

### **§4371. Sales Tax Refund for Tangible Personal Property Destroyed in a Natural Disaster**

A. Under certain circumstances, a refund is allowed for state sales or use tax paid on tangible personal property that has been destroyed in a natural disaster. The conditions and requirements are as follows.

1. The property destroyed must be classified as tangible personal property at the time of destruction rather than being classified as real or immovable property. For purposes of determination of the classification of such property, reference and guidance shall be to the rules of the Louisiana Civil Code. In Louisiana, property is classified as either movable or immovable rather than as personal or real. Under Louisiana law a corporeal movable is equivalent to tangible personal property at common law, and an immovable is equivalent to real property. Generally speaking a house or a building and all central heating or cooling systems, lighting fixtures, lavatories, etc., that are actually connected with or attached to the house or building by the owner are immovable by their nature. Such items as clothing, drugs, food, recreation equipment, appliances not permanently attached to a house or building where the removal thereof would not damage the movable or immovable, etc., would be classified as tangible personal property or movable property, and the sales tax paid on these items would be eligible to be refunded. Automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, boats, boat trailers, and other vehicles will not be considered tangible personal property used in or about a person's home, apartment, or homestead. The sales tax paid on these items is not eligible to be refunded under this statute.

2. Such property destroyed must be a part of and used in or about a person's home, apartment or homestead, on which Louisiana sales tax has been paid by the owner of the property destroyed in an area subsequently determined by the president of the United States to warrant assistance by the federal government. Therefore, it is necessary that individuals suffer the loss, since R.S. 47:315.1 does not apply to partnerships or corporations. Further, it does not apply to business losses, even by individuals, since the law limits the losses to property that is part of and used in or about a person's home, apartment or homestead. Also, the area where the natural disaster occurred must be designated as an area warranting assistance by the federal government in order to qualify under this Section.

3. The claimant suffering the loss of the tangible personal property must be the owner of such property that purchased and paid the Louisiana sales tax on such property. Any refund claim filed shall be made in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the secretary. Accordingly, any refund claim shall be filed on or before the end of the third calendar year following the year in which the property was destroyed, and the refund claim shall be limited to the tax paid on such tangible personal property destroyed for which no reimbursement was received by insurance or otherwise.

4. A refund claim packet can be obtained from the secretary, and when the claimant properly executes the required forms and prepares a sworn statement attesting to the facts, a refund will be processed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:315.1 and R.S. 47:1511.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue and Taxation, Sales Tax Division, LR 13:107 (February 1987), amended by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 31:99 (January 2005), LR 32:262 (February 2006).

### **§4372. Payment of Sales and Use Taxes by Persons Constructing, Renovating, or Altering Immovable Property**

A. General. The purpose of this Section is to help clarify which party to the transaction is liable for the payment of sales and use taxes on the purchase, use, consumption, distribution, or storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property in this state when such property is used in the construction, alteration, or repair of an immovable property, and such tangible personal property is transferred from the contractor to its customer in an immovable state.

B. Definition. For the purposes of this Section, the term *contractor* means any dealer, as defined in this Chapter, who contracts or undertakes to construct, manage, or supervise the construction, alteration, or repair of any immovable property, such as buildings, houses, roads, levees, pipelines, oil and gas wells (downhole), and industrial facilities. It also includes subcontractors. The term *contractor* shall not include a dealer who fabricates or constructs property that is sold to another person as tangible personal property, provided that the fabricator or constructor of the tangible personal property does not affix that tangible personal property to the buyer's immovable property.

C. Sales of tangible personal property, including materials, supplies, and equipment, made to contractors, or their contractors, subcontractors, or agents, for use in the construction, alteration, or repair of immovable property are presumed to be sales to consumers or users, not sales for resale, and therefore the contractor is liable for the taxes imposed by this Chapter on their purchases or importations of such tangible personal property. This presumption may be rebutted by a showing of credible evidence, such as a writing signed by the contractor's customer stating that title and/or possession of itemized articles of tangible personal property were transferred to the customer prior to their being made immovable.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 47:1511.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Revenue, Policy Services Division, LR 38:1995 (August 2012).

### **§4373. Nonresident Contractors**

A. General. This Section provides the procedures that must be followed by nonresident contractors who do business in this state as required by R.S. 47:9 and R.S. 47:306(D). This Section also provides the procedures that must be followed by state and local agencies charged with the responsibility for granting permits and/or licenses for the