

# Purchasing Agent Appointment and Delegation of Authority for Sales and Use Tax

**PURCHASING AGENT APPOINTMENT**

Name and Address of Prime Contractor			Name and Address of Governmental Unit or Exempt Organization		
Name			Name		
Street or Other Mailing Address			Street or Other Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code	City	State	Zip Code
Name and Location of Project			Appointment Information		
Name			Effective Date (see Instructions)		
Street or Other Mailing Address			Expiration Date		
City	State	Zip Code	Nebraska Exemption Number (Exempt Organizations Only)		
Identify Project					

The undersigned governmental unit or exempt organization appoints the above-named contractor and the contractor's delegated subcontractors as its agent to purchase and pay for building materials that will be annexed to real estate by them into the tax exempt construction project stated above.

**sign  
here** ▶

Authorized Signature of Governmental Unit or Exempt Organization

Title

Date

**DELEGATION OF PRIME CONTRACTOR'S AUTHORITY**

Name and Address of Subcontractor			Delegation Information		
Name			Effective Date		
Street or Other Mailing Address			Expiration Date		
City	State	Zip Code	Portion of Project		

The undersigned prime contractor hereby delegates authority to act as the purchasing agent of the named governmental unit or exempt organization to the above-named subcontractor.

**sign  
here** ▶

Signature of Prime Contractor or Authorized Representative

Title

Date

## INSTRUCTIONS

**WHO MUST FILE.** Any governmental unit or organization that is **exempt** from sales and use tax may appoint as its agent a prime contractor to purchase building materials and/or fixtures that will be annexed to property that belongs to or will belong to the governmental unit or exempt organization pursuant to a construction contract with the governmental unit or exempt organization. The appointment of the prime contractor as its agent is completed by issuing a Purchasing Agent Appointment and Delegation of Authority for Sales and Use Tax, Form 17, to the prime contractor. The Form 17 is required to be given to the contractor **BEFORE** he or she annexes building materials. The governmental unit or exempt organization must identify the project (e.g., east wing, chapel construction, or new school auditorium). Most

nonprofit organizations are NOT exempt from sales tax in Nebraska. In addition, not all governmental units are exempt from Nebraska sales tax. Refer to [Contractor Information](#) on our Web site for additional information on exempt entities. A contractor can confirm the exempt status of a governmental unit or exempt organization by contacting the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

The exemption from the payment of the Nebraska and local option sales and use taxes only applies if the governmental unit or exempt organization directly, or through its contractor, pays for the building materials. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When an organization that requires licensure in order to be exempt (i.e., nonprofit hospitals), but is not licensed at the time of the construction project, the exempt organization **CANNOT**

issue either a purchasing agent appointment or an exemption certificate. If the exempt organization becomes licensed upon completion of the project, it may apply for a refund of the tax paid or collected by the contractors.

**WHEN TO FILE.** A prime contractor engaging in a construction project with a governmental unit or exempt organization must receive a properly completed and signed Form 17 **BEFORE** any building materials are annexed. If Form 17 is not issued, the contractor must pay the sales and use taxes and the governmental unit or exempt organization may obtain a refund of the taxes paid by the contractor.

**WHERE TO FILE.** A copy of the completed form should be retained by the governmental unit or exempt organization issuing the Form 17. The original is to be retained by the prime contractor. Copies of this form must be made by the prime contractor for delegation purposes to any subcontractors working on the project identified on this form.

**APPOINTMENT INFORMATION.** Enter the dates the purchasing agent appointment will become effective and when it will expire. This appointment will not allow any purchases without payment of the tax by the prime contractor or subcontractor before the effective date or after the expiration date. The dates the delegation becomes effective and the expiration dates must be completed. The phrase “upon completion” or similar phrase is not acceptable as an expiration date. The governmental unit or exempt organization may need to issue another Form 17 if the project is not completed within the prior “effective” and “expiration” dates. Exempt organizations must enter their Nebraska Sales and Use Tax Exemption number.

**DELEGATION OF PRIME CONTRACTOR’S AUTHORITY.** The prime contractor may delegate his or her authority to act as the purchasing agent of the governmental unit or exempt organization to a subcontractor. The prime contractor must complete his or her copy of Form 17 for each subcontractor who is delegated authority to act as a purchasing agent. Reproductions of this delegation must be provided to the subcontractor, who must retain a copy for his or her records, and to the governmental unit or exempt organization.

Enter the dates the delegation of the subcontractor will become effective, when it will expire, and the portion of the project delegated. This delegation will not allow any purchases without payment of the tax by the subcontractor before the delegation date or after the expiration date. Any further delegation from a subcontractor to additional subcontractors must be delegated by providing a copy of the Form 17 that they received from the prime contractor and attaching it to a separate Form 17 with any further delegation to other subcontractors. The purchasing agent appointment is limited to the contractor’s purchase of building materials and/or fixtures for the specific project and is only valid during the appointment dates shown on the Form 17.

**EXEMPT SALE CERTIFICATE.** A prime contractor who has been appointed to act as a purchasing agent by a governmental unit or exempt organization, and who hires a subcontractor operating as an Option 1 contractor, must provide to that subcontractor a completed copy of Form 17 and a [Nebraska Resale or Exempt Sale Certificate, Form 13](#), with Section C,

Part 2, completed. The subcontractor will retain these forms in his or her records, and will not charge the contractor sales tax on any portion of the invoice involving the annexation of materials to the specific project identified on the Form 17. If these forms are not provided to the subcontractor operating under Option 1, the subcontractor must collect and remit sales tax on the charge for the separately stated building materials portion of the invoice. If the Option 1 subcontractor does not separately state the charge for the building materials from contractor labor, then the entire charge is taxable to the prime contractor.

Contractors operating under Option 2 (maintaining a tax-paid inventory) who have been issued a Form 17 from a governmental unit or an exempt organization, must furnish each vendor a copy of the Form 17 and a Form 13, completing Section C, Part 2, when purchasing building materials that will be annexed to real estate. Forms 13 and 17 must be retained with the vendor’s and contractor’s records for audit purposes. A contractor or subcontractor may reproduce copies of these documents which will be furnished to the vendors for each invoice or order made by them.

Invoices from vendors for the purchase of building materials by the contractor as purchasing agent, or the authorized subcontractor, must clearly identify that such purchase is for the specific Form 17 project.

**CREDIT/REFUND OF SALES AND USE TAX.** A contractor or subcontractor who has been appointed as a purchasing agent before any materials are annexed, may withdraw sales or use tax-paid materials from inventory that will be annexed to real estate or used to repair property annexed to real estate and receive a credit for the sales or use tax amount previously paid on those materials.

The contractor or subcontractor may take a credit either against his or her current tax liability, or file a [Claim for Overpayment of Sales and Use Tax, Form 7](#), and receive a refund of the sales or use tax paid on those materials.

**TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES.** The purchase, rental, or lease of tools, supplies, or equipment (i.e., scaffolding, barricades, machinery, etc.) by a contractor for use in the completion of an exempt project CANNOT be purchased tax free, even if the contractor has been issued a Form 17. These items do not become annexed to the real estate.

**OPTION 1 CONTRACTOR ONLY.** If an Option 1 contractor is the **only** contractor involved in performing work for a governmental unit or exempt organization, a Form 17 is NOT required. The Option 1 contractor must only obtain a Form 13, Section B, from the exempt project owner.

**PENALTY.** Any person who signs this document with the intent to evade payment of tax is liable for the sales and use tax, interest, and penalty, and may be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE.** The purchasing agent appointment must be signed by an officer of the exempt organization or proper government official. The delegation of prime contractor’s authority must be signed by the owner, partner, corporate officer, or other individual authorized to sign by a power of attorney on file with the Nebraska Department of Revenue.