

AN ACT relating to motor fuels taxes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 138.210 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 138.220 to 138.446, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Accountable loss" means loss or destruction of "received" gasoline or special fuel through wrecking of transportation conveyance, explosion, fire, flood or other casualty loss, or contaminated and returned to storage. The loss shall be reported within thirty (30) days after discovery of the loss to the department in a manner and form prescribed by the department, supported by proper evidence which in the sole judgment of the department substantiates the alleged loss or contamination and which is confirmed in writing to the reporting dealer by the department. The department may make any investigation deemed necessary to establish the bona fide claim of the loss;
- (2) "Gasoline dealer" or "special fuels dealer" means any person who is:
 - (a) Regularly engaged in the business of refining, producing, distilling, manufacturing, blending, or compounding gasoline or special fuels in this state;
 - (b) Regularly importing gasoline or special fuel, upon which no tax has been paid, into this state for distribution in bulk to others;
 - (c) Distributing gasoline from bulk storage in this state;
 - (d) Regularly engaged in the business of distributing gasoline or special fuels from bulk storage facilities primarily to others in arm's-length transactions;
 - (e) In the case of gasoline, receiving or accepting delivery within this state of gasoline for resale within this state in amounts of not less than an average of one hundred thousand (100,000) gallons per month during any prior consecutive twelve (12) months' period, when in the opinion of the department, the person has sufficient financial rating and reputation to justify

the conclusion that he will pay all taxes and comply with all other obligations imposed upon a dealer; or

- (f) Regularly exporting gasoline or special fuels;
- (3) "Department" means the Department of Revenue;
- (4) (a) "Gasoline" means all liquid fuels, including liquids ordinarily, practically, and commercially usable in internal combustion engines for the generation of power, and all distillates of and condensates from petroleum, natural gas, coal, coal tar, vegetable ferments, and all other products so usable which are produced, blended, or compounded for the purpose of operating motor vehicles, showing a flash point of 110 degrees Fahrenheit or below, using the Elliott Closed Cup Test, or when tested in a manner approved by the United States Bureau of Mines, are prima facie commercially usable in internal combustion engines. The term "gasoline" as used herein shall include casing head, absorption, natural gasoline, and condensates when used without blending as a motor fuel, sold for use in motors direct, or sold to those who blend for their own use, but shall not include: propane, butane, or other liquefied petroleum gases, kerosene, cleaner solvent, fuel oil, diesel fuel, crude oil or casing head, absorption, natural gasoline and condensates when sold to be blended or compounded with other less volatile liquids in the manufacture of commercial gasoline for motor fuel, industrial naphthas, rubber solvents, Stoddard solvent, mineral spirits, VM and P & naphthas, turpentine substitutes, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, benzene, benzine, xylol, toluol, aromatic petroleum solvents, alcohol, and liquefied gases which would not exist as liquids at a temperature of sixty (60) degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, unless the products are used wholly or in combination with gasoline as a motor fuel;
- (b) "Special fuels" means and includes all combustible gases and liquids capable

of being used for the generation of power in an internal combustion engine to propel vehicles of any kind upon the public highways, including diesel fuel, and dyed diesel fuel used exclusively for nonhighway purposes in off-highway equipment and in nonlicensed motor vehicles, except that it does not include gasoline, aviation jet fuel, kerosene unless used wholly or in combination with special fuel as a motor fuel, or liquefied petroleum gas as defined in KRS 234.100;

- (c) "Diesel fuel" means any liquid other than gasoline that, without further processing or blending, is suitable for use as a fuel in a diesel powered highway vehicle. Diesel fuel does not include unblended kerosene, No. 5, and No. 6 fuel oil as described in ASTM specification D 396 or F-76 Fuel Naval Distillate MILL-F-166884;
- (d) "Dyed diesel fuel" means diesel fuel that is required to be dyed under United States Environmental Protection Agency rules for high sulfur diesel fuel, or is dyed under the Internal Revenue Service rules for low sulfur fuel, or pursuant to any other requirements subsequently set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the Internal Revenue Service;
- (5) "Received" or "received gasoline" or "received special fuels" shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) Gasoline and special fuels produced, manufactured, or compounded at any refinery in this state or acquired by any dealer and delivered into or stored in refinery, marine, or pipeline terminal storage facilities in this state shall be deemed to be received when it has been loaded for bulk delivery into tank cars or tank trucks consigned to destinations within this state. For the purpose of the proper administration of this chapter and to prevent the evasion of the tax and to enforce the duty of the dealer to collect the tax, it shall be presumed that all gasoline and special fuel loaded by any licensed dealer within this state

into tank cars or tank trucks is consigned to destinations within this state, unless the contrary is established by the dealer, pursuant to rules and regulations prescribed by the department; and

- (b) Gasoline and special fuel acquired by any dealer in this state, and not delivered into refinery, marine, or pipeline terminal storage facilities, shall be deemed to be received when it has been placed into storage tanks or other containers for use or subject to withdrawal for use, delivery, sale, or other distribution. Dealers may sell gasoline or special fuel to licensed bonded dealers in this state in transport truckload, carload, or cargo lots, withdrawing it from refinery, marine, pipeline terminal, or bulk storage tanks, without paying the tax. In such instances, the licensed bonded dealer purchasing the gasoline or special fuel shall be deemed to have received such fuel at the time of withdrawal from the seller's storage facility and shall be responsible to the state for the payment of the tax thereon;
- (6) "Refinery" means any place where gasoline or special fuel is refined, manufactured, compounded, or otherwise prepared for use;
- (7) "Storage" means all gasoline and special fuel produced, refined, distilled, manufactured, blended, or compounded and stored at a refinery storage or delivered by boat at a marine terminal for storage, or delivered by pipeline at a pipeline terminal, delivery station, or tank farm for storage;
- (8) "Transporter" means any person who transports gasoline or special fuel on which the tax has not been paid or assumed;
- (9) "Bulk storage facility" means gasoline or special fuel storage facilities of not less than twenty thousand (20,000) gallons owned or operated at one (1) location by a single owner or operator for the purpose of storing gasoline or special fuel for resale or delivery to retail outlets or consumers;
- (10) "Average wholesale price" means:

- (a) The weighted average per gallon wholesale price of gasoline, as determined by the Department of Revenue from information furnished by licensed gasoline dealers or from information available through independent statistical surveys of gasoline prices. Dealers shall furnish to the department, within twenty (20) days following the end of the first month of each calendar quarter, the information regarding wholesale selling prices for the previous month as required by the department. The "average wholesale price" shall be determined exclusive of:
1. The nine cents (\$0.09) per gallon federal tax in effect on January 1, 1984;
 2. Any increase in the federal gasoline tax after July 1, 1984; and
 3. Any fee on imported oil imposed by the Congress of the United States after July 1, 1986; and
- (b) 1. The Department of Revenue shall determine the "average wholesale price" on a quarterly basis, and shall adjust the "average wholesale price" used in determining the tax rate under KRS 138.220 as provided in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subparagraph and the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection, for purposes of the taxes levied in KRS 138.220, 138.660, and 234.320, in no case shall the "average wholesale price" be set at less than one dollar and seventy-eight and six-tenths cents (\$1.786) per gallon.
2.

a. For fiscal years beginning on or before July 1, 2015, the "average wholesale price" adjustment for each fiscal year shall not increase more than ten percent (10%) over the "average wholesale price" at the close of the previous fiscal year;

b. For fiscal years beginning after July 1, 2015, the "average wholesale price" shall be the average wholesale price in effect on

**July 1, 2015, and shall not be adjusted without the action of the
General Assembly;**

- (11) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle, machine, or mechanical contrivance propelled by an internal combustion engine and licensed for operation and operated upon the public highways and any trailer or semitrailer attached to or having its front end supported by the motor vehicles;
- (12) "Public highways" means every way or place generally open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purpose of vehicular travel, notwithstanding that they may be temporarily closed or travel thereon restricted for the purpose of construction, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction;
- (13) "Agricultural purposes" means purposes directly related to the production of agricultural commodities and the conducting of ordinary activities on the farm;
- (14) "Retail filling station" means any place accessible to general public vehicular traffic where gasoline or special fuel is or may be placed into the fuel supply tank of a licensed motor vehicle; and
- (15) "Financial instrument" means a bond issued by a corporation authorized to do business in Kentucky, a line of credit, or an account with a financial institution maintaining a compensating balance.