

**701—212.7(423) Service charge and gratuity.** When the purchase of any food, beverage or meal automatically and invariably results in the inclusion of a mandatory service charge to the total price for such food, beverage or meal, the amounts so included shall be subject to tax. The term “service charge” means either a fixed percentage of the total price of or a charge for food, a beverage or a meal.

The mandatory service charge shall be considered: (1) a required part of a transaction arising from a taxable sale and a contractual obligation of a purchaser to pay to a vendor a charge arising directly from and as a condition of the making of the sale and (2) a fixed labor cost included in the price for food, a beverage or a meal even though such charge is separately stated from the charge for the food, beverage or meal.

When a gratuity is voluntarily given for food, a beverage or a meal, it shall be considered a tip and not subject to tax. *Cohen v. Playboy Club International, Inc.*, 19 Ill. App. 3d 215, 311 N.E.2d 336; *Baltimore Country Club, Inc. v. Comptroller of Treasury*, 272 Md. 65, 321 A.2d 308.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 423.1(47) and 423.2(1).