

701—12.3 (422) Permits and negotiated rate agreements. A person making retail sales in Iowa is required to obtain a sales tax permit from the department of revenue. Certain qualified purchasers, users, or consumers may obtain a direct pay permit which allows qualified purchasers, users, or consumers to remit tax directly to the department rather than to the retailer at the time of purchase or use. The following provisions govern the issuance of each type of permit.

12.3(1) Sales tax permits. Sales tax permits will be required of all resident and nonresident persons making retail sales at permanent locations within the state. A permit must be held for each location except that retailers conducting business at a permanent location who also make sales at a temporary location are not required to hold a separate permit for any temporary location. All tax collected from the temporary location shall be remitted with the tax collected at the permanent location. Persons who are registered retailers pursuant to rule 701—29.1(423) relating to use tax may remit sales taxes collected at a temporary location with their quarterly retailers use tax return. Retailers conducting a seasonal business shall also obtain a regular permit. However, returns will be filed on either a quarterly or annual basis depending upon the number of quarters in which sales are made. Sales tax permits will be required of all persons, except cities and counties, who have sales activity from gambling.

12.3(2) Direct pay permits. Effective January 1, 1998, qualified purchasers, users, and consumers of tangible personal property or enumerated services pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 422, 422B, and 423 may remit tax owed directly to the department of revenue instead of the tax being collected and remitted by the seller. A qualified purchaser, user, or consumer may not be granted or exercise this direct pay option except upon proper application to the department and only after issuance of the direct pay permit by the director of the department of revenue.

a. Qualifications for a direct pay permit. To qualify for a direct pay permit, all of the following criteria must be met:

(1) The applicant must be a purchaser, user, or consumer of tangible personal property or enumerated services.

(2) The applicant must have an accrual of sales and use tax liability on consumed goods of more than \$4,000 in a semimonthly period. A purchaser, user, or consumer may have more than one business location and can combine the sales and use tax liabilities on consumed goods of all locations to meet the requirement of \$4,000 in sales and use tax liability in a semimonthly period to qualify, if the records are located in a centralized location. If a purchaser, user, or consumer is combining more than one location, only one direct pay tax return for all of the combined locations needs to be filed with the department. However, local option sales and service tax should not be included in the tax base for determining qualification for a direct pay permit. If a purchaser, user, or consumer has more than one location, but not all locations wish to remit under a direct pay permit, the purchaser, user, or consumer must indicate which locations will be utilizing the direct pay permit at the time of application.

(3) The applicant must make deposits and file returns pursuant to Iowa Code section 422.52. See subrule 12.3(2), paragraph “d,” for further details.

b. Nonqualifying purchases or uses. The granting of a direct pay permit is not allowed for any of the following:

(1) Taxes imposed on the sale, furnishing, or service of gas, electricity, water, heat, pay television service, or communication service.

(2) Taxes imposed under Iowa Code section 422C.3 (sales tax on the rental receipts of qualifying rental motor vehicles), Iowa Code section 423.7 (use tax on the sale or use of motor vehicles), or Iowa Code section 423.7A (use tax on the lease price of qualifying leased motor vehicles).

c. Application and permit information. To obtain a direct pay permit, a purchaser, user, or consumer must properly complete an application form prescribed by the director of revenue and provide certification that the purchaser, user, or consumer has paid sales and use tax to the department of revenue or vendors over the last two years prior to application, an average of \$4,000 in a semimonthly period.

Upon approval, the director will issue a direct pay permit to qualifying applicants. The permit will contain direct pay permit identifying information including a direct pay permit identification number. The direct pay permit should be retained by the permit holder. When purchasing from a vendor, a permit holder should give the vendor a certificate of exemption containing the information as set forth in rule 701—15.3(422,423).

d. Remittance and reporting. Sales, use, and local option tax that is to be reported and remitted to the department will be on a semimonthly basis. Remittance of tax due under a direct pay permit will begin with the first quarter after the direct pay permit is issued to the holder. The tax to be paid under a direct pay permit must be remitted directly to the department by electronic funds transfer (EFT) only. A permit holder need not have remitted by EFT prior to obtaining a direct pay permit to qualify for such a permit. However, a permit holder must remit taxes due by EFT for transactions entered into on or after the date the permit is issued. All local option sales and service tax due must be reported and remitted at the same time as the sales and use taxes due under the direct pay permit for the corresponding tax period. However, local option sales and service tax should not be included in the tax base for determining qualification for a direct pay permit or frequency of remittance. Reports should be filed with the department on a quarterly basis. The director may, when necessary and advisable in order to secure the collection of tax due, require an applicant for a direct pay permit or a permit holder to file with the director a qualified surety bond as set forth in Iowa Code section 422.52. A permit holder who fails to report or remit any tax when due is subject to the penalty and interest provisions set forth in Iowa Code section 422.52.

e. Permit revocation and nontransferability. A direct pay permit may be used indefinitely unless it is revoked by the director. A direct pay permit is not transferable and it may not be assigned to a third party. The director may revoke a direct pay permit at any time the permit holder fails to meet the requirements for a direct pay permit, misuses the direct pay permit, or fails to comply with the provisions in Iowa Code section 422.53. If a direct pay permit is revoked, it is the responsibility of the prior holder of the permit to inform all vendors of the revocation so the vendors may begin to collect tax at the time of purchase. A prior permit holder is responsible for any tax, penalty, and interest due for failure to notify a vendor of revocation of a direct pay permit.

f. Record-keeping requirements. The parties involved in transactions involving a direct pay permit shall have the following record-keeping duties:

(1) Permit holder. The holder of a direct pay permit must retain possession of the direct pay permit. The permit holder must keep a record of all transactions made pursuant to the direct pay permit in compliance with rule 701—11.4(422,423).

(2) Vendor. A vendor must retain a valid exemption certificate under rule 701—15.3(422,423) which is received from the direct pay permit holder and retain records of all transactions engaged in with the permit holder in which tax was not collected, in compliance with rule 701—11.4(422,423). A vendor's liability for uncollected tax is governed by the liability provisions of a seller under an exemption certificate set forth in rule 701—15.3(422,423).

12.3(3) Negotiated rate agreements. Any person who has been issued or who has applied for a direct pay permit may request the department to enter into a negotiated rate agreement with the permit holder or applicant. These agreements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis and, if approved by the department, allow a direct pay permit holder to pay the state sales, local option sales, or use tax on a basis calculated by agreement between the direct pay permit holder and the department. Negotiated rate agreements are not applicable to sales and use taxes set out in subrule 12.3(2), paragraph "b," above, and no negotiated rate agreement is effective for any period during which a taxpayer who is a signatory to the agreement is not a direct pay permit holder.

All negotiated rate agreements shall contain the following information or an explanation for its omission:

1. The name of the taxpayer who has entered into the agreement with the department.

2. The name and title of each person signing the agreement and the name, telephone or fax number, and E-mail or physical address of at least one person to be contacted if questions regarding the agreement arise.

3. The period during which the agreement is in effect and the renewal or extension rights (if any) of each party, and the effective date of the agreement.

4. The negotiated rate or rates, the classes of sales or uses to which each separate rate is applicable, any items which will be excluded from the agreement, and any circumstances which will result in a changed rate or rates or changed composition of classes to which rates are applicable.

5. Actions or circumstances which render the agreement void, or voidable at the option of either party, and the time frame in which the agreement will be voided.

6. Rights, if any, of the parties to resort to mediation or arbitration.

7. An explanation of the department's right to audit aspects of the agreement, including any right to audit remaining after the agreement's termination.

8. The conditions by which the agreement may be terminated and the effective date of the termination.

9. The methodology used to determine the negotiated rate and any schedules needed to verify percentages.

10. Any other matter deemed necessary to the parties' mutual understanding of the agreement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.45(20) and 422.53 as amended by 1997 Iowa Acts, House File 266.