

**701—255.1(453A) Permits required.** Every person selling or distributing cigarettes or using or consuming untaxed cigarettes within the state of Iowa must first obtain the appropriate permit.

**255.1(1) Distributor's permit.** Every person acting as a distributor as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1 must obtain a permit from the department. A distributor is any person who obtains unstamped cigarettes within or without this state by manufacture, production, import or by any means for the purpose of making the first intrastate sale or distribution or the first use or consumption in Iowa. Every distributor holding a distributor's permit will cause to be affixed, within or without Iowa, all cigarette tax stamps or meter impressions as set forth in rule 701—255.8(453A) and Iowa Code section 453A.10. The distributor permit expires annually on June 30, and costs \$100. A distributor must obtain a duplicate permit for each place of business owned or operated by the distributor from which distributor activities are carried on. Duplicate distributor permits may be obtained from the department at an annual cost of \$5 for each duplicate permit. A distributor may act as a wholesaler without obtaining a wholesaler's permit, but a wholesaler's permit may be obtained upon meeting all of the requirements for the issuance of a wholesaler's permit. If a distributor performs any other function which requires a permit, a separate permit must be obtained. If a person is not performing the functions of a distributor, a permit will not be issued.

**255.1(2) Wholesaler's permit.** Every person acting as a wholesaler as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1 must obtain a wholesaler's permit. A wholesaler is any person, other than a distributor or a distributing agent, who sells or distributes cigarettes within Iowa for resale. A "sale or distribution" of cigarettes connotes a transfer of cigarettes from one person or entity to another person or entity. *Union Oil Co. of California v. State*, 2 Wash. 2d 436, 98 P, 2d 660 (1940); *State v. Nash Johnson and Sons' Farms Inc.*, 263 N.C. 66, 138 S.E. 2d 773 (1964). Therefore, an intraentity transfer is not a transaction which qualifies as a function of a wholesaler. The wholesaler permit expires annually on June 30, and costs \$100 annually. A wholesaler must obtain a duplicate permit for each place of business owned or operated by the wholesaler from which wholesale activities are carried on. Duplicate wholesaler permits may be obtained from the department at an annual cost of \$5 for each duplicate permit. If a person is not performing the functions of a wholesaler, a permit will not be issued.

The following example will illustrate the application of this subrule:

The XYZ Grocery Chain has a warehouse in Des Moines where stamped cigarettes are stored. The stamped cigarettes are purchased from a permitted distributor. XYZ transfers the cigarettes to its retail outlets across the state for the purpose of making retail sales, and makes no other sales. The storage of stamped cigarettes and the retail sale of cigarettes are not functions of a wholesaler, and XYZ would not be eligible for a wholesaler's permit.

**255.1(3) Cigarette vendor's permit.** Every person acting as a cigarette vendor as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1 must obtain a permit from the department. A cigarette vendor is any person who takes responsibility for furnishing, installing, servicing, operating or maintaining one or more vending machines for the purpose of selling cigarettes at retail, and does so by reason of ownership, agreement or contract.

A retailer who holds a retail permit is not required to get a cigarette vendor's permit if the retail permittee is, in fact, the owner of the cigarette vending machine(s) which is operated in the location described in the retail permit. The cigarette vendor's permit expires annually on June 30, and costs \$100 annually. A cigarette vendor must have a duplicate permit for each place of business from which cigarette vending machines are furnished, installed or serviced. A duplicate permit can be obtained from the department for an annual cost of \$5. The duplicate permit applies to additional places of business from which the cigarette vendor conducts operations and not to those places of business where the cigarette vending machines are installed for retail sales.

EXAMPLE: A cigarette vendor owns three warehouses from which the vendor supplies cigarettes to 100 vending machines located at various retail establishments. The total permit cost for the vendor would be \$110 (\$100 for a regular permit plus \$10 for two duplicate permits at \$5 each).

**255.1(4) Railway retail permit.** A retail permit may be issued to a railway dining car company, railway sleeping car company, railroad or a railway company. A retailer's permit for railway cars is issued by the department for an annual cost of \$25 and expires on June 30 of each year. A duplicate permit is required for each car in which cigarettes are stored for sale or sold and each duplicate permit is issued by the department at an annual cost of \$2.

**255.1(5) *Manufacturer's permit.*** Any manufacturer, as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1, may obtain a manufacturer's permit from the department. A manufacturer is any person who ships cigarettes into this state from outside the state. The permit is issued without cost and is valid until revoked or canceled. The permit allows the manufacturer to purchase tax stamps from the department and to affix such stamps to cigarettes outside of this state prior to their shipment into the state. A manufacturer is required to affix stamps to cigarettes prior to their shipment into this state unless the cigarettes are shipped to an Iowa permitted distributor or an Iowa permitted distributor's agent.

**255.1(6) *Distributing agent's permit.*** Every person acting as a distributing agent as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1 must obtain a permit from the department. A distributing agent is any person in this state who acts as an agent of any manufacturer outside of the state by storing cigarettes received in interstate commerce from such manufacturer subject to distribution or delivery to distributors upon orders received from the manufacturer in interstate commerce and transmitted to such distributing agent for fulfillment from such storage place. The distributing agent's permit is issued by the department at an annual cost of \$100 and expires on June 30 of each year. A separate permit at the \$100 cost must be obtained for each place of business owned or operated within the state by the distributing agent. The permit authorizes the distributing agent to store unstamped cigarettes which are received in interstate commerce for distribution or delivery to distributors upon orders received from outside this state or to be sold outside this state. Stocks of cigarettes held for interstate and intrastate commerce must be kept separate.

**255.1(7) *Retailer's permit.***

*a. In general.* Every person acting as a retailer, as defined in Iowa Code section 453A.1, must obtain a permit. A retailer is any person who:

- (1) Directly sells, distributes or offers for sale cigarettes for consumption, or
- (2) Possesses cigarettes for direct sale for consumption.

Retail permits are issued by the following authorities at the following prices:

1. Within unincorporated areas of a county, by the county board of supervisors at an annual cost of \$50.
2. Within the city limits of a city of less than 15,000 population, by the city council, at an annual cost of \$75.
3. Within the city limits of a city equal to or greater than 15,000 population, by the city council, at an annual cost of \$100.

The retail permit expires on June 30 of each year. A renewal sticker furnished by the department containing the appropriate year and number may be issued in lieu of a new permit where the place of business of the retail permit holder has remained the same. The retail permit is valid only for the location described in the permit, and a retailer must obtain a separate permit for each place of business owned or operated by the retailer. (See subrule 255.2(3))

The power to grant the retail permit is discretionary with the city council or board of supervisors, and uniform, nondiscriminatory limits may be placed on its issuance. *Bernstein v. City of Marshalltown*, 215 Iowa 1168, 248 N.W. 26 (1933); *Ford Hopkins Co. v. City of Iowa City*, 216 Iowa 1286, 248 N.W. 668 (1933); 1938 O.A.G. 708. The city or county must submit a copy of any retail permit issued and the application for the permit to the department of public health within 30 days of issuance.

*b. Mobile retailer.* If a cigarette retailer sells cigarettes from a mobile concession vehicle, the vehicle itself shall be considered a place of business. A city has the discretionary power to grant a retail cigarette permit to a place of business located within the corporate limits of that city. A county has the discretionary power to grant a retail cigarette permit to a place of business located within the unincorporated areas of the county. If a retailer is selling cigarettes from a mobile concession vehicle within the area of several permit-issuing authorities, the retailer must obtain a permit from each authority. The retailer is operating a single place of business within the jurisdiction of the several authorities and is, therefore, subject to regulation by each.

The location described on the permit shall include identification of the vehicle and the address of the permanent place of business from which the vehicle is dispatched. If the vehicle is traded in for a new vehicle, the exchange provisions of subrule 255.2(3) shall apply.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 453A.13 as amended by 2000 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2366, and sections 453A.16, 453A.17, and 453A.23.

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