

701—215.2(423) Carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used in processing. An expanded definition of “processing” is allowed to manufacturers of food or food ingredients using carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services. For the purposes of this rule, the rental or leasing of tangible personal property is treated as the furnishing of a taxable service and not as the sale of tangible personal property.

215.2(1) “Food or food ingredients” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 423.3(49) “b.” This means that for purposes of this exemption, “food or food ingredients” means the same as “food and food ingredients” as defined in Iowa Code section 423.3(57) “d” and implemented by rule 701—220.3(423) but also includes tangible personal property that could be sold for ingestion or chewing by humans but is sold for another use.

EXAMPLE 1: Manufacturer A produces gelatin that qualifies as a food or food ingredient. Manufacturer A only sells the gelatin to a cosmetics manufacturer. The sales price of any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used by Manufacturer A to produce the gelatin is exempt from sales tax even though the gelatin was not sold for human consumption.

EXAMPLE 2: Manufacturer B produces two types of gelatin products. Product 1 is manufactured at a quality such that it may be used for technical purposes, such as an ingredient in wood glue, but humans could not consume Product 1 safely. Product 2 is manufactured at a quality such that humans could safely eat it, though it can also be sold for technical purposes like Product 1. Product 1 is not a food or food ingredient. Product 2 is a food or food ingredient.

EXAMPLE 3: Manufacturer C produces alcohol, all of which qualifies as a food or food ingredient. Manufacturer C sells one-third of its product to vodka Manufacturer V, one-third to fuel ethanol Manufacturer F, and one-third to perfume Manufacturer P. The sales price of any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used by Manufacturer C to produce the alcohol is exempt from sales tax regardless of whether Manufacturer C sells the alcohol to Manufacturer V, F, or P.

Manufacturer V’s product is food-grade vodka sold at grocery and convenience stores. Manufacturer V may claim exemption for the same inputs used in producing its vodka as Manufacturer C.

Manufacturer F’s product is only sold to be used in motor vehicles and is harmful to humans if consumed. Manufacturer F cannot claim exemption under Iowa Code section 423.3(49) for any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used to produce its ethanol fuel. Manufacturer F may qualify for exemptions provided under other Iowa Code sections.

Manufacturer P’s product is only sold for cosmetic purposes and is harmful to humans if consumed. Manufacturer P cannot claim exemption under Iowa Code section 423.3(49) for any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, and taxable services used to produce its perfume. Manufacturer P may qualify for exemptions provided under other Iowa Code sections.

a. Certain entities eligible. An entity that processes a product owned by another entity is eligible for this exemption, subject to satisfying the other requirements to properly claim the exemption.

EXAMPLE: Company A owns and operates a processing facility. Company B owns corn and contracts with Company A to process the corn. Company B maintains ownership of the corn the entire time it is processed and in possession of Company A. Company B sells the processed corn to Company C, which will make retail sales of the processed corn. Company A is eligible to claim this exemption for any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service used to process the corn.

b. Determination. The burden is on the taxpayer seeking to claim this exemption to establish that a product is a food or food ingredient for purposes of this exemption. The department’s determination is a fact-based determination based on the information provided by a manufacturer and the individual circumstances at issue.

EXAMPLE: A manufacturer produces products, such as glucosamine, that are used as ingredients in orange juice, which is produced by a different entity. The glucosamine and the orange juice are both food or food ingredients for purposes of this exemption.

215.2(2) The following activities constitute processing when performed by a manufacturer to create food or food ingredients. Any carbon dioxide in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable services primarily used in the performance of these activities is exempt from tax.

a. Treatment of material that changes its form, context, or condition in order to produce the food or food ingredient. Washing, sorting, and grading fruits or vegetables; washing, sorting, and grading eggs; repairing or replacing defective or broken-down machinery and equipment; and mixing or agitating liquids are examples of activities that do not qualify as “processing.”

b. Maintenance of the quality or integrity of the food or food ingredient and the maintenance or the changing of temperature levels necessary to avoid spoilage or to hold the food or food ingredient in marketable condition. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in freezers, heaters, coolers, refrigerators, or evaporators used in cooling or heating that holds the food or food ingredient at a temperature necessary to maintain quality or integrity or to avoid spoilage of the food or food ingredient or to hold the food or food ingredient in marketable condition is exempt from tax. It is not necessary that the taxable service be used to raise or lower the temperature of the food or food ingredient. Also, processing of food or food ingredients does not cease when the food or food ingredient is in marketable form. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to maintain or to change a temperature necessary to keep the food or food ingredient marketable is exempt from tax.

c. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or other taxable service primarily used in the maintenance of environmental conditions necessary for the safe or efficient use of machinery or material used to produce the food or food ingredient is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used to air-condition a room in which meat is stored is exempt from tax if the purpose of the air conditioning is to maintain the meat in a condition in which it is easy to slice rather than for the comfort of the employees who work in the room.

d. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service primarily used in sanitation and quality control activities is exempt from tax. Nonexclusive examples exempt from tax include taxable services used in pH meters, microbiology counters and incubators used to test the purity or sanitary nature of the food or food ingredient. For example, electricity used in egg-candling lights would be exempt from tax. Also, electricity, steam, or any taxable service used to power equipment that cleans and sterilizes food production equipment would be exempt from tax. Electricity used to power refrigerators used to store food or food ingredient samples for testing would be exempt from tax. Finally, electricity used to power “bug lights” or other insect-killing equipment used in areas where food or food ingredients are manufactured or stored would be exempt from tax.

e. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in the formation of packaging for food or food ingredients is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used in plastic bottle-forming machines by a food manufacturer is exempt from tax if the plastic bottles will be used to hold the food or food ingredient, such as milk. Any electricity, steam, or other taxable service used in the heating, compounding, liquefying and forming of plastic pellets into these plastic bottles is exempt.

f. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used in placement of the food or food ingredient into shipping containers is exempt from tax. For example, electricity used by a food manufacturer to place food or food ingredients into packing cases, pallets, crates, shipping cases, or other similar receptacles is exempt.

g. Any carbon dioxide in liquid, solid, or gaseous form, electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move material that will become a food or food ingredient or used to move the food or food ingredient itself until shipment from the building of manufacture is exempt from tax. This includes but is not limited to taxable services used in pumps, conveyors, forklifts, and freight elevators moving the material or the food or food ingredient and taxable services used in door openers that open doors for forklifts or other devices moving the material or the food or food ingredient. Any loading dock that is attached to a building of manufacture is a part of that building. Any electricity, steam, or taxable service used to move any food or food ingredient to a loading dock is exempt from tax. If the food or food ingredient is carried outside its building of manufacture by any conveyor belt system, electricity used by any portion of the system located outside the building is taxable.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.3(49).
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