Refunds for Diesel Powered Emergency Vehicles

This fact sheet explains the taxation of diesel powered emergency vehicles and when refunds are allowed for taxes paid.

Refunds of Tax Paid on Diesel Powered Emergency Vehicles

To receive a refund of the excise tax paid on diesel fuel used in emergency vehicles, the vehicle must be all of the following:

- clearly marked as an emergency vehicle
- diesel powered
- owned by a governmental unit (state, city, county or municipality)

Use Form PDR-1.

These restrictions are outlined in the following Minnesota Statutes:

296A.07, subd 1 – States that there is an excise tax imposed on gasoline used for propelling motor vehicles used on public highways. There is no exemption for emergency vehicles other than ambulances. Use PDR-1T form. This means gasoline excise tax is NOT refundable.

296A.08, subd 1 – States that there is an excise tax imposed on special fuels (i.e., diesel) used in “licensed motor vehicles”.

296A.01, subd 29 – “Licensed motor vehicle” means (1) any vehicle subject to a motor vehicle registration in which the power is produced with any fuel in an internal combustion engine, and (2) any motor vehicle not subject to a motor vehicle registration on which is mounted a corn shelling, feed grinding, well drilling, or sawing machine.

168.012, subd 1(b) – Vehicles owned by the federal government, municipal fire apparatuses including fire-suppression support vehicles, police patrols, and ambulances, the general appearance of which is unmistakable, are not required to register or display number plates.

Emergency vehicles using alternative fuels (LPG, CNG, and LNG) are taxable.

Keep Accurate Records

You must obtain a sales ticket/invoice for each purchase made during the claim period, regardless of amount. You are no longer required to send receipts with your claim.

The name and address of the dealer must be machine-printed or rubber stamped on each sales tickets/invoice. Also, each sales ticket/invoice must be machine-numbered and show the name of the purchaser, date of sale, number of gallons, type of product, price per gallon and amount of tax.

All refunds are based on usage and not on purchases. If purchasing fuel from retail stations, receipts need to be labeled as to what type of equipment the fuel went into.

When dispensing fuel from a bulk tank, you must keep records that provide the date the fuel was withdrawn and the number of gallons, and a description of the equipment the fuel was used in.

Keep accurate records of all your sales tickets/invoices for at least 3½ years.