

Instructions

To the purchaser

You may use Form FT-123 if you:

- have been appointed as an agent or project operator by an industrial development agency (IDA) and
- the purchases qualify for exemption from excise taxes and sales and use tax as described in the IDA contract.

You may use Form FT-123 as a single-purchase certificate or as a blanket certificate covering the first and subsequent purchases qualifying for the project listed.

Agent or project operator sales tax ID number – If you are registered with the Tax Department for sales tax purposes, you must enter your sales tax identification number on this certificate. If you are not required to be registered, enter **N/A**.

Industrial development agencies and authorities (IDAs) are public benefit corporations under General Municipal Law Article 18-A and the Public Authorities Law, for the purpose of promoting, developing, encouraging, and assisting in the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, equipping, and furnishing of industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, commercial, research, and recreational facilities in New York State.

IDAs are exempt from the payment of sales and use tax on their purchases. However, IDAs do not normally make direct purchases for projects. Commonly, an IDA instead appoints a business enterprise or developer, contractor, or subcontractor as its agent or project operator. Such purchases made by the agent or project operator, acting within the authority granted by the IDA, are deemed to be made by the IDA and therefore exempt from tax. Purchases made by an agent or project operator to operate a business after the project is completed are subject to tax.

Example: *An IDA agreement with its agent, Contractor X, states that Contractor X may make all purchases of materials and equipment necessary for completion of the project as agent for the IDA.*

Contractor X purchases non-highway diesel motor fuel for use in construction equipment that will be used to prepare the site for construction. Since the fuel is being used to complete the project, Contractor X may purchase the fuel exempt from taxes.

When the project is completed, Contractor X purchases motor fuel and highway diesel motor fuel for use in snowplows and other maintenance vehicles used to maintain the parking lots for the business. Contractor X may not purchase this fuel exempt from tax because it is being used to operate, not to complete, the project.

Exempt purchases

To qualify for exemption, the purchases must be made within the authority granted by the IDA and used to **complete** the project, but not to **operate** the completed project.

Box A – Motor fuel is gasoline, benzol, reformulated blend stock for oxygenate blending, conventional blend stock for oxygenate blending, E85, fuel grade ethanol that meets the ASTM International active standards specification D4806 or D4814, or other product which is suitable for use in the operation of a motor vehicle engine. If you are purchasing motor fuel exempt from tax, mark this box.

Box B – Highway diesel motor fuel is any diesel motor fuel that is **not** non-highway diesel motor fuel. If you are purchasing highway diesel motor fuel exempt from tax, mark this box.

Box C – Non-highway diesel motor fuel is any diesel motor fuel designated for use other than on a public highway, and is dyed diesel motor fuel. If you are purchasing non-highway diesel motor fuel exempt from tax, mark this box.

Diesel motor fuel is No. 1 diesel fuel, No. 2 diesel fuel, biodiesel, kerosene, fuel oil, or other middle distillate, and also motor fuel suitable for operating a diesel engine. Diesel motor fuel does not include any product specifically designated "No. 4 diesel fuel."

Box D – Residual petroleum product means the topped crude of refinery operations, including No. 5 fuel oil, No. 6 fuel oil, bunker C, and the special grade of diesel product designated as No. 4 diesel fuel, that is not suitable for use in the operation of a motor vehicle engine. If you are purchasing residual petroleum product exempt from tax, mark this box.

Misuse of this certificate

Misuse of this exemption certificate may subject you to serious civil and criminal sanctions in addition to the payment of any tax and interest due. These include:

- A penalty equal to 100% of the tax due;
- A \$50 penalty for each fraudulent exemption certificate issued;
- Criminal felony prosecution, punishable by a substantial fine and a possible jail sentence; and
- Revocation of your *Certificate of Authority*, if you are required to be registered as a vendor. See TSB-M-09(17)S, *Amendments that Encourage Compliance with the Tax Law and Enhance the Tax Department's Enforcement Ability*, for more information.

To the seller

When making purchases as agent or project operator of an IDA, the purchaser must provide you with this exemption certificate with all entries completed to establish the right to the exemption. You **must** identify the project on each bill and invoice for such purchases and indicate on the bill or invoice that the IDA or agent or project operator of the IDA was the purchaser.

As a New York State registered vendor, you may accept an exemption certificate in lieu of collecting tax and be protected from liability for the tax if the certificate is valid. The certificate will be considered valid if it is:

- accepted in good faith;
- in your possession within 90 days of the transaction; and
- properly completed (all required entries were made).

An exemption certificate is accepted in good faith when you have no knowledge that the exemption certificate is false or is fraudulently given, and you exercise reasonable ordinary due care. If you do not receive a properly completed certificate within 90 days after the delivery of the property or service, you will share with the purchaser the burden of proving the sale was exempt.

You must also maintain a method of associating an invoice (or other source document) for an exempt sale with the exemption certificate you have on file from the purchaser. You must keep this certificate at least three years after the due date of your sales tax return to which it relates, or the date the return was filed, if later.

Privacy notification

New York State Law requires all government agencies that maintain a system of records to provide notification of the legal authority for any request, the principal purpose(s) for which the information is to be collected, and where it will be maintained. To view this information, visit our Web site, or, if you do not have Internet access, call and request Publication 54, *Privacy Notification*. See *Need help?* for the Web address and telephone number.

Need help?



Visit our Web site at **www.tax.ny.gov**

- get information and manage your taxes online
- check for new online services and features



Sales Tax Information Center: (518) 485-2889

To order forms and publications: (518) 457-5431



Text Telephone (TTY) Hotline
(for persons with hearing and speech disabilities using a TTY): (518) 485-5082