

**Internal Revenue Service, Treasury**

**§ 41.4481-2**

computation of the tax is not affected and no right to a credit or refund of any tax paid under section 4481 arises.

(d) *Credit or refund of tax under section 4481(a).* (1) Any claim for refund of an overpayment of tax under section 4481(a) due to destruction or theft of the vehicle shall be made in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and § 301.6402-2 (Regulations on Procedure and Administration) and shall be filed by the person in whose name the vehicle is registered or required to be registered when the vehicle is destroyed or stolen. A claim for refund of the tax imposed by section 4481(a) is to be filed on Form 8849 (or such other form as the Commissioner may designate).

(2) Any person entitled to claim a refund of tax under paragraph (d)(1) of this section may, in lieu of claiming a refund of such tax, claim a credit for such tax on the next Form 2290 required to be filed.

(e) *Examples.* The application of section 4481 and this section may be illustrated by the following examples:

*Example (1).* In the taxable period beginning July 1, 1984, the first taxable use of a particular highway motor vehicle, a bus, having a taxable gross weight of 56,000 pounds, occurs on July 10, 1984, at which time the vehicle is registered in the name of X. A tax of \$122 ( $\$100 + \$22$ ) is imposed on X for the use of such vehicle for such taxable period.

*Example (2).* On July 1, 1984, X has registered in his name a highway motor vehicle having a taxable gross weight of 60,000 pounds. The vehicle is in "dead storage" until August 10, 1984, at which time X starts using the vehicle on the public highways in carrying on his trucking business. On August 10, 1984, the vehicle is still registered in X's name. Since the first taxable use of this highway motor vehicle during the taxable period occurred on August 10, 1984, X is required to pay a tax of \$192.50 ( $[\$100 + (5 \times \$22)] \times 11/12$ ) for such taxable period.

*Example (3).* On April 15, 1985, a vehicle with a taxable gross weight of 70,000 pounds and registered in the name of Y is completely destroyed. Y had purchased the vehicle from X who had paid the tax for the taxable period beginning July 1, 1984. Y is entitled to a refund of tax for those full months after destruction in the taxable period ending June 30, 1985. Thus, Y may file a claim

for a refund of  $\$71.67 - 2/12$  of the total tax of \$430 ( $\$100 + (15 \times \$22)$ ).

[T.D. 8027, 50 FR 21246, May 23, 1985, as amended by T.D. 8159, 52 FR 33584, Sept. 4, 1987; T.D. 8177, 53 FR 6626, Mar. 2, 1988; T.D. 8879, 65 FR 17153, Mar. 31, 2000]

**§ 41.4481-2 Persons liable for tax.**

(a) *In general.* (1)(i) A person is liable for the tax imposed by section 4481 with respect to the use of a highway motor vehicle in a taxable period if the vehicle is registered in the person's name—

(A) At the time of the first use of the vehicle in the taxable period;

(B) In the case of a vehicle under a suspension of tax described in § 41.4483-3(a), at the time the use on the public highways during the taxable period exceeds 5,000 miles (7,500 miles for agricultural vehicles);

(C) At the time that an increase in the taxable gross weight of the vehicle results in an additional tax liability (as computed under § 41.4481-1(c)(3)) if the increase occurs after the month in which the vehicle was first used in the taxable period; or

(D) At the time of any use during the taxable period that is after the first use during the period, but only to the extent that the tax or any installment payment of the tax has not previously been paid.

(ii) In any case in which more than one person is liable for the tax for a taxable period, the liability of all persons is satisfied to the extent that the tax is paid by any person liable for the tax.

(2) The application of paragraph (a)(1) of this section may be illustrated by the following example:

*Example.* In the taxable period beginning July 1, 1985, the first taxable use of a particular highway motor vehicle having a taxable gross weight of 60,000 pounds occurs on July 10, 1985, at which time the vehicle is registered in the name of Y. On September 1, 1985, Y sells the vehicle to X who registers and uses the vehicle before the end of such taxable period. Since the vehicle was registered in the name of Y at the time of its first taxable use, Y is liable for the total tax of \$210 ( $\$100 + (5 \times \$22)$ ) imposed on the use of the vehicle for the taxable period. X is also liable for \$210 tax or any part thereof, but only to the extent that Y does not pay it. To

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the extent that either X or Y pays the tax the other party is relieved of such liability.

(b) *Evidence of prior use of second-hand vehicle.* Every person who, at any time in the taxable period, acquires and has registered in his name a secondhand highway motor vehicle shall obtain and keep as a part of his records evidence, which he believes to be true, showing whether there was or was not a taxable use of such vehicle at any time in such taxable period prior to the time when the vehicle was registered in his name. Such person shall also obtain and keep as evidence a statement from the transferor as to whether there was in effect, at the time the vehicle was acquired, a suspension under §41.4483-3(a) of the tax imposed by section 4481(a). The evidence may take the form of a written statement, signed and dated by the person from whom the vehicle was acquired, showing whether there was or was not a prior taxable use of the vehicle and whether there was a suspension of tax in the taxable period. If the vehicle is acquired from a dealer in highway motor vehicles, the statement may be obtained from such dealer or from the person from whom the dealer acquired such vehicle. If evidence is not obtained showing whether there was or was not a prior taxable use of such vehicle and whether there was a suspension of tax in the taxable period, such person shall keep as a part of his records a written statement of the reason why he was unable to obtain such evidence.

(c) *Cross references.* (1) For provisions relating to interest on underpayments of tax, see §301.6601-1 of this chapter (Regulations on Procedure and Administration).

(2) For records required to be kept, see §41.6001-1.

(3) For rules applicable to installment payment of tax for highway use tax liability, see §41.6156-1.

(4) For rules applicable to time of filing returns, see §41.6071(a)-1.

[T.D. 6743, 29 FR 7930, June 23, 1964, as amended by T.D. 8027, 50 FR 21247, May 23, 1985; T.D. 8879, 65 FR 17153, Mar. 31, 2000]

**§41.4481-3 Registration.**

(a) For purposes of the regulations in this part, the term “registered” when

used in reference to a highway motor vehicle means—

(1) Registered under the law of any State or Territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or contiguous foreign country, or

(2) Required to be registered under the law of any State or Territory of the United States or contiguous foreign country in which such highway motor vehicle is operated or situated or, in case the vehicle is operated or situated in the District of Columbia, under the law of the District of Columbia.

Any highway motor vehicle which is operated under a dealer’s tag, license, or permit is considered to be registered in the name of such dealer. A highway motor vehicle is not considered to be registered solely by reason of the fact that there has been issued a special permit for operation of the vehicle at particular times and under specified conditions.

(b) Any highway motor vehicle which, at any time in the taxable period, is registered both in the name of the owner of the vehicle and in the name of any other person, is considered, for purposes of the regulations in this part, to be registered, at such time, solely in the name of the owner of the vehicle.

[T.D. 6216, 21 FR 9645, Dec. 6, 1956, as amended by T.D. 6743, 29 FR 7931, June 23, 1964; T.D. 8159, 52 FR 33584, Sept. 4, 1987]

**§41.4482(a)-1 Definition of highway motor vehicle.**

(a) *Highway motor vehicle.* The term “highway motor vehicle” means any vehicle that is both:

(1) A vehicle propelled by means of its own motor, whether such motor is powered by gasoline, diesel fuel, special motor fuels, electricity, or otherwise, and

(2) A “highway vehicle” as defined in §48.4061(a)-1(d) of this chapter.

(b) *Treatment of certain excluded vehicles.* Although trailers and semitrailers used in combination with highway trucks or truck-tractors are not vehicles the use of which is subject to the tax imposed by section 4481(a), trailers and semitrailers customarily used in combination with highway trucks or truck-tractors are taken into account in determining the taxable gross