

**701—304.39(422) Ethanol promotion tax credit.** Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, a retail dealer of gasoline may claim an ethanol promotion tax credit. For purposes of this rule, tank wagon sales are considered retail sales. The ethanol promotion tax credit is computed on Form IA 137.

**304.39(1) Definitions.** The following definitions are applicable to this rule:

*“Biodiesel gallonage”* means the total number of gallons of biodiesel which the retail dealer sells from motor fuel pumps during a determination period. For example, 5,000 gallons of biodiesel blended fuel with a 2 percent by volume of biodiesel sold during a determination period results in a biodiesel gallonage of 100 (5,000 times 2%).

*“Biofuel distribution percentage”* means the sum of the retail dealer’s total ethanol gallonage plus the retail dealer’s total biodiesel gallonage expressed as a percentage of the retail dealer’s total gasoline gallonage.

*“Biofuel threshold percentage”* is dependent on the aggregate number of gallons of motor fuel sold by a retail dealer during a determination period, as set forth below:

Determination Period	More than 200,000 Gallons Sold by Retail Dealer	200,000 Gallons or Less Sold by Retail Dealer
2009	10%	6%
2010	11%	6%
2011	12%	10%
2012	13%	11%
2013	14%	12%
2014	15%	13%
2015	17%	14%
2016	19%	15%
2017	21%	17%
2018	23%	19%
2019	25%	21%
2020	25%	25%

*“Biofuel threshold percentage disparity”* means the positive percentage difference between the retail dealer’s biofuel threshold percentage and the retail dealer’s biofuel distribution percentage. For example, if a retail dealer that sells more than 200,000 gallons of motor fuel in 2009 has a biofuel distribution percentage of 8 percent, the biofuel threshold percentage disparity equals 2 percent (10% minus 2%).

*“Determination period”* means any 12-month period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.

*“Ethanol gallonage”* means the total number of gallons of ethanol which the retail dealer sells from motor fuel pumps during a determination period. For example, 10,000 gallons of ethanol blended gasoline formulated with a 10 percent by volume of ethanol sold during a determination period results in an ethanol gallonage of 1,000 (10,000 gallons times 10%).

*“Gasoline gallonage”* means the total number of gallons of gasoline sold by the retail dealer during a determination period.

**304.39(2) Calculation of tax credit.**

a. The tax credit is calculated by multiplying the retail dealer’s total ethanol gallonage by the tax credit rate, which is adjusted based upon the retail dealer’s biofuel threshold percentage disparity. The tax credit rate is set forth below:

Biofuel Threshold Percentage Disparity	Tax Credit Rate per Gallon 2009-2010	Tax Credit Rate per Gallon 2011	Tax Credit Rate per Gallon 2012-2020
0%	6.5 cents	8 cents	8 cents
0.01% to 2.00%	4.5 cents	6 cents	6 cents
2.01% to 4.00%	2.5 cents	2.5 cents	4 cents
4.01% or more	0 cents	0 cents	0 cents

b. For use in calculating a retail dealer’s total ethanol gallonage, the department is required to establish a schedule regarding the average amount of ethanol contained in E-85 gasoline.

c. A taxpayer may claim the ethanol promotion tax credit even if the taxpayer also claims the E-85 gasoline promotion tax credit provided in rule 701—304.33(422) or the E-15 plus gasoline promotion tax credit provided in rule 701—304.46(422) for the same tax year for the same ethanol gallons.

d. The tax credit must be calculated separately for each retail motor fuel site operated by the taxpayer for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2011. The biofuel threshold percentage disparity of the taxpayer is computed on a statewide basis based on the total ethanol gallonage sold in Iowa. The taxpayer must determine the ethanol gallonage sold at each retail motor fuel site and multiply this ethanol gallonage by the applicable tax credit rate based on the biofuel threshold percentage disparity to calculate the ethanol promotion tax credit.

e. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the taxpayer may elect to compute the biofuel threshold percentage disparity and the tax credit on either a site-by-site basis or on a companywide basis. The election made on the first return beginning on or after January 1, 2011, for either the site-by-site method or the companywide method is binding on the taxpayer for subsequent tax years unless the taxpayer petitions the department for a change in the method. Any petition for a change in the method should be made within a reasonable period of time prior to the due date of the return for which the change is requested. For example, if a change is requested for the tax return beginning January 1, 2012, the petition should be made by January 31, 2013, which is 90 days prior to the due date of the return.

The mere fact that a change in the method will result in a larger tax credit for subsequent years is not, of itself, sufficient grounds for changing the method for computing the credit. An example of a case for which the department may grant a change in the method is if the taxpayer has a significant change in the type of fuel sold at the taxpayer's retail sites in Iowa. For example, if a retail dealer opted to start selling E-85 gasoline at all the taxpayer's retail sites in Iowa for a subsequent tax year, the department may grant a change in the method.

If a taxpayer chooses the site-by-site method to compute the biofuel threshold percentage disparity, the gallons sold at all sites in Iowa must be considered in determining if the biofuel threshold percentage as defined in subrule 304.39(1) is based on more than 200,000 gallons or on 200,000 gallons or less. For example, if a taxpayer operates three motor fuel sites in Iowa and each site sells 80,000 gallons of motor fuel during 2011, the biofuel threshold percentage of 12 percent must be used for each retail site if the tax credit is computed on a site-by-site basis, even though each retail site sold less than 200,000 gallons of motor fuel.

f. Any tax credit in excess of the taxpayer's tax liability is refundable. In lieu of claiming a refund, the taxpayer may elect to have the overpayment credited to the tax liability for the following tax year.

**304.39(3) Fiscal year filers.** For taxpayers whose tax year is not on a calendar-year basis, the taxpayer may compute the ethanol promotion tax credit on the total ethanol gallonage sold during the year using the designated tax credit rates as shown in paragraph 304.39(2) "a." Because the tax credit is repealed on January 1, 2021, a taxpayer whose tax year ends prior to December 31, 2020, may continue to claim the tax credit in the following tax year for the total ethanol gallonage sold through December 31, 2020. A taxpayer whose tax year is not on a calendar-year basis and that did not claim the ethanol promotion tax credit on the previous return may claim the tax credit for the current tax year for the period beginning on January 1 of the previous tax year until the last day of the previous tax year.

**304.39(4) Allocation of tax credit to owners of a business entity.** If a taxpayer claiming the ethanol promotion tax credit is a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, estate, or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the credit. The amount claimed by the individual must be based on the individual's pro rata share of the individual's earnings of the partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, estate, or trust.

**304.39(5) Examples.** The following noninclusive examples illustrate how this rule applies:

**EXAMPLE 1.** A taxpayer that is a retail dealer of gasoline operates only one motor fuel site in Iowa. The number of gallons of gasoline sold at this site in 2009 equals 100,000 gallons. This consisted of 5,000 gallons of E-85 gasoline, 80,000 gallons of E-10 (10% ethanol blended gasoline) and 15,000 gallons not containing ethanol. The average ethanol content of E-85 gasoline is assumed to be 79%. The taxpayer also sold at this site during 2009 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel, of which 5,000 gallons was B-2 (2% biodiesel). The ethanol gallonage is 11,950 (5,000 E-85 gallons times 79% equals 3,950; 80,000 E-10 gallons times

10% equals 8,000; and thus 3,950 plus 8,000 equals 11,950). The biodiesel gallonage sold is 100, or 5,000 times 2%. The sum of 11,950 and 100, or 12,050, is divided by the total gasoline gallonage of 100,000 to arrive at a biofuel distribution percentage of 12.05%. Since this percentage exceeds the biofuel threshold percentage of 6% for a retail dealer selling 200,000 gallons or less, the biofuel threshold disparity percentage is 0%. This calculation results in an ethanol promotion tax credit of 6.5 cents times 11,950, or \$776.75.

In addition, the taxpayer is entitled to claim the E-85 gasoline promotion tax credit equal to 20 cents multiplied by 5,000 gallons, or \$1,000.

EXAMPLE 2. A taxpayer that is a retail dealer of gasoline operates only one motor fuel site in Iowa. The number of gallons of gasoline sold at this site in 2010 equals 300,000 gallons which consisted of 10,000 gallons of E-85 gasoline, 230,000 gallons of E-10 (10% ethanol blended gasoline) and 60,000 gallons not containing ethanol. The average ethanol content of E-85 gasoline is assumed to be 79%. The taxpayer also sold 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel at this site during 2010, of which 25,000 gallons was B-2 (2% biodiesel). The ethanol gallonage is 30,900 (10,000 E-85 gallons times 79% equals 7,900; 230,000 E-10 gallons times 10% equals 23,000; and thus 7,900 plus 23,000 equals 30,900). The biodiesel gallonage sold is 500, or 25,000 times 2%. The sum of 30,900 and 500, or 31,400, is divided by the total gasoline gallonage of 300,000 to arrive at a biofuel distribution percentage of 10.47%. Since this is less than the biofuel threshold percentage of 11% for a retail dealer selling more than 200,000 gallons, the biofuel threshold disparity percentage is .53%. This calculation results in an ethanol promotion tax credit of 4.5 cents times 30,900, or \$1,390.50.

In addition, the taxpayer is entitled to claim the E-85 gasoline promotion tax credit equal to 20 cents multiplied by 10,000 gallons, or \$2,000.

EXAMPLE 3. A taxpayer that is a retail dealer of gasoline operates three motor fuel sites in Iowa during 2009, and each site sold 80,000 gallons of gasoline. Sites A and B each sold 70,000 gallons of E-10 (10% ethanol blended gasoline) and 10,000 gallons not containing ethanol. Site C sold 60,000 gallons of E-10, 10,000 gallons of E-85, and 10,000 gallons not containing ethanol. The average ethanol content of E-85 gasoline is assumed to be 79%. The retail dealer did not sell any diesel fuel at any of the motor fuel sites. The ethanol gallonage is 27,900, as shown below:

Site A – 70,000 times 10% equals	7,000
Site B – 70,000 times 10% equals	7,000
Site C – 60,000 times 10% equals	6,000
Site C – 10,000 times 79% equals	7,900
Total	27,900

The ethanol gallonage of 27,900 is divided by the gasoline gallonage of 240,000 to arrive at a biofuel distribution percentage of 11.63%. Since this exceeds the biofuel threshold percentage of 10% for a retail dealer selling more than 200,000 gallons, the biofuel threshold disparity percentage is 0%. The credit is computed separately for each motor fuel site, and the ethanol promotion credit equals \$1,813.50, as shown below:

Site A – 7,000 times 6.5 cents equals	\$455.00
Site B – 7,000 times 6.5 cents equals	\$455.00
Site C – 13,900 times 6.5 cents equals	\$903.50
Total	\$1,813.50

Since the biofuel distribution percentage and the biofuel threshold percentage disparity are computed on a statewide basis for all gallons sold in Iowa, the 6.5 cent tax credit rate is applied to the total ethanol gallonage, even if Sites A and B did not meet the biofuel threshold percentage of 10% for 2009.

In addition, the taxpayer is entitled to claim the E-85 gasoline promotion tax credit equal to 20 cents multiplied by 10,000 gallons, or \$2,000.

EXAMPLE 4. A taxpayer that is a retail dealer of gasoline has a fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, and operates one motor fuel site in Iowa. The taxpayer sold more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline during the 2010 calendar year and expects to sell more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline during the 2011 calendar year. The ethanol gallonage is 30,000 for the period from April 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, and the

ethanol gallonage is 8,000 for the period from January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The biofuel distribution percentage is 11.5% for the period from April 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, and the biofuel distribution percentage is 11.8% for the period from January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. This results in a biofuel threshold percentage disparity of 0% (11.0 minus 11.5) for the period from April 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, and a biofuel threshold percentage disparity of .2% (12.0 minus 11.8) for the period from January 1, 2011, through March 31, 2011. The taxpayer is entitled to an ethanol promotion tax credit of \$2,310 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011, as shown below:

30,000 times 6.5 cents equals	\$1,950
8,000 times 4.5 cents equals	360
Total	<u>\$2,310</u>

EXAMPLE 5. A taxpayer that is a retail dealer of gasoline has a fiscal year ending April 30, 2009, and operates one motor fuel site in Iowa. The taxpayer expects to sell more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline during the 2009 calendar year. The ethanol gallonage is 50,000 gallons for the period from January 1, 2009, through April 30, 2009. The biofuel distribution percentage is 7.7% for the period from January 1, 2009, through April 30, 2009, which results in a biofuel threshold percentage disparity of 2.3% (10.0 minus 7.7). The taxpayer is entitled to claim an ethanol promotion tax credit of \$1,250 (50,000 gallons times 2.5 cents) on the taxpayer's Iowa income tax return for the period ending April 30, 2009.

In lieu of claiming the credit on the return for the period ending April 30, 2009, the taxpayer may claim the ethanol promotion tax credit on the tax return for the period ending April 30, 2010, including the ethanol gallonage for the period from January 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010. In this case, the taxpayer will compute the biofuel distribution percentage for the period from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, to determine the proper tax credit rate to be applied to the ethanol gallonage for the period from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

EXAMPLE 6. Assume the same facts as Example 3, except that the gallons were sold in 2011. The taxpayer chose the companywide method to compute the biofuel threshold percentage disparity and the tax credit. The biofuel distribution percentage is 11.63%, and since the biofuel threshold percentage is 12% for retailers selling more than 200,000 gallons of motor fuel, the biofuel threshold percentage disparity is 0.37%. This results in an ethanol promotion tax credit on a companywide basis of 6 cents multiplied by the ethanol gallonage of 27,900 or \$1,674.

EXAMPLE 7. Assume the same facts as Example 3, except that the gallons were sold in 2011. The taxpayer chose the site-by-site method to compute the biofuel threshold percentage disparity and the tax credit. The biofuel threshold percentage is still 12% since the retailer sold more than 200,000 gallons of motor fuel at all sites in Iowa. The biofuel distribution percentage for Site A and Site B is 7,000 divided by 80,000, or 8.75%. The biofuel threshold percentage disparity for Site A and Site B is 3.25%, or 12% less than 8.75%. The biofuel distribution percentage for Site C is 13,900 divided by 80,000, or 17.38%. The biofuel threshold percentage disparity for Site C is 0% since the biofuel distribution percentage exceeds the biofuel threshold percentage. This results in an ethanol promotion tax credit on a site-by-site basis of \$1,462, as shown below:

Site A – 7,000 times 2.5 cents equals	\$175
Site B – 7,000 times 2.5 cents equals	\$175
Site C – 13,900 times 8 cents equals	<u>\$1,112</u>
Total	\$1,462

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.11N as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 531.

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