

Special Fuel Used on Government Contracts

State and Local Government Contracts

Special fuel purchased, acquired or used in performing contracts with the State of Mississippi, counties, municipalities or any political subdivision is taxed at a rate of 18 cents per gallon. Special fuel includes but is not limited to the following:

- Dyed diesel fuel;
- Kerosene;
- Undyed diesel fuel; and,
- Fuel oil.

State and local government contracts include construction, reconstruction and maintenance or repairs of projects such as roads, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, buildings, drainage canals and recreational facilities. The Department of Revenue may require contractors to remit the excise tax directly to the state in lieu of paying the tax to a distributor.

Special Fuel Direct Pay Permit

Contractors that remit the excise tax to the state will be issued a Special Fuel Direct Pay Permit. This permit relieves the distributor from collecting the tax and requires the contractor to file a monthly special fuel return. The distributor should include the contractor's permit number on all invoices that are related to tax-free sales.

The contractor is required to furnish a surety or cash bond guaranteeing the payment of the excise tax prior to receiving the Special Fuel Direct Pay Permit. The Department of Revenue may accept a contractor's tax bond if the bond covers the excise tax levied on special fuel.

Special Fuel Distributors

If the contractor does not have a Special Fuel Direct Pay Permit, distributors are required to collect the 18 cents excise tax and remit the tax to the Department of Revenue. The additional 12.25 cents levied on special fuel (excluding undyed diesel) should be reported on schedules 5F and 5G of the special fuel return.

Environmental Protection Fee

Special fuel distributors are required to collect the environmental protection fee even if the contractor has a Special Fuel Direct Pay Permit. The fee is levied at 4/10^{ths} of a cent per gallon. The fee is suspended or reinstated when the trust fund has exceeded or fallen below the obligatory balance.

Penalties

Any person who knowingly and willfully purchases untaxed fuel for use in equipment utilized on a road or highway construction site in this state is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$1,000 or more than \$100,000, or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than one year, or both.

