



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov

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Imported Heavy Vehicle Notice

THE ARTICLE YOU ARE IMPORTING INTO THE UNITED STATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO A 12% FEDERAL EXCISE TAX

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 4051 imposes a 12% federal excise tax on the first retail sale of the following articles:

- 1 automobile truck bodies and chassis having a gross vehicle weight of over 33,000 pounds;
- 1 truck trailer and semi trailer bodies and chassis suitable for use with a trailer or semi trailer having a gross vehicle weight of over 26,000 pounds; and
- 1 tractors of the kind chiefly used for highway transportation in combination with a trailer or semi trailer having a gross vehicle weight over 19,500 pounds and a gross combined weight over 33,000 pounds.

"First retail sale" means the first sale, for a purpose other than resale or leasing in a long-term lease, **after manufacture, production, or importation**. The tax is 12% of the price for which the article is sold. The person making the first retail sale is liable for the tax.

If however, any person uses an article taxable under IRC section 4051 **before** a first retail sale, tax is imposed on the article as if the article had been sold at retail by that person.

- 1 Tax attaches at the time the taxable use begins.
- 1 The user of the article is liable for tax.

Imported articles that were used outside the United States may also be subject to tax.

Where is Tax Reported

The tax is reported on **Form 720**, *Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return*. The return is generally due by April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31. The return is filed with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Cincinnati, OH 45999-0009.

Payment of Taxes

Generally, semimonthly deposits of excise taxes are required. A semimonthly period is the first 15 days of a month (the first semimonthly period) or the 16th through the last day of a month (the second semimonthly period).

When to Make Deposits

The deposit of tax for a semimonthly period is due by the 14th day following that period. Generally, this is the 29th day of a month for the first semimonthly period and the 14th day of the following month for the second semimonthly period.

Information Sharing Program

The United States Customs and Border Protection shares import data with the Internal Revenue Service regarding articles subject to the 12% federal excise tax. The Internal Revenue Service compares this import data to excise tax returns to determine the level of compliance. Examinations are conducted to increase compliance for imported articles subject to the 12% federal excise tax. **Examinations can result in tax, penalties, and interest being assessed.**

Additional Information

You may find the following helpful when preparing **Form 720**:

- 1 Internal Revenue Code sections 4051, 4052 and 4053 and the applicable regulations.
- 1 **Publication 510**, *Excise Taxes*, contains definitions and examples that will help you prepare Form 720.
- 1 **Publication 509**, *Tax Calendars*, has deposit and payment due dates for all federal excise taxes
- 1 **Instructions to Form 720**.

IRS forms, instructions, and publications are available at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-829-3676.