

## CHAPTER 297A

## GENERAL SALES AND USE TAXES

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**297A.01 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 10, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 11. "Tangible personal property" means corporeal personal property of any kind whatsoever, including property which is to become real property as a result of incorporation, attachment, or installation following its acquisition.

Personal property does not include:

- (a) large ponderous machinery and equipment used in a business or production activity which at common law would be considered to be real property;
- (b) property which is subject to an ad valorem property tax;
- (c) property described in section 272.02, subdivision 9, clauses (a) to (d);
- (d) property described in section 272.03, subdivision 2, clauses (3) and (5).

Tangible personal property includes computer software, whether contained on tape, discs, cards, or other devices. Tangible personal property also includes prepaid telephone calling cards. For purposes of this chapter, "prepaid telephone calling card" means any card or other similar arrangement, including prepaid authorization numbers, which permit its holder to obtain telephone services and pay for such services in advance.

*[For text of subds 12 to 22, see M.S.1998]*

**297A.15 COLLECTION AND PAYMENT; PENALTY.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 4, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 5. **Refund; appropriation.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 297A.02, subdivision 5, and 297A.25, subdivision 42, the tax on sales of capital equipment, and replacement capital equipment, shall be imposed and collected as if the rate under section 297A.02, subdivision 1, applied. Upon application by the purchaser, on forms prescribed by the commissioner, a refund equal to the reduction in the tax due as a result of the application of the exemption under section 297A.25, subdivision 42, and the rate under section 297A.02, subdivision 5, shall be paid to the purchaser. The application must include sufficient information to permit the commissioner to verify the sales tax paid for the project. The application shall include information necessary for the commissioner initially to verify that the purchases qualified as capital equipment under section 297A.25, subdivision 42, or replacement capital equipment under section 297A.01, subdivision 20. No more than two applications for refunds may be filed under this subdivision in a calendar year. Unless otherwise specifically provided by this subdivision, the provisions of sections 289A.40 and 289A.50 apply to the refunds payable under this subdivision. There is annually appropriated to the commissioner of revenue the amount required to make the refunds.

The amount to be refunded shall bear interest at the rate in section 270.76 from the date the refund claim is filed with the commissioner.

*[For text of subds 6 and 7, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 243 art 16 s 22

**297A.25 EXEMPTIONS.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 8, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 9. **Materials consumed in production.** The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use, or consumption of all materials, including chemicals, fuels, petroleum products, lubricants, packaging materials, including returnable containers used in packaging food and beverage products, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, electricity, gas and steam, used or consumed in agricultural or industrial production of personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail, whether or not the item so used becomes an ingredient or constituent part of the property produced are exempt. Seeds, trees, fertilizers, and herbicides purchased for use by farmers in the Conservation Reserve Program under United States Code, title 16, section 590h, as amended through December 31, 1991, the Integrated Farm Management Program under section 1627 of Public Law Number 101-624, the Wheat and Feed Grain Programs under sections 301 to 305 and 401 to 405 of Public Law Number 101-624, and the conservation reserve program under sections 103F.505 to 103F.531, are included in this exemption. Sales to a veterinarian of materials used or consumed in the care, medication, and treatment of horses and agricultural production animals are exempt under this subdivision. Chemicals used for cleaning food processing machinery and equipment are included in this exemption. Materials, including chemicals, fuels, and electricity purchased by persons engaged in agricultural or industrial production to treat waste generated as a result of the production process are included in this exemption. Such production shall include, but is not limited to, research, development, design or production of any tangible personal property, manufacturing, processing (other than by restaurants and consumers) of agricultural products whether vegetable or animal, commercial fishing, refining, smelting, reducing, brewing, distilling, printing, mining, quarrying, lumbering, generating electricity and the production of road building materials. Such production shall not include painting, cleaning, repairing or similar processing of property except as part of the original manufacturing process. Machinery, equipment, implements, tools, accessories, appliances, contrivances, furniture and fixtures, used in such production and fuel, electricity, gas or steam used for space heating or lighting, are not included within this exemption; however, accessory tools, equipment and other short lived items, which are separate detachable units used in producing a direct effect upon the product, where such items have an ordinary useful life of less than 12 months, are included within the exemption provided herein. The following materials, tools, and equipment used in metal-casting are exempt under this subdivision: crucibles, thermocouple protection sheaths and tubes, stalk tubes, refractory materials, molten metal filters and filter boxes, and degassing lances. Electricity used to make snow for outdoor use for ski hills, ski slopes, or ski trails is included in this exemption. Petroleum and special fuels used in producing or generating power for propelling ready-mixed concrete trucks on the public highways of this state are not included in this exemption.

*[For text of subd 10, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 11. **Sales to government.** The gross receipts from all sales, including sales in which title is retained by a seller or a vendor or is assigned to a third party under an installment sale or lease purchase agreement under section 465.71, of tangible personal property to, and all storage, use or consumption of such property by, the United States and its agencies and instrumentalities, the University of Minnesota, state universities, community colleges, technical colleges, state academics, the Perpich center for arts education, an instrumentality of a political subdivision that is accredited as an optional/special function school by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, school districts, public libraries, public library systems, multicounty, multitype library systems as defined in section 134.001, county law libraries under chapter 134A, the state library under section 480.09, and the legislative reference library are exempt.

As used in this subdivision, "school districts" means public school entities and districts of every kind and nature organized under the laws of the state of Minnesota, including, without limitation, school districts, intermediate school districts, education districts, service cooperatives, secondary vocational cooperative centers, special education cooperatives, joint purchasing cooperatives, telecommunication cooperatives, regional management information centers, and any instrumentality of a school district, as defined in section 471.59.

Sales exempted by this subdivision include sales under section 297A.01, subdivision 3, paragraph (f).

Sales to hospitals and nursing homes owned and operated by political subdivisions of the state are exempt under this subdivision.

Sales of supplies and equipment used in the operation of an ambulance service owned and operated by a political subdivision of the state are exempt under this subdivision provided that the supplies and equipment are used in the course of providing medical care. Sales to a political subdivision of repair and replacement parts for emergency rescue vehicles and fire trucks and apparatus are exempt under this subdivision.

Sales to a political subdivision of machinery and equipment, except for motor vehicles, used directly for mixed municipal solid waste management services at a solid waste disposal facility as defined in section 115A.03, subdivision 10, are exempt under this subdivision.

Sales to political subdivisions of chore and homemaking services to be provided to elderly or disabled individuals are exempt.

Sales to a town of gravel and of machinery, equipment, and accessories, except motor vehicles, used exclusively for road and bridge maintenance, and leases of motor vehicles exempt from tax under section 297B.03, clause (10), are exempt.

Sales of telephone services to the department of administration that are used to provide telecommunications services through the intertechnologies revolving fund are exempt under this subdivision.

This exemption shall not apply to building, construction or reconstruction materials purchased by a contractor or a subcontractor as a part of a lump-sum contract or similar type of contract with a guaranteed maximum price covering both labor and materials for use in the construction, alteration, or repair of a building or facility. This exemption does not apply to construction materials purchased by tax exempt entities or their contractors to be used in constructing buildings or facilities which will not be used principally by the tax exempt entities.

This exemption does not apply to the leasing of a motor vehicle as defined in section 297B.01, subdivision 5, except for leases entered into by the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities.

The tax imposed on sales to political subdivisions of the state under this section applies to all political subdivisions other than those explicitly exempted under this subdivision, notwithstanding section 115A.69, subdivision 6, 116A.25, 360.035, 458A.09, 458A.30, 458D.23, 469.101, subdivision 2, 469.127, 473.448, 473.545, or 473.608 or any other law to the contrary enacted before 1992.

Sales exempted by this subdivision include sales made to other states or political subdivisions of other states, if the sale would be exempt from taxation if it occurred in that state, but do not include sales under section 297A.01, subdivision 3, paragraphs (c) and (e).

*[For text of subs 12 to 20, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 21. Textbooks.** The gross receipts from the sale of and storage, use, or consumption of textbooks which are prescribed for use in conjunction with a course of study in a public or private school, college, university and business or trade school to students who are regularly enrolled at such institutions are exempt. For purposes of this subdivision a "public school" is defined as one that furnishes course of study, enrollment and staff that meets standards of the commissioner of children, families, and learning and a "private school" is one which under the standards of the commissioner of children, families, and learning, provides an education substantially equivalent to that furnished at a public school. "Business and trade schools" shall mean such schools licensed pursuant to section 141.25.

*[For text of subs 22 to 62, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 63. Hospitals and outpatient surgical centers.** (a) The gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property to, and the storage, use, or consumption of such property by, a hospital are exempt, if the property purchased is to be used in providing hospital services to human beings. For purposes of this subdivision, "hospital" means a hospital organized and operated for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and licensed under chapter 144 or by any other jurisdiction. For purposes of this subdivision, "hospital services" means services authorized

or required to be performed by a hospital under chapter 144 and rules thereunder or under the applicable licensure law of any other jurisdiction.

(b) The gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property to, and the storage, use, or consumption of such property by, an outpatient surgical center are exempt, if the property purchased is to be used in providing outpatient surgical services to human beings. For purposes of this subdivision, "outpatient surgical center" means an outpatient surgical center organized and operated for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and licensed under chapter 144 or by any other jurisdiction. For the purposes of this subdivision, "outpatient surgical services" means: (1) services authorized or required to be performed by an outpatient surgical center under chapter 144 and rules thereunder or under the applicable licensure law of any other jurisdiction; and (2) urgent care. For purposes of this subdivision, "urgent care" means health services furnished to a person whose medical condition is sufficiently acute to require treatment unavailable through, or inappropriate to be provided by, a clinic or physician's office, but not so acute as to require treatment in a hospital emergency room.

(c) These exemptions do not apply to purchases made by a clinic, physician's office, or any other medical facility not operating as a hospital or outpatient surgical center, even though the clinic, office, or facility may be owned and operated by a hospital or outpatient surgical center. Sales exempted by this subdivision do not include sales under section 297A.01, subdivision 3, paragraphs (c) and (e). These exemptions do not apply to building, construction, or reconstruction materials purchased by a contractor or a subcontractor as a part of a lump-sum contract or similar type of contract with a guaranteed maximum price covering both labor and materials for use in the construction, alteration, or repair of a hospital or outpatient surgical center. These exemptions do not apply to construction materials to be used in constructing buildings or facilities which will not be used principally by a hospital or outpatient surgical center. These exemptions do not apply to the leasing of a motor vehicle as defined in section 297B.01, subdivision 5.

*[For text of subs 64 to 72, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 73. Biosolids processing equipment.** (a) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use, or consumption of equipment designed to process, dewater, and recycle biosolids for wastewater treatment facilities of political subdivisions, and materials incidental to installation of that equipment, are exempt.

(b) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use, or consumption of materials used to construct buildings to house the equipment in paragraph (a) are exempt if purchased after June 30, 1998, and before July 1, 2001.

*[For text of subs 74 to 78, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 79. Prizes.** The gross receipts from the sales of tangible personal property which will be given as prizes to players in games of skill or chance conducted at events such as community festivals, fairs, and carnivals lasting less than six days are exempt. This exemption shall not apply to property awarded as prizes in connection with lawful gambling as defined in section 349.12 or the state lottery.

**Subd. 80. Construction materials and supplies; agricultural processing facility.** Purchases of construction materials, supplies, and equipment are exempt from the sales and use taxes imposed under this chapter, regardless of whether purchased by the owner or a contractor, subcontractor, or builder, if:

(1) the materials and supplies are used or consumed in, and the equipment is incorporated into, the expansion, remodeling, or improvement of a facility used for cattle slaughtering;

(2) the cost of the project is expected to exceed \$15,000,000;

(3) the expansion, remodeling, or improvement of the facility will be used to fabricate beef;

(4) the number of jobs at the facility are expected to increase by at least 150 when the project is completed; and

(5) the project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2001.

Subd. 81. **Television commercials.** The gross receipts from the sale of and storage, use, or consumption of tangible personal property which is primarily used or consumed in the preproduction, production, or postproduction of any television commercial and any such commercial, regardless of the medium in which it is transferred, are exempt. "Preproduction" and "production" include but are not limited to all activities related to the preparation for shooting and the shooting of television commercials, including film processing. Equipment rented for the preproduction and production activities is exempt. "Postproduction" includes but is not limited to all activities related to the finishing and duplication of television commercials. This exemption does not apply to tangible personal property used primarily in administration, general management, or marketing. Machinery and equipment purchased for use in producing such commercials and fuel, electricity, gas, or steam used for space heating or lighting are not exempt under this subdivision.

Subd. 82. **Construction materials and equipment; biomass electrical generating facility.** The gross receipts from the purchases of materials and supplies used or consumed in, and equipment incorporated into, the construction, improvement, or expansion of a facility using biomass to generate electricity are exempt from the sales and use taxes imposed under this chapter, regardless of whether purchased by the owner or a contractor, subcontractor, or builder, if:

(1) the facility exclusively utilizes residue wood, sawdust, bark, chipped wood, or brush to generate electricity;

(2) the facility utilizes a reciprocated grate combination system; and

(3) the total gross capacity of the facility is 15 to 21 megawatts.

Subd. 83. **Waste management containers and compactors.** The gross receipts from the sale of and storage, use, or consumption of compactors and waste collection containers are exempt from the sales and use taxes imposed under this chapter provided that they are purchased by a waste management service provider, and are used in providing waste management services as defined in section 297H.01, subdivision 12. A waste management service provider that does not remit tax on customer charges or lease or rental payments for compactors and waste collection containers under chapter 297H is ineligible for this exemption.

**History:** 1998 c 398 art 5 s 55; 1999 c 241 art 10 s 8; 1999 c 243 art 4 s 4-11

**NOTE:** Subdivision 82, as added by Laws 1999, chapter 243, article 4, section 10, is effective for purchases made after May 25, 1999, and before July 1, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 243, article 4, section 19.

## 297A.2531 SATELLITE BROADCASTING FACILITY MATERIALS; EXEMPTIONS.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, there shall be exempt from the tax imposed therein all materials and supplies or equipment used or consumed in constructing, or incorporated into the construction of, a new facility in Minnesota for providing federal communications commission licensed direct satellite broadcasting services using direct broadcast satellites operating in the 12-ghz. band or fixed satellite regional or national program services, as defined in section 272.02, subdivision 16, construction of which was commenced after June 30, 1993, and all machinery, equipment, tools, accessories, appliances, contrivances, furniture, fixtures, and all technical equipment or tangible personal property of any other nature or description necessary to the construction and equipping of that facility in order to provide those services.

## 297A.48 LOCAL SALES TAX RULES.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 1a. **Rules for adoption, use, termination.** (a) Imposition of a local sales tax is subject to approval by voters of the political subdivision at a general election.

(b) The proceeds of the tax must be dedicated exclusively to payment of the cost of a specific capital improvement which is designated at least 90 days before the referendum on imposition of the tax is conducted.

(c) The tax must terminate after the improvement designated under paragraph (b) has been completed.

(d) After a sales tax imposed by a political subdivision has expired or been terminated, the political subdivision is prohibited from imposing a local sales tax for a period of one year. Notwithstanding subdivision 10, this paragraph applies to all local sales taxes in effect at the time of or imposed after May 26, 1999.

*[For text of subs 2 to 7, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 7a. Use of zip code in determining location of sale.** To determine whether to impose the local tax, the retailer may use zip codes if the zip code area is entirely within the political subdivision. When a zip code area is not entirely within a political subdivision, the retailer shall not collect the local tax if the purchaser notified the retailer that their delivery address is outside of the political subdivision, unless the retailer verifies that the delivery address is in the political subdivision using a means other than the zip code. Notwithstanding subdivision 10, this subdivision applies to all local sales taxes without regard to the date of authorization.

*[For text of subs 8 to 10, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 243 art 4 s 12,13