

701—12.9(423) Claim for refund of tax.

12.9(1) Eligibility for refund; filing claims. Refunds of tax shall be made only to those who have actually paid the tax. A person or persons may designate the retailer who collects the tax as an agent for purposes of receiving a refund of tax. A person or persons who claim a refund shall prepare the claim on the prescribed form furnished by the department. A claim for refund shall be filed with the department, stating in detail the reasons and facts and, if necessary, supporting documents for which the claim for refund is based.

12.9(2) Denial of refund claim—protest. If the claim for refund is denied, and the person wishes to protest the denial, the department will consider a protest to be timely if filed no later than 60 days following the date of denial. See rule 701—7.8(17A).

12.9(3) Request for abeyance. When a person is in a position of believing that the tax, penalty, or interest paid or to be paid will be found not to be due at some later date, then in order to prevent the statute of limitations from running out, a claim for refund or credit must be filed with the department within the statutory period provided for in Iowa Code section 422.73(2). The claim must be filed requesting that it be held in abeyance pending the outcome of any action which will have a direct effect on the tax, penalty or interest involved. Nonexclusive examples of such action would be: court decisions, departmental orders and rulings, and commerce commission decisions.

EXAMPLE A: X, an Iowa sales tax permit holder, is audited by the department for the period July 1, 1972, to June 30, 1977. A \$10,000 tax, penalty and interest liability is assessed on materials the department determines are not used in processing. X does not agree with the department's position, but still pays the full liability even though X is aware of pending litigation involving the materials taxed in the audit.

Y is audited for the same period involving identical materials used to those taxed in the audit of X. However, Y, rather than paying the assessment, takes the department through litigation and wins. The final litigation is not completed until September 30, 1983.

X, on October 1, 1983, upon finding out about the decision of Y's case, files a claim for refund relating to its audit completed in June 1977. The claim will be totally denied as beyond the five-year statute of limitations. However, if X had filed a claim along with payment of its audit in June 1977, and requested that the claim be held in abeyance pending Y's litigation, then X would have received a full refund of its audit liability if the decision in Y's case was also applicable to X.

EXAMPLE B: X, a utility company, filed a request for a rate increase with the commerce commission on June 30, 1967. The rate increase became effective January 1, 1968. However, a final decision of whether X was allowed this rate increase is not made until September 30, 1974. The rate increase was disallowed. X then had to refund to its customers all disallowed, but collected, rate increases plus sales tax. X files a claim for refund of the involved sales tax on December 30, 1974. Only the tax for the years 1970 to 1974 will be refunded. The tax for the years 1968 and 1969 will be denied as being beyond the five-year statute set forth in Iowa Code section 422.73(2). However, if X had filed a claim covering the rate increase any time before January 31, 1973, requesting it be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the commerce commission ruling, then X would have been allowed a full refund of all the sales tax that is refunded from the effective date of the rate increase, January 1, 1968, through September 30, 1974.

EXAMPLE C: X is audited by the department for the period July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1978, and assessed July 31, 1978. X pays the assessment on December 31, 1978. No protest was filed and no claim for refund or credit was filed requesting it be held in abeyance. On January 31, 1980, X files a claim for refund relating to the entire audit. The claim is based on a recent court decision which makes the tax liability paid by X now refundable. However, only the tax paid from January 1, 1975, through June 30, 1978, will be allowed as this is the only portion within the five-year statute of limitations set forth in Iowa Code section 422.73(2). If the claim had been filed on or before December 31, 1979, then the entire audit period July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1978, could have been considered for refund as the claim would have been filed within one year of payment.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 423.45.

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