

701—260.8(452A) Refunds. Refunds are allowable for the tax paid on motor fuel and undyed special fuel in the following situations:

260.8(1) Federal government. Fuel sold to the United States or to any agency or instrumentality of the United States. The tax is subject to refund regardless of how the fuel is used.

a. The following factors, among others, will be considered in determining if any organization is an instrumentality of the United States government: (a) whether it was created by the federal government, (b) whether it is wholly owned by the federal government, (c) whether it is operated for profit, (d) whether it is “primarily” engaged in the performance of some “essential” government function, and (e) whether the tax will impose an economic burden upon the federal government or serve to materially impair the usefulness and efficiency of the organization or to materially restrict it in the performance of its duties if it were imposed.

b. The American Red Cross, Project Head Start, Federal Land Banks and Federal Land Bank Associations, among others, have been determined to be instrumentalities of the federal government. Receivers or trustees appointed in the federal bankruptcy proceedings are subject to the excise tax.

The refund is not available to employees of the federal government who purchase fuel individually and are later reimbursed by the federal government. The name of the federal agency must appear on the invoice as the purchaser of the fuel or the refund will not be allowed.

260.8(2) Transit systems. Fuel sold to an Iowa urban transit system as defined in rule 701—259.1(452A) or a company operating a taxicab service under contract with an Iowa urban transit system which is used for a purpose specified in Iowa Code section 452A.57(6) and fuel sold to a regional transit system as defined in rule 701—259.1(452A) which is used for a purpose specified in Iowa Code section 452A.57(11).

260.8(3) The state and political subdivisions. Fuel sold to the state of Iowa or any political subdivision of the state which is used for public purposes.

a. The refund is not available to agencies or instrumentalities of a political subdivision, but rather only to the state of Iowa, agencies of the state of Iowa, and political subdivisions of the state of Iowa. The general attributes and factors in determining if an entity is a political subdivision of the state of Iowa are: (a) the entity has a specific geographic area, (b) the entity has public officials elected at public elections, (c) the entity has taxing power, (d) the entity has a general public purpose or benefit, and (e) the foregoing attributes, factors or powers were delegated to the entity by the state of Iowa.

b. The refund is also not available to employees of a governmental unit who purchase fuel individually and are later reimbursed by the governmental unit. The name of the governmental unit must appear on the invoice as the purchaser of the fuel or the refund will not be allowed.

260.8(4) Contract carriers.

a. Motor fuel and undyed special fuel sold to a contract carrier who has a contract with a public school under Iowa Code section 285.5 for the transportation of pupils of an approved public or nonpublic school is refundable. If the contract carrier also uses fuel for purposes other than the transportation of pupils, the refund will be based on that percentage of the total amount of fuel purchased which reflects the pupil transportation usage.

b. A refund requested by contract carriers will be reduced by the applicable sales tax unless otherwise exempt. The name of the contract carrier must appear on the invoice as the purchaser of the fuel or the refund will not be allowed.

260.8(5) Fuel used in unlicensed vehicles, stationary engines, machinery and equipment used for nonhighway purposes, implements used in agricultural production, and fuel used for home heating.

260.8(6) Fuel used for producing denatured ethanol.

260.8(7) Fuel used in the watercraft of a commercial fisher, licensed and operating under an owner’s certificate for commercial fishing gear issued pursuant to Iowa Code section 482.4.

260.8(8) Fuel placed in motor vehicles, whether registered or not registered, not operated on public highways, and used in the extraction and processing of natural deposits.

260.8(9) Idle time. Persons who wish to claim a refund for idle time (the engine is running but not propelling the vehicle) must first apply to the department and provide statistical information on how the refund amount will be calculated. Normally, to qualify for a refund the vehicle must be equipped with

an on-board monitoring device which will record the actual time the engine is idling and the amount of fuel consumed while idling. If the device only records the idle time and not fuel used, the refund amount will be calculated at one-half gallon of fuel consumed per one hour of idle time. The computation must also consider the miles driven in Iowa versus total miles driven. The department will require a review of interstate carrier reports before approval of the computation method.

260.8(10) Power takeoff. Persons operating vehicles which have auxiliary equipment that is powered by the power takeoff may apply for a refund for that portion of the fuel used for powering the auxiliary equipment.

The person requesting the refund must furnish the department with statistical information on how the exempt percentage is established. The percentage can be established by using the following noninclusive methods.

- Determine the actual fuel usage by the hour while the auxiliary equipment is in use compared to total hours the engine is running.
- Establish total miles per gallon for the vehicle when auxiliary equipment is not in use compared to miles per gallon while the equipment is in use.
- Other computation methods to be reviewed by the department prior to approval.

It has been predetermined that tax on fuel used in the mixing of cement into concrete, the off-loading of the concrete, and the loading and off-loading of solid waste will be refunded on the basis of 30 percent of the fuel placed in the fuel supply tank of the vehicle provided proper records are maintained. Proper records shall consist of records of fills for each vehicle from tax-paid bulk storage tanks or sales tickets where fuel is purchased directly from a service station. Each vehicle must be identifiable by a unit number so the department can trace fuel usage to specific vehicles. An additional allowance will be granted where it can be substantiated through the use of separate meters which operate to measure the fuel when the vehicle is stationary or the use of separate tanks which fuel the vehicle only when the vehicle is stationary that the actual nonhighway fuel usage exceeds 30 percent.

260.8(11) Refrigeration units (reefers). Tax paid on motor fuel and undyed special fuel is subject to refund. The person must maintain records of fuel purchases to substantiate the tax-paid purchases. Invoices must meet the criteria set forth in rule 701—259.12(452A). In addition, the invoices must separately state fuel purchased and placed in the reefer unit. Liquefied petroleum gas may be purchased tax-free for use in reefer units. See rule 701—261.10(452A).

260.8(12) Pumping credits. A refund will be allowed for taxes paid on fuel once that fuel has been placed in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle when the motor of that vehicle is used as a power source for off-loading procedures. Meter readings from the pump used in the off-loading procedure or the invoice, manifest or bill of lading number covering the product off-loaded must be retained. The claims for refund, unless a different amount can be proven, will be (a) one-half gallon credit for each 1,000 gallons of liquid products pumped and three-tenths of a gallon credit for each ton of dry products pumped when using motor fuel or special fuel (diesel) to power the motor and (b) one gallon credit for each 1,000 gallons of liquid products pumped and three-tenths of a gallon credit for each ton of dry products pumped when using special fuel (L.P.G.) to power the motor.

260.8(13) Transport diversions. When a transport load of motor fuel or undyed special fuel is sold tax-paid with a destination in this state and later diverted to a destination outside the state, the person who actually paid the Iowa tax is entitled to a refund. To secure a refund, the person must file a completed claim form provided by the department with supporting documentation including a copy of the bill of lading, invoices or document showing where and to whom the fuel was delivered, a copy of the reporting form and evidence of payment to the state where the fuel was actually delivered.

260.8(14) Casualty loss. In the event fuel is lost or destroyed through fire, explosion, lightning, flood, storm, earthquake, terrorist attack, or other casualty, the taxpayer must inform the department in writing of such loss within 10 days of the loss; and the notification must contain the amount of gallonage lost or destroyed which must be in excess of 100 gallons. An application for refund must be submitted to the department within 60 days of the notification and contain a notarized affidavit sworn to by the person having immediate custody of the fuel at the time of the loss or destruction setting forth, in full detail, the circumstances of the loss or destruction and the number of gallons. If the fuel was in storage

where several fuel purchases were commingled, it is a rebuttable presumption that the fuel lost through casualty was a part of the last delivery into the storage just prior to the loss. No refund is allowable for fuel lost through evaporation, theft, normal leakage, or unknown causes. Leakage resulting from a major accident or catastrophe is subject to refund.

260.8(15) Exports by eligible purchasers (distributors). Distributors who have purchased tax-paid motor fuel or undyed special fuel and sell the fuel to consumers outside the state may apply for a refund of the Iowa tax paid. The distributor must retain records as provided in rule 701—259.3(452A) to support the request for refund.

260.8(16) Blending errors for special fuel. Dyed special fuel commingled with undyed special fuel and motor fuel commingled with special fuel. If dyed special fuel is inadvertently mixed with tax-paid undyed special fuel to the extent that the undyed fuel must have additional dye added to meet federal dyeing requirements to qualify as exempt dyed fuel, the tax is refundable on the undyed special fuel. The refund request must contain the number of gallons of undyed fuel lost through the mixing error and documentation as to how the gallonage was determined. If motor fuel is blended in error with dyed special fuel to produce a commingled product that must be destroyed or refined for subsequent use, the tax-paid fuel is subject to refund. The request for refund must contain documentation that the commingled product was destroyed or sold for purposes of refinement at a terminal.

260.8(17) Watercraft. Special fuel used in watercraft. This subrule is retroactive to July 1, 1996.

260.8(18) Refund of tax—Indians. Sales by Indians to other Indians of their own tribe on federally recognized Indian reservations or settlements of which they are tribal members are exempt from the tax. However, Indian sellers are subject to the record-keeping requirements of Iowa Code chapter 452A. The fuel must be purchased by the Indian seller with the tax included in the purchase price, unless the seller's status as a particular licensee authorizes the seller to purchase fuel tax-free. The tax exemption is allowed to the Indian purchaser by the purchaser's filing a claim for refund of the tax paid or the tribe of which the Indian purchaser is a member filing a claim for refund of the tax paid by the tribe on fuel sold to the Indian purchaser.

260.8(19) Racing fuel.

260.8(20) Benefited fire districts if the fuel is used for public purposes.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 452A.17 as amended by 2005 Iowa Acts, House File 216, and Iowa Code section 452A.71.

[ARC 5842C, IAB 8/11/21, effective 9/15/21; ARC 6508C, IAB 9/7/22, effective 10/12/22; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 10/18/23]