

## NEBRASKA MOTOR FUELS TAX REFUNDS

### OVERVIEW

Motor fuels (fuel), including gasoline, gasohol, and undyed diesel purchased in Nebraska, are taxed at the time of purchase. When this taxed fuel is then either purchased by an exempt entity, or used in an exempt manner, a refund is available.

Exempt entities include the United States government, its agencies, and federal corporations wholly owned by the United States government. Fuel used in licensed motor vehicles by state and local governmental entities, including school districts, **does not** qualify for a refund.

The types of qualifying exempt uses are agricultural, quarrying, industrial, or any other usage in unlicensed vehicles or equipment. **Fuel used in a licensed motor vehicle is not eligible for a refund regardless of how the vehicle was used.**

*This information guide is intended to provide an overview. Nothing in this guide supersedes, alters, or otherwise changes any provisions of the Nebraska tax code, regulations, Nebraska Department of Revenue (Department) rulings, or court decisions.*



*This information guide may change with updated information or added examples. The Department recommends you do not print this guide. Instead, sign up for the subscription service at [www.revenue.ne.gov](http://www.revenue.ne.gov) to get updates on your topics of interest.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Claim Form.** A refund is claimed by filing a [Nebraska Non-Ag Use Motor Fuels Tax Refund Claim, Form 84](#), or a [Nebraska Ag Use Motor Fuels Tax Refund Claim, Form 84AG](#). You must file your claim within three years from the purchase date of the fuel. We encourage the filing of claims on an annual basis. However, you may choose to file as frequently as monthly depending upon your level of activity.

Claims filed for refunds of tax paid on aviation jet fuel or aviation gasoline used in the operation of a FAA-approved air school must be filed within seven months of the date of purchase.

A valid claim must contain an original signature (no fax or copies of the signature will be accepted) and be supported by appropriate documentation. The documentation necessary depends on the type of claim being filed.

**Minimum Claim Amount.** The minimum tax amount required to file a claim for eligible gallons of gasoline or diesel is \$25. This is calculated by multiplying the gallons of fuel by the applicable Nebraska excise tax rate. This minimum must be met within a calendar year and for each fuel type claimed. You may not carry over amounts from one year to another. The Petroleum Release Remedial Action Fee has a \$10 minimum per year amount.

### TYPES OF CLAIMS

Refunds are available when taxed fuel is subsequently purchased by an exempt entity or used in a qualifying exempt manner. Some of the most common types of refund claims are discussed below.

**U.S. Government Transactions.** If tax-paid fuel was purchased by an agency of the U.S. government, that agency may file for a refund. The refund is allowed for purchases by the U.S. government, its agencies, and federal corporations wholly owned by the U.S. government.

Copies of invoices and other supporting records must be submitted with the claim.

If previously-taxed fuel was sold tax-free to qualifying federal agencies by a licensed supplier, distributor, importer, or wholesaler, the licensee may claim a deduction of those gallons on its motor fuels tax return by using the appropriate schedule code. When these sales are made by retailers, a credit of the tax may be obtained by filing a [Nebraska Retailer's Claim for Exempt Sales of Motor Fuels, Form RC73](#), with its fuel vendor.

**Exempt Use of Tax-Paid Fuel.** Any person who has purchased and used tax-paid fuel for a qualified exempt purpose may file a claim. Generally, any use of fuel in unlicensed equipment will qualify for a refund.

If appropriate records are maintained, both licensed vehicles and unlicensed equipment may be fueled from the same storage facility. Complete withdrawal logs documenting the fuel used in both licensed vehicles and unlicensed equipment must be maintained to determine the gallons eligible for refund. These logs must include:

- ❖ Type of fuel;
- ❖ Date of withdrawal of the fuel;
- ❖ Equipment number or type of equipment fueled; and
- ❖ Number of gallons.

When separate storage facilities are used for taxable-use fuel and nontaxable-use fuel, the Department strongly encourages the use of withdrawal logs to determine the number of gallons used. In some instances, the Department may require that withdrawal logs be maintained. In all cases, you must have adequate controls to ensure that licensed vehicles are not fueled from the nontaxable-use storage facilities.

The following documentation must be provided with the refund claim. This documentation will not be returned.

- ❖ **Description of your operations.** This must be submitted with the initial claim, and then on an annual basis. For example, for agricultural use, this information includes the number of acres farmed, types of crops raised, and the number and type of livestock.
- ❖ **Types of equipment and vehicles.** An equipment and vehicle list must be submitted with the initial claim, and then on an annual basis. The list must include the type of fuel used by each piece of equipment or vehicles, and must indicate which were licensed vehicles.
- ❖ **Purchase invoices.** Legible copies of purchase invoices showing the product type, gallons, amount paid, date of purchase, and vendor's name must be provided.
- ❖ **Withdrawal logs.** Legible copies of withdrawal logs must be provided, if applicable.

**Exports of Tax-Paid Fuel, Including the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Fee.** Generally, an exporter's license is required prior to exporting fuel. If you are not required to be licensed as an exporter, and you owned and exported tax-paid fuel, you may file a refund claim.

The following documentation must be provided with the refund claim. This documentation will not be returned.

- ❖ **Purchase invoices.** Legible copies of purchase invoices or other records showing that the Nebraska motor fuels tax and fees were paid to a motor fuels licensee must be provided.
- ❖ **Bills of lading and other shipping documents.** Legible copies of bills of lading and other shipping documents must indicate the destination of the fuel.
- ❖ **Returns filed with other states.** Legible copies of returns filed with other states must indicate that the fuel was reported properly to those states.

**Destroyed or Contaminated Tax-Paid Fuel.** If you owned Nebraska tax-paid fuel that was subsequently destroyed, or accidentally contaminated with another type of fuel, you may file a refund claim. Motor fuels tax will not be refunded on undyed diesel which was intentionally mixed with dyed diesel.

The following documentation must be provided with the refund claim. This documentation will not be returned.

- ❖ **Description of event.** Describe the event leading to the destruction or contamination of the fuel. Include the date of the event, the location, and the disposition of any contaminated fuel.
- ❖ **Purchase invoices and bills of lading.** Legible copies of purchase invoices and bills of lading must indicate the type of fuel, the number of gallons destroyed or contaminated, the date of event, and the owner of the fuel.
- ❖ **Inventory records.** Legible copies of inventory records must document the amount of gallons both before and after the event.
- ❖ **Insurance claims.** Legible copies of insurance claims filed for recovery of any associated costs must be provided.

## AMOUNT OF REFUND

The refund is based on the motor fuels tax paid at the time the fuel was purchased. If an erroneous tax is paid at the time of purchase, the refund will be determined based on the tax amount paid or the proper amount of tax, whichever is less.

**Example 1.** You purchased 100 gallons of diesel fuel for use in unlicensed equipment on July 1, 2011. The invoice shows that Nebraska tax of 25¢ per gallon was charged. Your vendor should have charged you tax of 26.3¢ per gallon. Your refund will be based upon the tax paid of 25¢ per gallon less the 1¢ per gallon reduction discussed below.

**Example 2.** You purchased 100 gallons of diesel fuel for use in unlicensed equipment on July 1, 2011. The invoice shows that Nebraska tax of 27¢ per gallon was charged. Your vendor should have charged you tax of 26.3¢ per gallon. Your refund will be based upon the correct tax of 26.3¢ per gallon less the 1¢ per gallon reduction discussed below.

The tax refunded is reduced by 1¢ for each gallon of diesel and 2.25¢ for each gallon of gasoline/gasohol for refunds filed by fuel users. Use the [table of refund rates](#) for assistance.

Additional deductions from the calculated refund may apply:

- ❖ **Commissions.** If you are a motor vehicle fuels, diesel fuel, or aircraft fuel licensee, you may need to deduct the appropriate commission amount;
- ❖ **Nebraska and Local Use Tax.** If you are claiming a refund for tax paid on diesel fuel used for reefer units or home heating, the fuel may be subject to sales and use tax. You must remit the state or local use tax on a [Business Nebraska and Local Use Tax Return, Form 2](#), [Individual Nebraska and Local Use Tax Return, Form 3](#), or on the appropriate line on [Nebraska and Local Sales and Use Tax Return, Form 10](#). If the appropriate use tax is not paid on a Form 2, Form 3, or Form 10, the refund will be reduced by the amount of use tax determined to be due; and
- ❖ **Aircraft Fuels Tax.** If you are claiming a refund for tax paid on gasoline or gasohol which was subsequently used to fuel an airplane, the claim must be reduced by the aviation gasoline tax rate of 5¢ per gallon.

## RECORD RETENTION

Complete records substantiating the refund must be maintained for a period of at least three years. All refund claims are subject to audit for three years from the date the claims were filed.

**[www.revenue.ne.gov/fuels](http://www.revenue.ne.gov/fuels)**  
800-554-3835, or 402-471-5730  
Motor Fuels Division, Nebraska Department of Revenue, PO Box 98904, Lincoln, NE 68509-8904