
HOUSE BILL 1887

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler, Lisk, Grant, Wensman, Wolfe and Pennington;
by request of Department of Revenue

Read first time 02/09/1999. Referred to Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT Relating to revising the machinery and equipment tax
2 exemption by more precisely describing terminology and eligibility;
3 amending RCW 82.04.120, 82.08.02565, 82.08.02565, and 82.12.02565;
4 creating new sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the application
8 of the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax
9 exemption has, in some instances, been difficult and confusing for
10 taxpayers, and included difficult reporting and recordkeeping
11 requirements. In this act, it is the intent of the legislature to make
12 clear its intent for the application of the exemption and delegate to
13 the department of revenue the responsibility to devise an
14 administratively sound method of determining which machinery and
15 equipment qualifies for the exemption, and to extend the exemption to
16 the purchase and use of machinery and equipment for businesses that
17 perform testing of manufactured goods for manufacturers or processors
18 for hire.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 82.04.120 and 1998 c 168 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 "To manufacture" embraces all activities of a commercial or
4 industrial nature wherein labor or skill is applied, by hand or
5 machinery, to materials so that as a result thereof a new, different or
6 useful substance or article of tangible personal property is produced
7 for sale or commercial or industrial use, and shall include: (1) The
8 production or fabrication of special made or custom made articles;
9 (~~and~~) (2) the production or fabrication of dental appliances,
10 devices, restorations, substitutes, or other dental laboratory products
11 by a dental laboratory or dental technician; (3) cutting, delimiting,
12 and measuring of felled, cut, or taken trees; and (4) crushing and/or
13 blending of rock, sand, stone, gravel, or ore.

14 "To manufacture" shall not include: Conditioning of seed for use
15 in planting; cubing hay or alfalfa; (~~or~~) activities which consist of
16 cutting, grading, or ice glazing seafood which has been cooked, frozen,
17 or canned outside this state; or the growing, harvesting, or production
18 of agricultural products.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 82.08.02565 and 1998 c 330 s 1 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to a
22 manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used
23 directly in a manufacturing operation or research and development
24 operation, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services
25 rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or
26 improving the machinery and equipment, but only when the purchaser
27 provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner
28 prescribed by the department by rule. The seller shall retain a copy
29 of the certificate for the seller's files.

30 (2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.02565:

31 (a) "Machinery and equipment" means industrial fixtures, devices,
32 and support facilities, and tangible personal property that becomes an
33 ingredient or component thereof, including repair parts and replacement
34 parts. "Machinery and equipment" includes pollution control equipment
35 installed and used in a manufacturing operation or research and
36 development operation to prevent air pollution, water pollution, or
37 contamination that might otherwise result from the manufacturing
38 operation or research and development operation.

1 (b) "Machinery and equipment" does not include:

2 (i) Hand-powered tools;

3 (ii) Property with a useful life of less than one year;

4 (iii) Buildings, other than machinery and equipment that is
5 permanently affixed to or becomes a physical part of a building; and

6 (iv) Building fixtures that are not integral to the manufacturing
7 operation or research and development operation that are permanently
8 affixed to and become a physical part of a building, such as utility
9 systems for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, communications,
10 plumbing, or electrical.

11 (c) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in a manufacturing
12 operation or research and development operation if the machinery and
13 equipment:

14 (i) Acts upon or interacts with an item of tangible personal
15 property;

16 (ii) Conveys, transports, handles, or temporarily stores an item of
17 tangible personal property at the manufacturing site;

18 (iii) Controls, guides, measures, verifies, aligns, regulates, or
19 tests tangible personal property at the site or away from the site;

20 (iv) Provides physical support for or access to tangible personal
21 property;

22 (v) Produces power for, or lubricates machinery and equipment;

23 (vi) Produces another item of tangible personal property for use in
24 the manufacturing operation or research and development operation;

25 (vii) Places tangible personal property in the container, package,
26 or wrapping in which the tangible personal property is normally sold or
27 transported; or

28 (viii) Is integral to research and development as defined in RCW
29 82.63.010.

30 The department shall develop a method by rule of determining which
31 machinery and equipment qualifies for the exemption if the equipment is
32 used in both a qualifying and nonqualifying manner.

33 (d) "Manufacturing operation" means the manufacturing of articles,
34 substances, or commodities for sale as tangible personal property.

35 ((The)) A manufacturing operation begins at the point where the raw
36 materials enter the manufacturing site and ends at the point where the

37 ((~~finished product~~)) processed material leaves the manufacturing site.

38 The term also includes that portion of a cogeneration project that is
39 used to generate power for consumption within the manufacturing site of

1 which the cogeneration project is an integral part. The term does not
2 include the production of electricity by a light and power business as
3 defined in RCW 82.16.010 or the preparation of food products on the
4 premises of a person selling food products at retail.

5 (e) "Cogeneration" means the simultaneous generation of electrical
6 energy and low-grade heat from the same fuel.

7 (f) "Research and development operation" means engaging in research
8 and development as defined in RCW 82.63.010 by a manufacturer or
9 processor for hire.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The legislature intends that sections 2 and
11 3 of this act be clarifying in nature and are retroactive in response
12 to the administrative difficulties encountered in implementing the
13 original legislation.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 82.08.02565 and 1999 c . . . s 3 (section 3 of this
15 act) are each amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to a
17 manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used
18 directly in a manufacturing operation or research and development
19 operation, to sales to a person engaged in testing for a manufacturer
20 or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used directly in a
21 testing operation, or to sales of or charges made for labor and
22 services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning,
23 altering, or improving the machinery and equipment, but only when the
24 purchaser provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form
25 and manner prescribed by the department by rule. The seller shall
26 retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

27 (2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.02565:

28 (a) "Machinery and equipment" means industrial fixtures, devices,
29 and support facilities, and tangible personal property that becomes an
30 ingredient or component thereof, including repair parts and replacement
31 parts. "Machinery and equipment" includes pollution control equipment
32 installed and used in a manufacturing operation, testing operation, or
33 research and development operation to prevent air pollution, water
34 pollution, or contamination that might otherwise result from the
35 manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development
36 operation.

37 (b) "Machinery and equipment" does not include:

1 (i) Hand-powered tools;
2 (ii) Property with a useful life of less than one year;
3 (iii) Buildings, other than machinery and equipment that is
4 permanently affixed to or becomes a physical part of a building; and
5 (iv) Building fixtures that are not integral to the manufacturing
6 operation, testing operation, or research and development operation
7 that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of a
8 building, such as utility systems for heating, ventilation, air
9 conditioning, communications, plumbing, or electrical.

10 (c) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in a manufacturing
11 operation, testing operation, or research and development operation if
12 the machinery and equipment:

13 (i) Acts upon or interacts with an item of tangible personal
14 property;

15 (ii) Conveys, transports, handles, or temporarily stores an item of
16 tangible personal property at the manufacturing site or testing site;

17 (iii) Controls, guides, measures, verifies, aligns, regulates, or
18 tests tangible personal property at the site or away from the site;

19 (iv) Provides physical support for or access to tangible personal
20 property;

21 (v) Produces power for, or lubricates machinery and equipment;

22 (vi) Produces another item of tangible personal property for use in
23 the manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and
24 development operation;

25 (vii) Places tangible personal property in the container, package,
26 or wrapping in which the tangible personal property is normally sold or
27 transported; or

28 (viii) Is integral to research and development as defined in RCW
29 82.63.010.

30 The department shall develop a method by rule of determining which
31 machinery and equipment qualifies for the exemption if the equipment is
32 used in both a qualifying and nonqualifying manner.

33 (d) "Manufacturing operation" means the manufacturing of articles,
34 substances, or commodities for sale as tangible personal property. A
35 manufacturing operation begins at the point where the raw materials
36 enter the manufacturing site and ends at the point where the processed
37 material leaves the manufacturing site. The term also includes that
38 portion of a cogeneration project that is used to generate power for
39 consumption within the manufacturing site of which the cogeneration

1 project is an integral part. The term does not include the production
2 of electricity by a light and power business as defined in RCW
3 82.16.010 or the preparation of food products on the premises of a
4 person selling food products at retail.

5 (e) "Cogeneration" means the simultaneous generation of electrical
6 energy and low-grade heat from the same fuel.

7 (f) "Research and development operation" means engaging in research
8 and development as defined in RCW 82.63.010 by a manufacturer or
9 processor for hire.

10 (g) "Testing" means activities performed to establish or determine
11 the properties, qualities, and limitations of tangible personal
12 property.

13 (h) "Testing operation" means the testing of tangible personal
14 property for a manufacturer or processor for hire. A testing operation
15 begins at the point where the tangible personal property enters the
16 testing site and ends at the point where the tangible personal property
17 leaves the testing site. The term also includes that portion of a
18 cogeneration project that is used to generate power for consumption
19 within the site of which the cogeneration project is an integral part.
20 The term does not include the production of electricity by a light and
21 power business as defined in RCW 82.16.010 or the preparation of food
22 products on the premises of a person selling food products at retail.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.12.02565 and 1998 c 330 s 2 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the
26 use by a manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment
27 used directly in a manufacturing operation or research and development
28 operation or to the use by a person engaged in testing for a
29 manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used
30 directly in a testing operation.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are
32 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
33 or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public
34 institutions, and take effect immediately.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 5 and 6 of this act are necessary
36 for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety,

1 or support of the state government and its existing public
2 institutions, and take effect July 1, 1999.

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