of prosthetic devices shall be exempt from sales tax.

**231.8(2)** *Durable medical equipment and mobility enhancing equipment.* Sales or rental of durable medical equipment and mobility enhancing equipment prescribed for human use which meet the provisions of subrules 231.8(3) and 231.8(4) shall be exempt from sales tax. “Prescribed” refers to a prescription issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission by any of the persons described in paragraphs “a” through “j” of subrule 231.6(3).

**231.8(3)** *Definitions.*

a. “*Durable medical equipment*” means equipment, including repair and replacement parts, but does not include mobility enhancing equipment, to which all of the following apply:

1. Can withstand repeated use.
2. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose.
3. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury.

4. Is not worn in or on the body.

5. Is for home use only.

6. Is prescribed by a practitioner.

*b. "Mobility enhancing equipment"* means equipment, including repair and replacement parts, but does not include durable medical equipment, to which all of the following apply:

1. Is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the ability to move from one place to another and which is appropriate for use either in a home or a motor vehicle.

2. Is not generally used by persons with normal mobility.

3. Does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer.

4. Is prescribed by a practitioner.

*c. "Prosthetic device"* means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device including repair and replacement parts for the same worn on or in the body to do any of the following:

1. Artificially replace a missing portion of the body.

2. Prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction.

3. Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

The term "prosthetic device" includes, but is not limited to, orthopedic or orthotic devices, ostomy equipment, urological equipment, tracheostomy equipment, and intraocular lenses.

The following is a nonexclusive list of prosthetic devices:

Artificial arteries	Drainage bags	Prescription eyeglasses
Artificial breasts	Hearing aids	Stoma bags
Artificial ears	Ileostomy devices	Tracheal suction catheters
Artificial eyes	Intraocular lenses	Tracheostomy care and cleaning starter kits
Artificial heart valves	Karaya paste	Tracheostomy cleaning brushes
Artificial implants	Karaya seals	Tracheostomy tubes
Artificial larynx	Organ implants	Urinary catheters
Artificial limbs	Ostomy belts	Urinary drainage bags
Artificial noses	Ostomy clamps	Urinary irrigation tubing
Artificial teeth	Ostomy cleaners and deodorizers	Urinary pouches
Cardiac pacemakers	Ostomy pouches	
Contact lenses	Ostomy stoma caps and paste	
Cosmetic gloves	Penile implants	
Dental bridges and implants		

*d. "Orthotic device"* means a piece of special equipment designed to straighten a deformed or distorted part of the human body, such as corrective shoes or braces. An orthotic device is an orthopedic device.

*e. "Orthopedic device"* means a piece of special equipment designed to correct deformities or to preserve and restore the function of the human skeletal system, its articulations and associated structures. A hot tub or spa is not an orthopedic device.

The following is a nonexclusive list of orthopedic devices:

Abdominal belts	Clavicle splints	Nerve stimulators
Alternating pressure mattresses	Corrective braces	Orthopedic implants
Alternating pressure pads	Corrective shoes	Orthopedic shoes
Anti-embolism stockings	Crutch cushions	Patient lifts
Arch supports	Crutch handgrips	Plaster (surgical)
Arm slings	Crutch tips	Rib belts
Artificial sheepskin	Crutches	Rupture belts

Bone cement	Decubitus prevention devices	Sacroiliac supports
Bone nails	Dorsolumbar belts	Sacrolumbar belts
Bone pins	Dorsolumbar supports	Sacrolumbar supports
Bone plates	Elastic bandages	Shoulder immobilizers
Bone screws	Elastic supports	Space shoes
Bone wax	Exercise devices	Splints
Braces	Head halters	Traction equipment
Canes	Hernia belts	Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulators (tens units)
Casts	Iliac belts	Trapezes
Cast heels	Invalid rings	Trusses
Cervical braces	Knee immobilizers	Walkers
Cervical collars	Lumbosacral supports	Wheelchairs
Cervical pillows	Muscle stimulators	

*f. “Related devices.”* Sales or rental of devices which are used exclusively in conjunction with prosthetic, orthotic, or orthopedic devices shall be exempt from tax. *Daw Industries, Inc. v. United States*, 714 F.2d 1140 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

*g. “Medical equipment and supplies.”* The scope of the term “medical equipment and supplies” is broader than the terms “prescription drugs” or “medical devices.” While all exempt prescription drugs are medical supplies and all exempt medical devices are medical equipment, not all medical equipment and supplies are exempt medical devices or prescription drugs. The following is a nonexclusive list of items which are medical equipment or supplies, but are not prescription drugs or medical devices exempt from tax under subrules 231.6(1), 231.8(1), and 231.8(2) and rule 701—231.7(423). Sales of the following items are generally taxable.

Adhesive bandages	Contact lens solution	Hot water bottles
Aneurysm clips	Convuluted pads	Ice bags
Arterial bloodsets	Corrective pessaries	Ident-a-bands
Aspirators	Cotton balls	Incontinent garments
Athletic supporters	Diagnostic kits	Incubators
Atomizers	Dialysis chairs	Infrared lamps
Autolit	Dialysis supplies	Inhalators
Back cushions	Dietetic scales	Iron lungs
Bathing aids	Disposable diapers	Irrigation apparatus
Bathing caps	Disposable gloves	IV connectors
Bedpans	Disposable underpads	Laminar flow equipment
Bedside rails	Donor chairs	Latex gloves
Bedside tables	Dressings	Leukopheresis pumps
Bedside trays	Dry aid kits for ears	Lymphedema pumps
Bedwetting prevention devices	EKG paper	Manometer trays
Belt vibrators	Ear molds	Massagers
Blood cell washing equipment	Electrodes (other than tens units)	Maternity belts
Blood pack holders	Emesis basins	Medigrade tubing
Blood pack trays	Enema units	Modulung oxygenators
Blood pack units	First-aid kits	Moist heat pads
Blood pressure meters	Foam slant pillows	Myringotomy tubes
Blood processing supplies	Gauze bandages	Nebulizers (hypodermic)

Blood tubing	Gauze packings	Overbed tables
Blood warmers	Gavage containers	Page turning devices
Breast pumps	Geriatric chairs	Pap smear kits
Breathing machines	Grooming aids	Paraffin baths
Cardiac electrodes	Hand sealers	Physicians' instruments
Cardiopulmonary equipment	Hearing aid carriers	Pigskin
Chair lifts	Hearing aid repair kits	Plasma extractors
Clamps	Heart stimulators	Plasma pheresis units
Clip-on ashtrays	Heat lamps	Plastic heat sealers
Commode chairs	Heat pads	Prescribed device repair kits and batteries
Connectors	Hemolators	Respirators
Contact lens cases	Hospital beds	Resuscitators
Sauna baths	Steri-peel	Transfer boards
Security pouches	Stools	Tube sealers
Servipak dialysis supplies	Suction equipment	Underpads
Shelf trays	Sunlamps	Urinals
Shower chairs	Surgical bandages	Vacutainers
Side rails	Surgical equipment	Vacuum units
Sitz bath kit	Suspensories	Vaporizers
Specimen containers	Sutures	Vibrators
Sponges (surgical)	Thermometers	Whirlpools
Stairway elevators	Toilet aids	X-ray film
Staples	Tourniquets	

**231.8(4) Power devices.** Sales or rental of power devices especially designed to operate prosthetic, orthotic or orthopedic devices shall be exempt from tax. This exemption does not include batteries which can be used to operate a number of devices, but batteries designed solely for use in hearing aids are exempt.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code Supplement subsection 423.3(60).

**701—231.9(423) Raffles.** The sales price from the sale of tickets for a raffle conducted at a fair pursuant to Iowa Code section 99B.5 is not subject to tax.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(61).

**701—231.10(423) Exempt sales of prizes.** The sales price from sales of tangible personal property which will be given as prizes to players in games of skill, games of chance, raffles, and bingo games as defined in and lawful under Iowa Code chapter 99B is exempt from tax. See department of inspections and appeals' 481—Chapters 100 through 106, Iowa Administrative Code, for a description of the games of skill, games of chance, raffles, and bingo games which are lawful. See rule 481—100.6(99B) for a description of the prizes which may be lawfully awarded. A gift certificate is not tangible personal property. If a person wins a gift certificate as a prize and then redeems the gift certificate for merchandise, tax is payable at the time the gift certificate is redeemed. Reference 701—15.16(422,423).

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(62).

**701—231.11(423) Modular homes.** Forty percent of the sales price from the sale of a modular home is exempt from tax. A "modular home" is any structure built in a factory, made to be used as a place for

human habitation, which cannot be attached or towed behind a motor vehicle and which does not have permanently attached to its body or frame any wheels or axles.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(63).

**701—231.12(423) Access to on-line computer service.** The sales price from charges paid to a provider for access to an on-line computer service is exempt from tax. An “on-line computer service” is one which provides for or enables multiple users to have computer access to the Internet. Also, the furnishing of any contracted on-line service is exempt from Iowa tax if the information is made available through a computer server. The exemption applies to all contracted on-line services, as long as they provide access to information through a computer server.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(64).

**701—231.13(423) Sale or rental of information services.** The sales price from the service of the sale or rental of information services is exempt from tax. This exemption does not repeal by implication the tax on the performance of the services of investment counseling, service charges of all financial institutions, private employment agencies, test laboratories, detective services, or any other services enumerated by statute. Those services remain taxable; reference 701—Chapter 26 generally.

“Information services” means every business activity, process, or function by which a seller or its agent accumulates, prepares, organizes, or conveys data, facts, knowledge, procedures, and like services to a particular buyer (or its agent) of the information through any tangible or intangible medium. Information accumulated, prepared, or organized for a particular buyer, its agent, a group of buyers, or their agent is an information service even though it may incorporate preexisting components of data or other information.

Information services include, but are not limited to, database files, mailing lists, subscription files, market research, credit reports, surveys, real estate listings, bond rating reports, abstracts of title, bad check lists, broadcasting rating services, wire services, scouting reports, white and yellow page listings, and other similar items of compiled information prepared for a particular customer. The furnishing of artwork (including musical compositions and films), drawings, illustrations, or other graphic material is not the performance of an “information service”; nor does the term include information prepared for general dissemination to the public in the form of books, magazines, newsletters, videotapes or audiotapes, compact discs, or any other medium commonly used to communicate with large numbers of customers. The sale of a book, magazine, or similar item is not the sale of an information service, even if the item contains material of practical use (e.g., in conducting a private, for-profit business) to its purchaser.

The following specific examples illustrate the general principles set out above.

**EXAMPLE A.** John Doe buys a packaged set of preprinted documents and instructions which anyone may purchase and which is entitled “Legal Eagle.” Mr. Doe prepares his own will by reading the instructions, making choices and filling in the blanks on the preprinted documents. Mr. Doe has purchased tangible personal property and not an information service. His purchase is taxable.

**EXAMPLE B.** A taxpayer buys a book entitled “Doing Your Own Iowa Individual Income Tax,” which is written by an accountant and is available to any buyer. The taxpayer uses the book to prepare her own IA 1040. Since her purchase contains information prepared for general dissemination to the public in the form of a book, that purchase is a taxable sale of tangible personal property and not an exempt sale of an information service.

**EXAMPLE C.** The seller provides, for a fee, a weekly bulletin listing information on real estate of use to brokers selling homes in a certain Iowa county. The seller secures the information from a multiple listing service without applying any independent thought during the compiling of that information. The bulletin is useful only to those brokers and not to the general public. Since the bulletin is a “real estate listing” and has been prepared for a particular group of customers and not for the general public, its sale is the sale of an information service rather than the sale of tangible personal property and is thus exempt from tax.

EXAMPLE D. A-1 Corporation sells gourmet meats through the mail. A-1 rents its list of customers to whom it mails its catalog to other retailers that specialize in sales of goods or services to the wealthy. Since the list is a “mailing list” and made available only to a particular group of buyers, its rental is the performance of an exempt information service and not the taxable rental of tangible personal property.

EXAMPLE E. Company E is a tariff bureau which specializes in compiling and preparing tariff schedules. E acquires these schedules from various companies throughout the country. E then provides these schedules to common carriers that subscribe to its service. Its printed tariff schedules are published in bound and loose-leaf form; they may be updated daily. E’s providing the schedules is the performance of an exempt information service because the schedules are compiled for a particular group of customers and they are items of compiled information similar to the files, lists, reports, and other information services named above. E’s services are not subject to tax.

EXAMPLE F. Company F compiles and prints telephone directories. F purchases white and yellow page listings from various telephone companies and uses those listings to make up its directories. F’s purchases of the white and yellow page listings are purchases of an exempt information service. Any sales on F’s part of the directories to the general public would be sales of tangible personal property subject to tax.

EXAMPLE G. Company G purchases the assets of four businesses. The primary asset of each of the businesses is a database containing names, addresses, and other customer information of use to G but not to anyone other than a company similar to G. G transfers the lists to its own computers by way of paper or magnetic tape. G has purchased an exempt information service with its purchases of the four databases.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(65).

**701—231.14(423) Exclusion from tax for property delivered by certain media.** A taxable “sale” of tangible personal property does not occur if the substance of the transaction is delivered to the purchaser digitally, electronically, or by utilizing cable, radio waves, microwaves, satellites, or fiber optics. This exclusion from tax is also applicable to the leasing of tangible personal property, since a lease is classified as a “sale” of tangible personal property for the purposes of Iowa sales and use tax law. The exclusion is not applicable to property delivered by any medium other than those listed above. Sales of items such as artwork, drawings, photographs, music, electronic greeting cards, “canned” software (reference 701—subrule 18.34(1)), entertainment properties (e.g., films, concerts, books, and television and radio programs), and all other digitized products delivered as described above are not taxable, except the exclusion does not repeal by implication the tax on the service of providing pay television. Reference rule 701—26.56(422,423). If an order for a product is placed by way of any of the media described above but the product ordered is delivered by conventional, physical means, e.g., the U.S. Postal Service or common carrier, sale of the product is not excluded from tax under this rule.

The department considers delivery of tangible personal property to a purchaser by way of a “load and leave” transaction to be delivery by the use of conventional physical means. The sales price from the purchase of property delivered through a load and leave transaction is not exempt from tax under this rule. “Load and leave” means delivery to the purchaser by use of a tangible storage media where the tangible storage media is not physically transferred to the purchaser.

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(66) and Iowa Code chapter 423, subchapter IV.

**701—231.15(423) Exempt sales of clothing and footwear during two-day period in August.** Tax is not due on the sale or use of a qualifying article of clothing or footwear if the sales price of the article is less than \$100 and the sale takes place during a period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ending at 12 midnight of the following Saturday. For example, in the year 2004, this period began at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 6, and ended at 12 midnight on Saturday, August 7. Eligible purchases of clothing and footwear are exempt from local option sales taxes as well as Iowa state sales tax.

**231.15(1) Definitions.** The following words and terms, when used in this rule, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“*Accessories*” includes, but is not limited to, jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, wallets, watches, cufflinks, tie tacks and similar items carried on or about the human body, without regard to whether worn on the body in a manner characteristic of clothing.

“*Clothing or footwear*” means an article of wearing apparel designed to be worn on or about the human body. For the purposes of this rule, the term does not include accessories or special clothing or footwear or articles of wearing apparel designed to be worn by animals.

“*Eligible property*” means an item of a type, such as clothing, that qualifies for Iowa’s sales tax holiday.

“*Special clothing or footwear*” is clothing or footwear primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and which is not normally worn except when used for the athletic activity or protective use for which it is designed.

**231.15(2) Exempt sales.**

*a. Required price.* The exemption applies to each article of clothing or footwear selling for less than \$100, regardless of how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer. For example, if a customer purchases two shirts for \$80 each, both items qualify for the exemption even though the customer’s total purchase price (\$160) exceeds \$99.99. The exemption does not apply to the first \$99.99 of an article of clothing or footwear selling for more than \$99.99. For example, if a customer purchases a pair of pants costing \$110, sales tax is due on the entire \$110.

*b. Order date and back orders.* For the purpose of the sales tax holiday, eligible property qualifies for exemption if: the item is both delivered to and paid for by the customer during the exemption period; or the customer orders and pays for the item and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period. The seller accepts an order when the seller has taken action to fill the order for immediate shipment. Actions to fill an order include placement of an “in date” stamp on a mail order or assignment of an “order number” to a telephone order. An order is for immediate shipment when the customer does not request delayed shipment. An order is for immediate shipment notwithstanding that the shipment may be delayed because of a backlog of orders or because stock is currently unavailable to, or on back order by, the seller.

**231.15(3) Taxable sales.** This exemption does not apply to sales of the following goods or services:

*a.* Any special clothing or footwear that is primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and that is not normally worn except when used for the athletic activity or protective use for which it is designed. For example, golf cleats and football pads are primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and are not normally worn except when used for those purposes; therefore, they do not qualify for the exemption. However, tennis shoes, jogging suits, and swimsuits are commonly worn for purposes other than athletic activity and qualify for the exemption.

*b.* Accessories, including jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches, and similar items carried on or about the human body, without regard to whether they are worn on the body in a manner characteristic of clothing.

*c.* The rental of any clothing or footwear. For example, this exemption does not apply to rentals of formal wear, costumes, diapers, and bridal gowns, but would apply to sales of the above items.

*d.* Taxable services performed on clothing or footwear, such as garment and shoe repair, dry cleaning or laundering, and alteration services. Sales tax is due on alterations to clothing, even though the alteration service may be performed, invoiced and paid for at the same time as the clothing is being purchased. If a customer purchases a pair of pants for \$90 and pays \$15 to have the pants cuffed, the \$90 charge for the pants is exempt, but tax is due on the \$15 alteration charge.

*e.* Purchases of items used to make, alter, or repair clothing or footwear, including fabric, thread, yarn, buttons, snaps, hooks, belt buckles, and zippers.

**231.15(4) Special situations.**

*a. Articles normally sold as a unit.* Articles that are normally sold as a unit must continue to be sold in that manner if the exemption is to apply; they cannot be priced separately and sold as individual items in order to obtain the exemption. For example, if a pair of shoes sells for \$150, the pair cannot be



split in order to sell each shoe for \$75 to qualify for the exemption. If a suit is normally priced at \$225 and sold as a unit on a single price tag, the suit cannot be split into separate articles so that any of the components may be sold for less than \$100 in order to qualify for the exemption. However, components that are normally priced as separate articles (e.g., slacks and sport coats, and suit coats and suit pants sold separately prior to the two-day period) may continue to be sold as separate articles and qualify for the exemption if the price of an article is less than \$100.

*b. Sales of exempt clothing combined with gifts of taxable merchandise.* When exempt clothing is sold in a set that also contains taxable merchandise as a free gift and no additional charge is made for the gift, the exempt clothing may qualify for this exemption. For example, a boxed set may contain a tie and a free tie tack. If the price of the set is the same as the price of the tie sold separately, the item being sold is the tie, which is exempt from tax if sold for less than \$100 during the exemption period.

*c. Layaway sales.* A layaway sale is a transaction in which merchandise is set aside for future delivery to a customer who makes a deposit, agrees to pay the balance of the purchase price over a period of time and, at the end of the payment period, receives the merchandise. Reference rule 701—16.22(422,423) for general information on layaway sales. A sale of eligible property under a layaway sale qualifies for exemption if: final payment on a layaway order is made by, and the property is given to, the purchaser during the exemption period; or the purchaser selects the property and the retailer accepts the order for the item during the exemption period, for immediate delivery upon full payment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period.

*d. Returns.* For a 60-day period immediately after the sales tax holiday exemption period, when a customer returns an item that would qualify for the exemption, no credit for or refund of sales tax shall be given unless the customer provides a receipt or invoice that shows tax was paid, or the seller has sufficient documentation to show that tax was paid on the specific item. This 60-day period is set solely for the purpose of designating a time period during which the customer must provide documentation that shows that sales tax was paid on returned merchandise. The 60-day period is not intended to change a seller's policy on the time period during which the seller will accept returns.

*e. Different time zones.* The time zone of the seller's location determines the authorized time period for a sales tax holiday when the purchaser is located in one time zone and the seller is located in another.

**231.15(5) Calculating taxable and exempt sales price—discounts, coupons, buying at a reduced price, and rebates.**

*a. Discounts.* A discount allowed by a retailer and taken on a taxable sale can be used to reduce the sales price of an item. If the discount reduces the sales price of an item to \$99.99 or less, the item may qualify for the exemption. For example, a customer buys a \$150 dress and a \$100 blouse from a retailer offering a 10 percent discount. After applying the 10 percent discount, the final sales price of the dress is \$135, and the blouse is \$90. The dress is taxable (it is over \$99.99), and the blouse is exempt (it is less than \$99.99). Reference rule 701—15.6(422,423) for a definition of the word "discount" and a description of which retailers' reductions in price are discounts which reduce the taxable sales price of items and which are not.

*b. Coupons.* When a coupon is issued by a retailer and is actually used to reduce the sales price of any taxable item, the value of the coupon is excludable from the tax as a discount if the retailer is not reimbursed for the coupon amount by a third party. Therefore, a retailer's coupon can be used to reduce the sales price of an item to \$99.99 or less in order to qualify for the exemption. For example, if a customer purchases a pair of shoes priced at \$110 with a coupon worth \$20 off, the final sales price of the shoes is \$90, and the shoes qualify for the exemption. A manufacturer's coupon cannot be used to reduce the sales price of an item. Reference 701—subrule 15.6(3).

*c. Buy one, get one free or for a reduced price or "two for the price of one" sales.* The total price of items advertised as "buy one, get one free," "buy one, get one for a reduced price," or "two for the price of one" cannot be averaged in order for both items to qualify for the exemption. The following examples illustrate how such sales should be handled.

EXAMPLE 1. A retailer advertises pants as "buy one, get one free." The first pair of pants is priced at \$120; the second pair of pants is free. Tax is due on \$120. Having advertised that the second pair is free,

the store cannot ring up each pair of pants for \$60 in order for the items to qualify for the exemption. However, if the retailer advertises and sells the pants for 50 percent off, selling each pair of \$120 pants for \$60, each pair of pants qualifies for the exemption.

EXAMPLE 2. A retailer advertises shoes as “buy one pair at the regular price, get a second pair for half price.” The first pair of shoes is sold for \$100; the second pair is sold for \$50 (half price). Tax is due on the \$100 shoes, but not on the \$50 shoes. Having advertised that the second pair is half price, the store cannot ring up each pair of shoes for \$75 in order for the items to qualify for the exemption. However, if the retailer advertises the shoes for 25 percent off, thereby selling each pair of \$100 shoes for \$75, each pair of shoes qualifies for the exemption.

EXAMPLE 3. A retailer advertises shirts as “buy two for the price of one” for \$140. Tax is due on \$140. Each shirt cannot be rung up as costing \$70. However, as described in Examples 1 and 2 above, the \$140 cost of each shirt can be discounted to bring the price of each shirt within the exemption’s limitation.

*d. Rebates.* Rebates occur after the sale and do not affect the sales price of an item purchased. For example, a customer purchases a sweater for \$110 and receives a \$12 rebate from the manufacturer. The retailer must collect tax on the \$110 sales price of the sweater. Reference 701—subrule 15.6(2) for additional information regarding rebates.

*e. Shipping and handling charges.* Shipping charges separately stated and separately contracted for (reference rule 701—15.13(422,423) for explanation) are not part of the amount used to determine whether the sales price of an item qualifies it for exemption. Handling charges, however, are part of the amount used to make this determination if it is necessary to pay those charges in order to purchase an item.

**231.15(6)** *Treatment of various transactions associated with sales.*

*a. Rain checks.* A rain check allows a customer to purchase an item at a certain price at a later time because the particular item was out of stock. Eligible items purchased during the exemption period using a rain check will qualify for the exemption regardless of when the rain check was issued. However, issuance of a rain check during the exemption period will not qualify an eligible item for the exemption if the item is actually purchased after the exemption period.

*b. Exchanges.*

(1) If a customer purchases an item of eligible clothing or footwear during the exemption period and later exchanges the item for a similar eligible item (different size, different color, etc.), no additional tax will be due even if the exchange is made after the exemption period.

EXAMPLE. A customer purchases a \$35 shirt during the exemption period. After the exemption period ends, the customer exchanges the shirt for the same shirt in a different size. Tax is not due on the \$35 price of the shirt.

(2) If a customer purchases an item of eligible clothing or footwear during the exemption period and after the exemption period has ended returns the item and receives credit on the purchase of a different item, the appropriate sales tax will apply to the sale of the newly purchased item.

EXAMPLE. A customer purchases a \$35 shirt during the exemption period. After the exemption period ends, the customer exchanges the shirt for a \$35 jacket. Because the jacket was not purchased during the exemption period, tax is due on the \$35 price of the jacket.

(3) If a customer purchases an item of eligible clothing or footwear during the exemption period and later during the exemption period returns the item and purchases a similar but nonexempt item, the purchase of the second item is not exempt from tax.

EXAMPLE. During the exemption period, a customer purchases a \$90 dress that qualifies for the exemption. Later, during the exemption period, the customer exchanges the \$90 dress for a \$150 dress. Tax is due on the \$150 dress. The \$90 credit from the returned item cannot be used to reduce the sales price of the \$150 item to \$60 for exemption purposes.

(4) If a customer purchases an item of eligible clothing or footwear before the exemption period and during the exemption period returns the item and receives credit on the purchase of a different item of eligible clothing or footwear, no sales tax is due on the sale of the new item if it is purchased during the exemption period and otherwise meets the qualifications for exemption.

EXAMPLE. Before the exemption period, a customer purchases a \$60 dress. Later, during the exemption period, the customer exchanges the \$60 dress for a \$95 dress. Tax is not due on the \$95 dress because it was purchased during the exemption period and otherwise meets the qualifications for the exemption.

**231.15(7) *Nonexclusive list of exempt items.*** The following is a nonexclusive list of clothing or footwear, sales of which are exempt from tax during the two-day period in August:

Adult diapers	Formal clothing—sold not rented	Raincoats and hats
Aerobic clothing	Fur coats and stoles	Religious clothing
Antique clothing	Galoshes	Riding pants
Aprons—household	Garters and garter belts	Robes
Athletic socks	Girdles	Rubber thongs—“flip-flops”
Baby bibs	Gloves—cloth, dress and leather	Running shoes without cleats
Baby clothes—generally	Golf clothing— caps, dresses, shirts and skirts	Safety shoes (adaptable for street wear)
Baby diapers	Graduation caps and gowns—sold not rented	Sandals
Baseball caps	Gym suits and uniforms	Shawls
Bathing suits	Hats	Shirts
Belts with buckles attached	Hiking boots	Shoe inserts and laces
Blouses	Hooded (sweat) shirts	Stockings
Boots— general purpose	Hosiery, including support hosiery	Suits
Bow ties	Jackets	Support hose
Bowling shirts	Jeans	Suspenders
Bras	Jerseys for other than athletic wear	Sweatshirts
Bridal apparel—sold not rented	Jogging apparel	Sweatsuits
Camp clothing	Knitted caps or hats	Swim trunks
Caps—sports and others	Lab coats	Tennis dresses
Chefs’ uniforms	Leather clothing	Tennis skirts
Children’s novelty costumes	Leg warmers	Ties
Choir robes	Leotards and tights	Tights
Clerical garments	Lingerie	Trousers
Coats	Men’s formal wear—sold not rented	Tuxedos (except cufflinks)—sold not rented
Corsets	Neckwear, e.g., scarves	Underclothes
Costumes—Halloween, Santa Claus, etc., sold not rented	Nightgowns and nightshirts	Underpants
Coveralls	Overshoes	Undershirts
Cowboy boots	Pajamas	Uniforms—generally
Diapers— cloth and disposable	Pants	Veils
Dresses	Pantyhose	Vests—general, for wear with suits
Dress gloves	Prom dresses	Walking shoes
Dress shoes	Ponchos	Windbreakers
Ear muffs		Work clothes
Employee uniforms other than those primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use		

**231.15(8) *Nonexclusive list of taxable items.*** The following is a nonexclusive list of items, sales of which are taxable during the two-day period in August:

Accessories—generally	Fabric sales	Safety clothing
Alterations of clothing	Fishing boots (waders)	Safety glasses
Athletic supporters	Football pads	Safety shoes—not adaptable for street wear
Backpacks	Football pants	Shoes with cleats or spikes
Ballet shoes	Football shoes	Shoulder pads for dresses and jackets
Barrettes	Goggles	Shower caps
Baseball cleats	Golf gloves	Skates—ice and roller
Baseball gloves	Ice skates	Ski boots, masks, suits and vests
Belt buckles sold without belts	In-line skates	Special protective clothing or footwear not adaptable for streetwear
Belts for weight lifting	Insoles	Sports helmets
Belts needing buckles but sold without them	Jewelry	Sunglasses— except prescription
Bicycle shoes with cleats	Key cases and chains	
Billfolds	Knee pads	
Blankets	Laundry services	
	Life jackets and vests	

Boutonnieres	Luggage	Sweatbands— arm, wrist and head
Bowling shoes—rented and sold	Monogramming services	Swim fins, masks and goggles
Bracelets	Pads—elbow, knee and shoulder,	Tap dance shoes
Buttons	football and hockey	Thread
Chest protectors	Patterns	Vests—bulletproof
Clothing repair	Protective gloves and masks	Weight lifting belts
Coin purses	Purses	Wrist bands
Corsages	Rental of clothing	Yard goods
Dry cleaning services	Rental of shoes or skates	Yarn
Elbow pads	Repair of clothing	Zippers
Employee uniforms primarily designed for athletic activities or protective use	Roller blades	

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code subsection 423.3(67).

**701—231.16(423) State sales tax phase-out on energies.** Beginning January 1, 2002, the state sales tax is phased out at the rate of 1 percent per year on the sales price from the sale, furnishing, or service of metered natural gas, electricity and fuels, including propane and heating oils, to residential customers for use as energy for residential dwellings, apartment units, and condominiums for human occupancy.

Local option taxes are not included in the phase-out of the state sales tax.

This phase-out of tax does not impact franchise fees. Franchise fees will continue to be imposed where applicable.

**231.16(1) Definitions.** The following definitions are applicable to this rule:

“*Energy*” means a substance that generates power to operate fixtures or appliances within a residential dwelling or that creates heat or cooling within a residential dwelling.

“*Fuel*” means a liquid source of energy for a residential dwelling, individual apartment unit, or condominium. “Fuel” includes propane, heating fuel, and kerosene. However, “fuel” does not include blended kerosene used as motor fuel or special fuel.

“*Metered gas*” means natural gas that is billed based on metered usage to provide energy to a residential dwelling, individual apartment unit, or individual condominium.

“*Residential dwelling*” means a structure used exclusively for human occupancy. This does not include commercial or agricultural structures, nor does it include nonresidential buildings attached to or detached from a residential dwelling, such as an outbuilding. However, a garage attached to or detached from a dwelling that is used strictly for residential purposes will fall within the phase-out provisions. A building containing apartment units is not considered to be qualifying property for purposes of this rule. However, if each apartment has a separate meter, it may qualify for the phase-out if classified as qualifying property by the utility. Also excluded from the phase-out provisions are certain nonqualifying properties that include, but are not limited to, nursing homes, adult living facilities, assisted living facilities, halfway houses, charitable residential facilities, YMCA residential facilities, YWCA residential facilities, apartment units not individually metered, and group homes.

**231.16(2) Schedule for phase-out of tax.** State sales tax on energies will be phased out at the rate of 1 percent per year based on the following schedule:

*a.* If the date of the utility billing or meter reading cycle of the residential customer for the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas and electricity is on or after January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, or if the sale, furnishing, or service of fuel for purposes of residential energy and the delivery of the fuel occur on or after January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, the rate of state tax is 4 percent of the sales price.

*b.* If the date of the utility billing or meter reading cycle of the residential customer for the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas and electricity is on or after January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003, or if the sale, furnishing, or service of fuel for purposes of residential energy and the delivery of the fuel occur on or after January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2003, the rate of state tax is 3 percent of the sales price.

c. If the date of the utility billing or meter reading cycle of the residential customer for the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas and electricity is on or after January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, or if the sale, furnishing, or service of fuel for purposes of residential energy and the delivery of the fuel occur on or after January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, the rate of state tax is 2 percent of the sales price.

d. If the date of the utility billing or meter reading cycle of the residential customer for the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas and electricity is on or after January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005, or if the sale, furnishing, or service of fuel for purposes of residential energy and the delivery of the fuel occur on or after January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005, the rate of state tax is 1 percent of the sales price.

e. If the date of the utility billing or meter reading cycle of the residential customer for the sale, furnishing, or service of metered gas and electricity is on or after January 1, 2006, or if the sale, furnishing, or service of fuel for purposes of residential energy and the delivery of the fuel occur on or after January 1, 2006, the rate of state tax is 0 percent of the sales price.

**231.16(3) Determination of tax rate.** Determination of the rate of state tax to be imposed on a transaction depends on the type of energy that is being purchased.

a. *Electricity or metered natural gas.* If the energy being purchased is either electricity or natural gas, then the rate of tax is governed by either the billing date or meter reading date. For example, ABC natural gas company sends out bills with a billing date of December 31, 2002, to qualifying residential customers. However, the bills to these qualifying customers are not placed in the United States mail until January 2, 2003. Based on the foregoing facts, the state sales tax to be imposed on the bills is 4 percent. Four percent is the tax rate imposed at the time of the billing date on the gas bills sent to the customers.

If a billing for the same usage period needs to be billed more than once due to loss of the original bill or some other error, the billing date of the original bill controls qualification for the phase-out provisions of metered gas or electricity. For example, a utility company issues a billing for metered gas on December 28, 2001, to a customer and the customer loses the billing. The customer calls the utility company on January 10, 2002, to report the lost billing and to request a new billing. The utility company issues a new billing with a billing date of January 12, 2002, to the customer. The original billing date issued to the customer is determinative for the tax rate to be imposed. As a result, a 5 percent state tax rate should be imposed on the billing because the original billing date was prior to January 1, 2002.

b. *Fuel and heating oil.* The proper rate of tax to be imposed for the sale, furnishing or service of fuel including propane is governed by the date of delivery of the fuel to the customer. Consequently, if a farmer purchases propane for home heating by executing an agreement and paying for the propane in October 2002 but the propane is not delivered to the farmer until January 2003, the rate of state sales tax that should be imposed on the transaction is 3 percent.

**231.16(4) Qualifying and nonqualifying usage.** Customers that have both qualifying and nonqualifying usage on the same meter or fuel tank are subject to a proration formula to obtain the qualifying portion eligible for the phase-out provisions. In these situations, the percentage of qualifying usage must be determined by the purchaser for the purposes of applying the phase-out tax. Nonqualifying usage would be subject to the full state tax rate. Consequently, a proration of the metered gas, electricity or fuel usage for the qualifying and the nonqualifying usage must be calculated by the purchaser. Reference 701—subrules 15.3(4) and 15.4(5) for guidance on proration of electricity, natural gas and fuels. In addition, the purchaser must furnish an exemption certificate to the supplier with respect to that percentage of metered gas or electricity that is eligible for the phase-out provisions. Reference 701—subrule 15.3(2). The customer may provide a calculation which includes only the usage not subject to phase-out.

The customer must notify the utility provider of the percentage of qualifying and nonqualifying usage and the customer has the burden of proof regarding the percentage. The customer is liable for any mistakes or misrepresentations made regarding the computation or for failure to notify the utility provider in writing of the percentage of qualifying or nonqualifying usage.

Security lights used by customers that are billed as a flat rate tariff will be subject to the phase-out if the customer is classified as a residential customer. However, if a customer uses security lights which

are billed as a flat rate tariff and that customer is classified as a commercial customer, the sales price including the usage of the security lights is not subject to the phase-out of state sales tax and is subject to the full state sales tax rate, unless another exemption from state sales tax is applicable.

**231.16(5) Reporting over the phase-out period.** Sales/use tax returns will be filed on the same basis as they are currently filed. During each phase-out period, the entire sales price from sales should be reported on the return. The appropriate state sales tax rate for the tax period will be applied by claiming the phased-out portion of the tax rate as a deduction on the return.

The sales prices for local option taxes are also to be reported in their entirety and computed by applying the appropriate local option tax rate.

The following are examples regarding how state sales and local option taxes should be reported:

EXAMPLE 1. Reporting of tax by an energy provider:

Sales price for a tax period in 2002	\$100,000
Phase-out (20,000 for the first year, 40,000 for the second year, etc.)	<u>20,000</u>
Taxable sales	80,000
State tax at 5% (to compute state sales tax due)	4,000
Sales price to be reported for local option	100,000
Local option tax rate (assuming a 1% local option tax rate)	<u>× 1%</u>
Local option tax due	1,000
Total tax due (local option and state sales tax)	\$5,000

EXAMPLE 2. Reporting of tax on an individual billing:

Monthly charge during a billing or delivery period in 2002	\$400
State tax rate	<u>× 4%</u>
State tax due	16
Sales price for local option tax	400
Local option tax rate	<u>× 1%</u>
Local option tax due	4
Total tax (local option and state sales tax)	\$20

This rule is intended to implement 2005 Iowa Code section 423.3(68).

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