

**701—18.7 (422,423) Containers, including packing cases, shipping cases, wrapping material and similar items.** The gross receipts from the sale of containers, labels, cartons, pallets, packing cases, wrapping paper, twine, bags, bottles, shipping cases, garment hangers, and other similar articles and receptacles sold to retailers or manufacturers which are purchased for the purpose of packaging or facilitating the transportation of tangible personal property which is sold either at retail or for resale shall be exempt from the tax.

For the purpose of this rule, producers, wholesalers and jobbers are considered retailers or manufacturers.

**18.7(1)** *Sales to other than retailers or manufacturers.*

*a.* Containers and all other specified items delivered with tangible personal property which are sold to a final buyer or ultimate consumer shall be exempt from the tax when no separate charge is made for the container. This group includes such items as boxes, cartons, pallets, paper bags, bottles, shipping cases, wrapping paper and twine. If a separate charge is made for the container, the sale of the container is subject to the tax. The sale of wrapping paper, paper bags and like items are subject to the tax when sold at retail.

EXAMPLE: A meat locker purchases materials such as wrapping paper and tape which it uses to wrap meat for customers to whom meat is sold. The wrapping paper and tape would be exempt from tax as being purchased as a packaging material of tangible personal property sold at retail.

EXAMPLE: A meat locker purchases materials such as wrapping paper and tape which it uses to wrap meat for customers who own the meat. The meat locker only performs the service of processing the meat. The wrapping paper and tape are subject to tax as they were not purchased for packaging or for the facilitating of transportation of tangible personal property sold at retail, but were used in the rendering of a service.

*b.* Packing paper, lining paper, paper used to line boxes and crates, and similar items shall be exempt from the tax if delivered with tangible personal property ultimately sold at retail when no separate charge is made for the paper.

**18.7(2)** *Labels, tags and nameplates.* Sales of labels, tags, and nameplates attached to products for the benefit of the vendor such as shipping tags, price tags and instructions to cashiers are subject to the tax, unless such items are sold to manufacturers and retailers for packaging or facilitating the transportation of tangible personal property ultimately sold at retail. Labels, tags or nameplates attached to products for the benefit of the final consumer which describe contents, or which relate to the product and are affixed to the product, are exempt from tax.

**18.7(3)** *Pallets.* Pallets purchased by manufacturers or retailers which are purchased for the purpose of packaging or facilitating the transportation of tangible personal property ultimately sold at retail shall be exempt from the tax.

**18.7(4)** *Garment hangers.* Garment hangers purchased by manufacturers or retailers and used to facilitate the transportation of tangible personal property or garment hangers delivered with tangible personal property ultimately sold at retail when no separate charge is made are exempt from tax.

Garment hangers used merely to display tangible personal property are taxable.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.42(3), 422.45(19) and 423.1(1).