

**701—46.3 (422) Forms, returns and reports.**

**46.3(1) Employer registration.** Every employer or payer required to deduct and withhold Iowa income tax must register with the department of revenue by filing an “Iowa Business Tax Registration Form.” The form shall indicate the employer’s or payer’s federal identification number. If an employer or payer has not received a federal employer’s identification number, the department will issue a temporary identification number. The employer or payer must notify the department when the federal employer identification number is assigned.

When initial payment of wages subject to Iowa withholding tax occurs late in the calendar quarter, or before the employer’s or payer’s federal employer’s identification number is assigned by the Internal Revenue Service, the Iowa business tax registration form shall be forwarded along with the first quarterly withholding return. The responsible party(ies) shall be listed on the form.

If an employer deducts and withholds Iowa income tax but does not file the Iowa business tax registration form, the department may register the employer using the best information available. If an employer uses a service provider to report and remit Iowa withholding tax on behalf of the employer, the department may use information obtained from the service provider to register the employer if an Iowa business tax registration form is not filed. This information would include, but is not limited to, the name, address, federal employer’s identification number, filing frequency, withholding agent and responsible party(ies) of the employer.

**46.3(2) Allowance certificate.**

*a. General rules.* On or before the date on which an individual commences employment with an employer, the individual shall furnish the employer with a signed Iowa employee’s withholding allowance certificate (IA W-4) indicating the number of withholding allowances which the individual claims, which in no event shall exceed the number to which the individual is entitled. The employer is required to request a withholding allowance certificate from each employee. If the employee fails to furnish a certificate, the employee shall be considered as claiming no withholding allowances. See subrule 46.3(4) for information on Form IA W-4P which is to be used by payers of pensions, annuities, deferred compensation, individual retirement accounts and other retirement incomes.

The employer must submit to the department of revenue a copy of a withholding allowance certificate received from an employee if:

- (1) The employee claimed more than a total of 22 withholding allowances, or
- (2) The employee is claiming an exemption from withholding and it is expected that the employee’s wages from that employer will normally exceed \$200 per week.

Employers required to submit withholding certificates should use the following address:

Iowa Department of Revenue  
Compliance Division  
Examination Section  
Hoover State Office Building  
P.O. Box 10456  
Des Moines, Iowa 50306

The department will notify the employer whether to honor the withholding certificate or to withhold as though the employee is claiming no withholding allowances.

*b. Form and content.* The “Iowa Employee’s Withholding Allowance Certificate” (IA W-4) must be used to determine the number of allowances that may be claimed by an employee for Iowa income tax withholding purposes. Generally, the greater number of allowances an employee is entitled to claim, the lower the amount of Iowa income tax to be withheld for the employee. The following withholding allowances may be claimed on the IA W-4 form:

(1) Personal allowances. An employee can claim one personal allowance or two if the individual is eligible to claim head of household status. The employee can claim an additional allowance if the employee is 65 years of age or older and another additional allowance if the employee is blind.

If the employee is married and the spouse either does not work or is not claiming an allowance on a separate W-4 form, the employee can claim an allowance for the spouse. The employee may also claim an additional allowance if the spouse is 65 years of age or older and still another allowance if the spouse is blind.

(2) Dependent allowances. The employee can claim an allowance for each dependent that the employee will be able to claim on the employee's Iowa return.

(3) Allowances for itemized deductions. The employee can claim allowances for itemized deductions to the extent the total amount of estimated itemized deductions for the tax year for the employee exceeds the applicable standard deduction amount by \$200. In instances where an employee is married and the employee's spouse is a wage-earner, the total allowances for itemized deductions for the employee and spouse should not exceed the aggregate amount itemized deduction allowances to which both taxpayers are entitled.

(4) Allowances for the child/dependent care credit. Employees who expect to be eligible for the child/dependent care credit for the tax year can claim withholding allowances for the credit. The allowances are determined from a chart included on the IA W-4 form on the basis of net income shown on the Iowa return for the employee. If the employee is married and has filed a joint federal return with a spouse who earns Iowa wages subject to withholding, the withholding allowances claimed by both spouses for the child/dependent care credit should not exceed the aggregate number of allowances to which both taxpayers are entitled. Taxpayers that expect to have a net income of \$45,000 or more for a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2006, should not claim withholding allowances for the child and dependent care credit, since these taxpayers are not eligible for the credit.

(5) Allowances for adjustments to income. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2008, employees can claim allowances for adjustments to income which are set forth in Treasury Regulation §31.3402(m)-1, paragraph "b." This includes adjustments to income such as alimony, deductible IRA contributions, student loan interest and moving expenses which are allowed as deductions in computing income subject to Iowa income tax. In instances where an employee is married and the employee's spouse is a wage earner, the withholding allowances claimed by both spouses for adjustments to income for the employee and spouse should not exceed the aggregate number of allowances to which both taxpayers are entitled.

*c. Change in allowances which affect the current calendar year.*

(1) Decrease. If, on any day during the calendar year, the number of withholding allowances to which an employee is entitled is less than the number of withholding allowances claimed by the individual on a withholding certificate then in effect, the employee must furnish the employer with a new Iowa withholding allowance certificate relating to the number of withholding allowances which the employee then claims, which must in no event exceed the number to which the employee is entitled on such day.

(2) Increase. If, on any day during the calendar year, the number of withholding allowances to which an employee is entitled is more than the number of withholding allowances claimed by the employee on the withholding allowance certificate then in effect, the employee may furnish the employer with a new Iowa withholding allowance certificate on which the employee must in no event claim more than the number of withholding allowances to which the employee is entitled on such day.

*d. Change in allowances which affect the next calendar year.* If, on any day during the calendar year, the number of withholding allowances to which the employee will be, or may reasonably be expected to be, entitled to for the employee's taxable year which begins in, or with, the next calendar year is different from the number to which the employee is entitled on such day, the following rules shall apply:

(1) If such number is less than the number of withholding allowances claimed by an employee on an Iowa withholding allowance certificate in effect on such day, the employee must within a reasonable time furnish the employee's employer with a new withholding allowance certificate reflecting the decrease.

(2) If such number is greater than the number of withholding allowances claimed by the employee on an Iowa withholding allowance certificate in effect on such day, the employee may furnish the employee's employer with a new withholding allowance certificate reflecting the increase.

*e. Duration of allowance certificate.* An Iowa withholding allowance certificate which is in effect pursuant to these regulations shall continue in effect until another withholding allowance certificate takes effect. Employers should retain copies of the IA W-4 forms for at least four years.

**46.3(3) Reports and payments of income tax withheld.**

*a. Returns of income tax withheld from wages.*

(1) Quarterly returns. Every withholding agent required to withhold tax on compensation paid for personal services in Iowa shall make a return for the first calendar quarter in which tax is withheld and for each subsequent calendar quarter, whether or not compensation is paid therein, until a final return is filed. The withholding agent's "Quarterly Withholding Return is the form prescribed for making the return required under this paragraph. Monthly tax deposits or semimonthly tax deposits may be required in addition to quarterly returns. See subparagraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 46.3(3)"*a.*" In some circumstances, only an annual return and payment of withheld taxes will be required; see paragraph 46.3(3)"*c.*"

Payments shall be based upon the tax required to be withheld and must be remitted in full.

A withholding agent is not required to list the name(s) of the agent's employee(s) when filing quarterly returns, nor is the withholding agent required to show on the employee's paycheck or voucher the amount of Iowa income tax withheld.

If a withholding agent's payroll is not constant, and the agent finds that no wages or other compensation was paid during the current quarter, the agent shall enter the numeral "zero" on the return and submit the return as usual.

(2) Monthly deposits. Every withholding agent required to file a quarterly withholding return shall also file a monthly deposit if the amount of tax withheld during any calendar month exceeds \$500, but is less than \$10,000. A withholding agent needs to file a monthly deposit even if no payment is due. No monthly deposit is required for the third month in any calendar quarter. The information otherwise required to be reported on the monthly deposit for the third month in a calendar quarter shall be reported on the quarterly return filed for that quarter, and no monthly deposit need be filed for such month.

(3) Semimonthly deposits. Every withholding agent who withholds more than \$5,000 in a semimonthly period must file a semimonthly tax deposit. A semimonthly period is defined as the period from the first day of a calendar month through the fifteenth day of a calendar month, or the period from the sixteenth day of a calendar month through the last day of a calendar month. When semimonthly deposits are required, a withholding agent must still file a quarterly return.

(4) Final returns. A withholding agent who in any return period permanently ceases doing business shall file the returns required by subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) of paragraph 46.3(3)"*a.*" as final returns for such period. The withholding agent shall cancel the withholding tax registration by notifying the department.

*b. Time for filing returns.*

(1) Quarterly returns. Each return required by subparagraph 46.3(3)"*a.*"(1) shall be filed on or before the last day of the first calendar month following the calendar quarter for which such return is made.

(2) Monthly tax deposits. Monthly deposits required by subparagraph 46.3(3) “a”(2) shall be filed on or before the fifteenth day of the second and third months of each calendar quarter for the first and second months of each calendar quarter, respectively.

(3) Semimonthly tax deposits. Semimonthly deposits required by subparagraph 46.3(3) “a”(3) for the semimonthly period from the first day of the month through the fifteenth day of the month shall be filed with payment of the tax on or before the twenty-fifth day of the same month. The semimonthly deposits required by subparagraph 46.3(3) “a”(3) for the semimonthly period from the sixteenth day of the month through the last day of the month shall be filed with payment of the tax on or before the tenth day of the month following the month in which the tax is withheld.

For withholding that occurs on or after January 1, 2005, quarterly returns, amended returns, monthly deposits and semimonthly deposits shall be made electronically in a format and by means specified by the department of revenue. Tax payments are considered to have been made on the date that the tax is transmitted and released by the vendor to the department.

(4) Determination of filing status. Effective July 1, 2002, the department and the department of management have the authority to change filing thresholds by department rule. This paragraph sets forth the filing thresholds for each filer based on the amount withheld for withholding that occurs on or after January 1, 2003.

The following criteria will be used by the department to determine if a change in filing status is warranted.

<u>Filing Status</u>	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Test Criteria</u>
Semimonthly	Greater than \$120,000 in annual withholding taxes (more than \$5,000 in a semimonthly period).	Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined exceeds \$30,000.
Monthly	Between \$6,000 and \$120,000 in annual withholding taxes (more than \$500 in a monthly period).	Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined exceeds \$1,500 per quarter.
Quarterly	Less than \$6,000 in annual withholding taxes.	Tax remitted in 3 of most recent 4 quarters examined is less than \$1,500 per quarter.
Annual	Less than 3 employees.	

When it is determined that a withholding agent’s filing status is to be changed, the withholding agent shall be notified in writing. A withholding agent has the option of requesting, within 30 days of the department’s notice of a change in filing frequency, that the withholding agent file more or less frequently than required by the department. To request filing on a less frequent basis than assigned by the department, the request must be in writing and submitted to the department. A withholding agent’s written request to be allowed to file less frequently than the filing status assigned by the department will be reviewed by the department, and a written determination will be issued to the withholding agent who made the request.

A change in assigned filing status to file on a less frequent basis will be granted in only two instances:

- Incorrect historical data is used in the conversion. A business may meet the criteria based on the original filing data, but, upon investigation, the filing history may prove that the business does not meet the dollar criteria because of adjustments, amended returns, or requests for refunds.
- Data available may have been distorted by the fact that the data reflected an unusual pattern in tax collection. The factors causing such a distortion must be documented and approved by the department.

A withholding agent may also request to file more frequently than assigned by the department. This request may be made orally, in writing, in person, or by telephone.

The department and the department of management may perform review of filing thresholds every five years or as needed based on department discretion. Factors the departments will consider in determining if the filing thresholds need to be changed include, but are not limited to: tax rate changes, inflation, the need to maintain consistency with required multistate compacts, changes in law, and migration between filing brackets.

*c. Reporting annual withholding.*

(1) Any withholding agent who does not have employee withholding but who is required to withhold state income tax from other distributions is exempted from the provisions of subparagraphs (2) and (3) of paragraph 46.3(3)“a,” if these distributions are made annually in one calendar quarter. These withholding agents need only comply with the reporting requirements of the one calendar quarter in which the tax is withheld, and make the required year-end reports.

(2) Every withholding agent employing not more than two individuals and who expects to employ either or both for the full calendar year may pay with the withholding tax return due for the first calendar quarter of the year the full amount of income taxes which would be required to be withheld from the wages for the full calendar year. The withholding agent shall advise the department of revenue that annual reporting is contemplated and shall also state the number of persons employed. The withholding agent shall compute the annual withholding from wages by determining the normal withholding for one pay period and multiply this amount by the total number of pay periods within the calendar year. The withholding agent shall be entitled to recover from the employee(s) any part of such lump-sum payment that represents an advance to the employee(s). If a withholding agent pays a lump sum with the first quarterly return, the agent shall be excused from filing further quarterly returns for the calendar year involved unless the agent hires other or additional employees. The “Verified Summary of Payments Report” shall be filed at the end of the tax year.

*d. Reports for employee.*

(1) General rule. Every employer required to deduct and withhold tax from compensation of an employee must furnish to each employee with respect to the compensation paid in Iowa by such employer during the calendar year, a statement containing the following information: the name, address, and federal employer identification number of the employer; the name, address, and social security number of the employee; the total amount of compensation paid in Iowa; the total amount deducted and withheld as tax under subrule 46.1(1).

(2) Form of statement. The information required to be furnished an employee under the preceding paragraph shall be furnished on an Internal Revenue Service combined Wage and Tax Statement, Form W-2, hereinafter referred to as “combined W-2.” Any reproduction, modification or substitution for a combined W-2 by the employer must be approved by the department. Employers should keep copies of the combined W-2 for four years from the end of the year for which the combined W-2 applies.

(3) Time for furnishing statement. Each statement required by paragraph “d” to be furnished for a calendar year and each corrected statement required for any prior year shall be furnished to the employee on or before January 31 of the year succeeding such calendar year, or if an employee’s employment is terminated before the close of a calendar year without expectation that it will resume during the same calendar year, within 30 days from the day on which the last payment of compensation is made, if requested by such employee. See paragraph 46.3(3)“e” for provisions relating to the filing of copies of the combined W-2 with the department of revenue.

(4) Corrections. An employer must furnish a corrected combined W-2 to an employee if, after the original statement has been furnished, an error is discovered in either the amount of compensation shown to have been paid in Iowa for the prior year or the amount of tax shown to have been deducted and

withheld in the prior year. Such statement shall be marked “corrected by the employer.” See paragraph 46.3(3) “e” for provisions relating to the filing of a corrected combined W-2 with the department.

(5) Undelivered combined W-2. Any employee’s copy of the combined W-2 which, after reasonable effort, cannot be delivered to an employee shall be transmitted to the department with a letter of explanation.

(6) Lost or destroyed. If the combined W-2 is lost or destroyed, the employer shall furnish a substitute copy to the employee. The copy shall be clearly marked “Reissued by Employer.”

*e. Annual verified summary of payments reports.*

(1) Every withholding agent required to withhold Iowa income tax under subrules 46.1(1), 46.1(2), 46.1(3), and 46.4(1) is to furnish to the department of revenue on or before the last day of January following the tax year an annual Verified Summary of Payments Report (VSP).

The withholding agent completing the VSP form must enter the total Iowa income tax withheld that is shown on the W-2 forms and 1099 forms for the year, the new jobs credits, supplemental jobs credits, accelerated career education credits and housing assistance credits claimed on withholding returns for the year. In addition, the withholding agent must enter on the VSP the withholding payments made for the year. If the amount of Iowa income tax withholding remitted to the department of revenue for the year is less than the withholding tax and withholding credits claimed, the withholding agent is to report the additional withholding tax due on an amended return and submit payment to the department.

If the Iowa income tax shown as withheld on the W-2s and 1099s issued for the tax year is less than the amount of withholding tax remitted to the department of revenue by the withholding agent, the agent should file an amended return with the department reflecting the excess tax paid.

(2) For Verified Summary of Payments Report forms filed with the department of revenue for the year 2000 through the year 2016, the withholding agents are not to submit W-2 forms and 1099 forms with the reports. However, the withholding agents should supply W-2 forms or 1099 forms as requested by personnel of the department of revenue if the request for the forms is made within three years from the end of the year for which the W-2 forms or 1099 forms apply. Therefore, if a request is made to a withholding agent for a W-2 form or a 1099 form for the year 2013, the request is valid if the request is postmarked, faxed or made on or before December 31, 2016.

*f. W-2 forms.*

(1) Beginning in 2017 for tax year 2016, withholding agents with at least 50 employees are required to electronically file W-2 forms with the department of revenue on or before the last day of January following the tax year. Withholding agents with fewer than 50 employees may, but are not required to, electronically file W-2 forms with the department of revenue on or before the last day of January following the tax year.

(2) Beginning in 2018 for tax year 2017, all withholding agents are required to electronically file W-2 forms with the department of revenue on or before the last day of January following the tax year.

(3) The department of revenue may, in a case involving a hardship, extend the requirement to electronically file to the 2019 tax year. No extension of time shall be granted unless the withholding agent makes a written request to the department of revenue for such action.

(4) Penalty. Failure to meet the filing requirements set out in this paragraph will subject withholding agents to the penalties under Iowa Code section 422.16(10).

*g. 1099 forms and W-2G forms.*

(1) Beginning in 2017 for tax year 2016, withholding agents with at least fifty 1099 forms and W-2G forms may file 1099 forms and W-2G forms with the department of revenue on or before the last day of January following the tax year.

(2) Beginning in 2018 for tax year 2017, all withholding agents are required to electronically file all 1099 forms and W-2G forms on or before the last day of January following the tax year.

(3) The department of revenue may, in a case involving a hardship, extend the requirement to electronically file to the 2019 tax year. No extension of time shall be granted unless the withholding agent makes a written request to the department of revenue for such action.

(4) Penalty. Failure to meet the filing requirements set out in this paragraph will subject withholding agents to the penalties under Iowa Code section 422.16(10).

*h. Withholding deemed to be held in trust.* Funds withheld from wages for Iowa income tax purposes are deemed to be held in trust for payment to the department of revenue. The state and the department shall have a lien upon all the assets of the employer and all the property used in the conduct of the employer's business to secure the payment of the tax as withheld under the provisions of this rule. An owner, conditional vendor, or mortgagee of property subject to such lien may exempt the property from the lien granted to Iowa by requiring the employer to obtain a certificate from the department, certifying that such employer has posted with the department security for the payment of the amounts withheld under this rule.

*i. Payment of tax deducted and withheld.* The amount of tax shown to be due on each deposit or return required to be filed under subrule 46.3(3) shall be due on or before the date on which such deposit or return is required to be filed.

*j. Correction of underpayment or overpayment of taxes withheld.*

(1) Underpayment. If a return is filed for a return period under rule 701—46.3(422) and less than the correct amount of tax is reported on the return and paid to the department, the employer shall report and pay the additional amount due by filing an amended withholding tax return.

(2) Overpayment. If an employer remits more than the correct amount of tax for a return period, the employer must file an amended withholding tax return and request a refund of the withholding tax paid which was not due.

**46.3(4) Iowa W-4P—withholding certificate for pension or annuity payments.** For payments made from pension plans, annuity plans, individual retirement accounts, or deferred compensation plans to residents of Iowa, payers of these retirement benefits are to use Form IA W-4P for withholding of state income tax from the benefits. Generally, state income tax is required to be withheld from payments of distributions from the retirement incomes described above when federal income tax is being withheld from the payments. However, no state income tax is required to be withheld to the extent the monthly payment amount is \$500 or less or the taxable amount per month is \$500 or less if the payee is eligible for the retirement benefits exclusion described in rule 701—40.47(422). In addition, no state income tax is required to be withheld to the extent the monthly payment amount is \$1,000 or less or the taxable amount per month is \$1,000 or less if the payee is married and eligible for the retirement benefits exclusion described in rule 701—40.47(422).

Form IA W-4P is available from the department for payers of retirement benefits that intend to withhold at a rate of 5 percent from the payment amount or taxable payment amount after the \$6,000 to \$12,000 exclusion is considered. Note that the \$6,000 to \$12,000 exclusion is to be allocated to all retirement benefit payments made in the year and not just the first \$6,000 to \$12,000 in payments made in the year to an individual. If an individual receives retirement benefits and has not completed Form IA W-4P, the payer is directed to withhold Iowa income tax from the retirement benefit payment after a \$6,000 exclusion is allowed on an annual basis.

Payers of retirement benefits that want to use withholding formulas or tables to withhold state income tax instead of at the 5 percent rate may design their own IA W-4P withholding certificate form without approval of the department.

The payers are not responsible for improper choices made by a payee in completion of the IA W-4P. However, payers cannot accept a request for exemption from the withholding of state income tax made by a payee if federal income tax is being withheld unless the payee is eligible for exemption from withholding.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.7 and 422.12C, and section 422.16 as amended by 2007 Iowa Acts, House File 904, section 3.

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