

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SECTION 904 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS NO. 2273

CODE: (SP)

DATE: 02/12/2020

SUBJECT: Mississippi Special Fuel Tax Law

Bidder's attention is brought to the second paragraph of Subsection 107.02 of the Standard Specifications which states that all Contractors and Subcontractors must comply with all requirements contained in the Mississippi Special Fuel Tax Law, Section 27-55-501, *et seq.* Attached are two Fact Sheets provided by the Mississippi Department of Revenue (MDOR) with additional information.

Gasoline and Dyed Diesel Used for Non-Highway Purposes

Mississippi provides a reduced rate for gasoline and dyed diesel used for non-highway purposes. The reduced rates are 6.44 cents per gallon and 5.75 cents per gallon of gasoline or dyed diesel. These fuels are generally taxed at 18 cents per gallon if for on road use.

Gasoline Used for Non-Highway Purposes

You may be entitled to a refund of 11.56 cents per gallon (making this an equivalent to a tax rate of 6.44 cents per gallon) if you desire to purchase gasoline to be used off road. The gasoline must be used for agricultural, maritime, industrial, manufacturing, domestic or non-highway purposes only.

Examples of non-highway include gasoline used in boats, golf carts, machinery used for manufacturing or farm equipment used exclusively in plowing, planting or harvesting farm products.

Refund Gasoline User

The refund is based on the amount of gallons used. Before a refund is issued, you are required to...

1. Obtain a refund gasoline user's permit and a certificate for refund booklet from the Department of Revenue;
2. Have a storage tank marked "REFUND GASOLINE"; and,
3. Purchase the gasoline from someone who holds a refund gasoline dealer's permit.

No refund will be allowed for gasoline used in motor vehicles owned or operated by a government entity or used in Mississippi government contracts.

Refund Gasoline Dealer

You must obtain a refund gasoline dealer's permit from the Department of Revenue before selling refund gasoline. At no time should the gasoline be delivered to a tank that is not properly marked. The gasoline must be dyed a distinctive mahogany color at the time of delivery.

The Department of Revenue may waive the dye requirement if the dye may cause damage to the equipment. The refund gasoline user is required to obtain the waiver from the Department of Revenue.

Dyed Diesel Used for Non-Highway Purposes

Unlike gasoline, you are not required to apply for a refund if you desire to purchase dyed diesel to be used off road. Mississippi provides a reduced rate of 5.75 cents per gallon on dyed diesel used off road. Diesel used on road is subjected to 18 cents per gallon. Dyed diesel used in motor vehicles owned or operated by a government entity or used in Mississippi government contracts will be subjected to 18 cents per gallon.

Dyed Diesel Used on the Highway

Any person who purchases, receives, acquires or uses dyed diesel for highway use will be liable to pay 18 cents per gallon and subject to a penalty in the amount of \$1000.

Identifying Dyed Diesel

Storage facilities for dyed diesel must be plainly marked "NONHIGHWAY DIESEL FUEL" or "NONHIGHWAY KEROSENE". Retailers are also required to mark all pumps or dispensing equipment.



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.

