

**Rules of
Department of Revenue
Division 10—Director of Revenue
Chapter 111—Sales/Use Tax—Machinery
and Equipment Exemptions**

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Title 12—DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Division 10—Director of Revenue

Chapter 111—Sales/Use Tax—Machinery and Equipment Exemptions

12 CSR 10-111.010 Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Exemptions

PURPOSE: Section 144.030.2(4) and (5), RSMo, exempts from taxation certain machinery, equipment, parts, materials and supplies. This rule explains what elements must be met in order to qualify for these exemptions.

(1) In general, the purchase of machinery, equipment, parts, and the materials and supplies solely required for the installation or construction of such machinery, equipment and parts, are exempt from sales tax if they are for replacement or for a new or expanded plant and they are directly used in manufacturing, mining, fabricating or producing a product which is intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption.

(2) Definition of Terms.

(A) Establish a new manufacturing plant—The complete and final construction of a facility and all of its component parts. Construction shall be deemed completed within a reasonable period of time after production begins.

(B) Expand existing manufacturing plant—The purchase of additional machinery, equipment and parts as a result of the physical enlargement of an existing manufacturing, fabricating or mining facility; or the addition of machinery, equipment and parts constituting improvements that result in an actual or potential: i) increase in production volume at the plant, ii) increase in employment at the plant, or iii) increase in the number of types or models of products produced at the plant. This actual or potential increase is measured in relation to the actual or potential production volume, employment or types or models of products produced at the plant before the machinery, equipment and parts were originally put into use at the plant. Documentation which may be provided to establish the requisite intent for potential increase in production include, but are not limited to, the following: capital expenditure authorization requests, production records, production plans, purchase invoices, work authorizations, plant equipment cost savings analysis or reports and asset justification reports.

(C) Fabrication—The process of transforming an item into a higher stage of development. It does not imply or signify manu-

facturing, but the meaning of the term is limited to cutting, carving, dressing, shaping; advancing an elementary shape to a higher stage of development; reworking and cutting shapes to required length.

(D) Machinery and equipment—Devices that have a degree of permanence to the business, contribute to multiple processing cycles over time and generally constitute fixed assets other than land and buildings for purposes of business and accounting practices.

(E) Manufacturing—i) the alteration or physical change of an object or material to produce an article with a use, identity and value different from the use, identity and value of the original; or ii) a process which changes and adapts something practically unsuitable for any common use into something suitable for common use; or iii) the production of new and different articles, by the use of machinery, labor and skill, in forms suitable for new applications; or iv) a process that makes more than a superficial transformation in quality and adaptability and creates an end product quite different from the original; or v) requires the manipulation of an item in such a way as to create a new and distinct item, with a value and identity completely different from the original. Manufacturing does not include processes that restore articles to their original condition (e.g., cleaning, repairing); processes that maintain a product (e.g., refrigeration); or processes that do not result in a change in the articles being processed (e.g., inspecting, sorting).

(F) Mining—The process of extracting from the earth precious or valuable metals, minerals or ores. This process includes quarrying, but does not include equipment used for water-well drilling or reclamation performed to restore previously mined land to its original state.

(G) Parts—Articles of tangible personal property that are components of machinery or equipment, which can be separated from the machinery or equipment and replaced. Like machinery and equipment, parts must have a degree of permanence and durability. Items that are consumed in a single processing and benefit only one production cycle are materials and supplies, not parts. Items such as: nuts, bolts, hoses, hose clamps, chains, belts, gears, drill bits, grinding heads, blades, and bearings, would ordinarily be considered as parts. Substances such as fuels and coolants that are added to machinery and equipment for operation are not parts. Substances such as lubricants, paint and adhesives that adhere to the surface of machinery and equipment but are not distinct articles of tangible personal property, are not

parts. These items would be considered as materials and supplies within the meaning of the exemptions.

(H) Producing—Includes the meanings of “manufacturing” and “fabricating,” and is used in connection with the creation of intangibles that are taxable but which are not manufactured or fabricated in the sense those terms are commonly understood, e.g., information organized by computer and then sold on tangible media.

(I) Product which is intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption—Tangible personal property, or any service that is subject to state or local sales or use taxes, or any tax that is substantially equivalent thereto, in this state or any other state, which is intended at the time of manufacturing, mining or fabrication to be sold at retail. Property or services cannot be considered to be “subject to” the tax of a state unless the property or services are actually to be sold at retail in that state or delivered to a retail customer in that state.

(3) Basic Application of Exemption.

(A) Direct use—In determining whether machinery, equipment and parts are used directly in producing a product, Missouri has adopted the integrated plant theory that permits a broad construction of the machinery, equipment and parts exemptions. The language “used directly in” exempts purchases of articles that are both essential and comprise an integral part of the manufacturing process. It is not sufficient to meet only one of these requirements. For example, items used in material storage or handling before the manufacturing process begins may be essential to the process, but are not an integral part of the manufacturing process and are therefore not used “directly” in manufacturing. The factors which determine whether an article is directly used are: whether the item is essential or necessary to the process; how close, causally, is the item to the production process; and whether the item operates harmoniously with other machinery to make an integrated and synchronized system. The direct use requirement is not limited to those items of machinery, equipment and parts that produce a direct physical change in the composition of the raw materials or work in process.

(B) New or expanded plant exemption—Pursuant to section 144.030.2(5), RSMo, purchases of machinery, equipment and parts to establish a new or to expand an existing manufacturing, mining or fabricating plant in Missouri which are used directly in manufacturing, mining or fabricating a product that is intended to be sold ultimately for final use or

consumption are not subject to tax. Purchases of the materials and supplies solely required for the installation or construction of such machinery and equipment are not subject to tax.

(C) Purchase by other than end user—The exemptions for machinery, equipment and parts in section 144.030.2(4) and (5), RSMo, do not require that the owner of the facility be the purchaser to qualify for the exemption or that the purchaser be the one who uses the machinery, equipment and parts in an exempt fashion. All that is required is that the machinery, equipment and parts are used in a tax-exempt manner. These exemptions “flow through” to the owner. For example, a real property improvement contractor may purchase exempt from tax the machinery, equipment, parts, materials and supplies solely required for installation or construction of such replacement items, if such items are to be used in a tax-exempt manner by the owner.

(D) Replacement—To be exempt under section 144.030.2(4), RSMo, the machinery, equipment and parts must replace an existing piece of machinery, equipment or parts. This can include machinery, equipment, or repair and maintenance parts that are identical to the items they replace, as well as items that are different from the ones they replace, such as replacement machinery, equipment or parts added for the purpose of improving or modifying the existing devices. The replacement machinery, equipment and parts must be used in a process that produces a product intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption.

(E) Replacement machinery, equipment and parts—Pursuant to section 144.030.2(4), RSMo, purchases of replacement machinery, equipment and parts which are used directly in manufacturing, mining, fabricating or producing a product that is intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption are not subject to tax. Purchases of the materials and supplies solely required for the installation or construction of such replacement machinery, equipment and parts are not subject to tax.

(F) Use for nonexempt purposes—In order for the machinery and equipment to be exempt from tax it need not be used exclusively or primarily for an exempt purpose. The purchaser must intend at the time of purchase to use and actually make material use of the machinery and equipment in an exempt capacity to qualify. The fact that it may also be used for nonexempt purposes will not prevent the purchase of the item from qualifying for the exemption. If several like items are purchased, some for exempt purposes and some for nonexempt purposes, only the num-

ber of items essential for the exempt use qualify for the exemption.

(4) Examples.

(A) A manufacturing company builds a physical addition to its existing building. It purchases new machinery to set up another assembly line to be located in the new addition. The new machinery may be purchased under the expanded plant exemption.

(B) A fabricating company purchases additional machinery to establish a second assembly line but it does not physically expand its existing building. Production capability is increased from five thousand (5,000) units a day to seven thousand five hundred (7,500) units per day. The machinery may be purchased under the expanded plant exemption.

(C) A manufacturing company purchases additional machinery to establish a second assembly line. It does not increase its existing building nor does it increase its production volume. The additional machinery does result in the hiring of three (3) additional employees. The machinery may be purchased under the expanded plant exemption.

(D) A manufacturing company purchases various parts including replacement parts, new parts for the purpose of modifying existing equipment to make it more efficient, and related materials and supplies to install the parts. The replacement parts, the new parts for modifying the equipment and the materials and supplies for the installation of these parts may be purchased under the replacement machinery, equipment and parts exemption.

(E) A fabricating company intends to build a new plant and have it up and running within a year. Some of the equipment that was originally intended to be part of the new plant does not arrive until three (3) months after the plant is completed. This equipment would be covered by the new plant exemption, because it was originally intended to be part of the new plant.

(F) A manufacturing company purchases various pieces of testing equipment for different purposes, including: i) to ensure that the seller’s product meets the tolerances claimed in its marketing literature, ii) to meet the customers’ specification requirements mandated by the sales agreement, and iii) to perform research and development on potential future products. The testing equipment for the first two (2) situations are directly used to manufacture a product intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption and would qualify for exemption. The testing equipment for research and development is not directly used in manufacturing a product

intended to be sold ultimately at retail and, therefore, would not qualify for exemption.

(G) A ceramic greenware manufacturer purchases six (6) initial greenware mug molds, which it is going to use to manufacture greenware mugs to be resold. All six (6) greenware mug molds would be exempt.

(H) A rock quarry purchases equipment to remove earth and overburden to expose the rock and to remove rock from the ground. It purchased separate equipment to crush the rock into gravel as a marketable product to be sold at retail. The equipment used to remove the overburden and rock from the ground would qualify as exempt mining equipment and the equipment used to crush the rock into gravel would qualify as exempt manufacturing equipment.

(I) A taxpayer operates a concrete manufacturing plant. It purchases three (3) replacement concrete mixing trucks and also adds four (4) additional concrete mixing trucks to expand its fleet. Taxpayer also purchased dump trucks to haul concrete slabs that had been manufactured in its plant. The replacement and new additional concrete mixing trucks are directly used in manufacturing and would qualify for the replacement machinery and equipment exemption in section 144.030.2(4), RSMo, and the expanded plant exemption in section 144.030.2(5), RSMo, respectively. The dump trucks would not qualify for exemption because they are not directly used in the manufacturing process. However, if the dump trucks were used in the plant to transport the slabs during the manufacturing process from one processing area to another within the manufacturing plant, these exemptions would apply.

(J) A taxpayer creates and sells a nontaxable information service product. To develop its product, taxpayer purchases computer hardware and software. Because taxpayer produces a nontaxable service product, it is not manufacturing a product intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption and, therefore its purchases of computer equipment are not exempt from tax.

(K) A taxpayer has exempt machinery and equipment used directly in manufacturing a taxable product. Taxpayer purchases: i) fuels, lubricants, and coolants for operation of the machinery and equipment; ii) paint and adhesives which will adhere to the surface of the machinery and equipment; and iii) replacement hoses and belts for the machinery and equipment. The fuels, lubricants, coolants, paint and adhesives added to the machinery and equipment for operation are not parts within the meaning of the exemptions. These items are materials and supplies. They are

exempt only if used for installation or construction of exempt machinery, equipment and parts. The hoses and belts may be purchased exempt from tax because they qualify as replacement parts.

(L) A manufacturing company has two (2) sets of storage devices. The first set stores work in process between two (2) separate production areas. The second set stores the finished goods after the manufacturing process has been completed. The first set of storage devices is used directly in manufacturing and thus falls within the exemption. The second set of devices is not directly used in manufacturing and is subject to tax.

(M) A manufacturing company uses pneumatic powered tools directly on its assembly line. It also has hand tools used to repair or adjust the machines throughout the plant. The pneumatic powered tools are exempt as machinery and equipment directly used in manufacturing. The hand tools do not qualify as machinery and equipment directly used in manufacturing and are taxable.

(N) A commercial photo developer uses “crop cards” to hold individual negatives in the film developing process which are discarded after a single use. The developer also uses tape to connect negative strips so that the negatives may be fed through its automatic film developing machinery and equipment. The crop cards and tape are consumable supplies, not parts or equipment, and therefore are subject to tax.

(O) A steel company manufactures steel products. It purchases train carloads of steel beams that are used in the plant to produce the products. The crane used to unload the steel beams at the plant is part of the integrated and synchronized system and is used directly in the manufacturing process. As long as there is a continuous progression from raw materials to finished product and there are no extended interruptions in the manufacturing process, the integrated and synchronized system begins when raw materials enter the plant site and ends when the finished product leaves the plant site.

(P) A taxpayer sells and installs computer hardware and software and provides information technology services to its customers. The hardware and software are tangible personal property subject to sales tax. The technology services are not subject to tax in Missouri but are subject to tax and the taxpayer remits sales tax to Texas. The taxpayer’s purchase of machinery and equipment to develop its products and services is intended to manufacture a taxable product or a taxable service intended to be sold ultimately for final use or consumption. The purchase of machinery and equipment is exempt from tax.

(Q) A manufacturer purchases four (4) forklifts for use in its plant. The manufacturer intends to use two (2) forklifts to move work in process between two (2) manufacturing steps and the other two (2) for loading the finished product from its warehouse onto trucks. Even though all four (4) forklifts may be rotated between the functions, only the two (2) forklifts essential to the manufacturing process are exempt.

AUTHORITY: section 144.270, RSMo 1994. Original rule filed Aug. 31, 1999, effective March 30, 2000.*

**Original authority: 144.270, RSMo 1939, amended 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1955, 1961.*