

# Credit for Alcohol Used as Fuel

▶ Attach to your return.

Name(s) shown on return		Identifying number		
Type of Alcohol Fuel	(a) Number of Gallons Sold or Used	(b) Rate *	(c) Column (a) x Column (b)	
<b>1</b> Qualified ethanol fuel production (in gallons) . . . . .	<b>1</b>	.10		
<b>2</b> <b>Straight alcohol and alcohol mixtures:</b>				
<b>a</b> 190 proof or greater (in gallons) . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	.54		
<b>b</b> Less than 190 proof but at least 150 proof (in gallons) . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	.40		
<b>3</b> Add lines 1, 2a, and 2b in both columns . . . . .	<b>3</b>			
<b>4</b> Other fuels blended with the alcohol on lines 2a and 2b . . . . .	<b>4</b>			
<b>5a</b> Total gallons of fuel. Add lines 3 and 4 (column (a)). . . . .	<b>5a</b>			
<b>b</b> Total gallons containing less than 5.7% of 190-proof alcohol or that are exempt from excise taxes (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>5b</b>			
<b>6</b> Subtract line 5b from line 5a . . . . .	<b>6</b>			
<b>7</b> Break down line 6 into the number of gallons of:				
<b>a</b> Aviation fuel for use in noncommercial aviation containing at least 10% alcohol . . . . .	<b>7a</b>	.134**		
<b>b</b> Gasohol (and other fuels) containing less than 85% alcohol (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>7b</b>	(see instructions)		
<b>c</b> Special motor fuel containing 85% or more alcohol (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>7c</b>	.054		
<b>8</b> Add lines 7a through 7c, column (c) . . . . .			<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b> Current year credit less excise tax benefit. Subtract line 8 from line 3. Include this amount in your income for 1996 . . . . .			<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b> Flow-through alcohol fuel credit(s) from a partnership, S corporation, estate, or trust (see instructions) . . . . .			<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> <b>Total current year credit for alcohol used as fuel.</b> Add lines 9 and 10 . . . . .			<b>11</b>	

\*Only the rate for ethanol is shown. See instructions for lines 2 and 7 for rates for alcohol other than ethanol.

\*\*Rate effective 8/27/96 through 12/31/96. The rate is zero before 8/27/96 and after 12/31/96.

See **Who Must File Form 3800** to find out if you complete the lines below or file Form 3800.

<b>12</b> Regular tax before credits:				
• Individuals. Enter amount from Form 1040, line 38 . . . . .	}			<b>12</b>
• Corporations. Enter amount from Form 1120, Schedule J, line 3 (or Form 1120-A, Part I, line 1) . . . . .				
• Other filers. Enter regular tax before credits from your return . . . . .				
<b>13a</b> Credit for child and dependent care expenses (Form 2441, line 10). . . . .	<b>13a</b>			
<b>b</b> Credit for the elderly or the disabled (Schedule R (Form 1040), line 20) . . . . .	<b>13b</b>			
<b>c</b> Mortgage interest credit (Form 8396, line 11) . . . . .	<b>13c</b>			
<b>d</b> Foreign tax credit (Form 1116, line 32, or Form 1118, Sch. B, line 12). . . . .	<b>13d</b>			
<b>e</b> Possessions tax credit (Form 5735). . . . .	<b>13e</b>			
<b>f</b> Credit for fuel from a nonconventional source . . . . .	<b>13f</b>			
<b>g</b> Qualified electric vehicle credit (Form 8834, line 19) . . . . .	<b>13g</b>			
<b>h</b> Add lines 13a through 13g . . . . .			<b>13h</b>	
<b>14</b> Net regular tax. Subtract line 13h from line 12 . . . . .			<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> Alternative minimum tax:				
• Individuals. Enter amount from Form 6251, line 28 . . . . .	}			<b>15</b>
• Corporations. Enter amount from Form 4626, line 15 . . . . .				
• Estates and trusts. Enter amount from Form 1041, Schedule I, line 41. . . . .				
<b>16</b> Net income tax. Add lines 14 and 15 . . . . .			<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b> Tentative minimum tax (see instructions):				
• Individuals. Enter amount from Form 6251, line 26 . . . . .	}			
• Corporations. Enter amount from Form 4626, line 13 . . . . .				
• Estates and trusts. Enter amount from Form 1041, Schedule I, line 37 . . . . .				
<b>18</b> If line 14 is more than \$25,000, enter 25% (.25) of the excess (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>18</b>			
<b>19</b> Enter the greater of line 17 or line 18 . . . . .			<b>19</b>	
<b>20</b> Subtract line 19 from line 16. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .			<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> <b>Credit for alcohol used as fuel allowed for current year.</b> Enter the <b>smaller</b> of line 11 or line 20 here and on Form 1040, line 42; Form 1120, Schedule J, line 4d; Form 1120-A, Part I, line 2a; or the applicable line of your return . . . . .			<b>21</b>	

## Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Code section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

**Recordkeeping** . . . . . 10 hr., 46 min.

**Learning about the law or the form** . . . . . 34 min.

**Preparing the form** . . . . . 1 hr., 42 min.

**Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS** . . . . . 16 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the IRS at the address listed in the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.

## General Instructions

### Purpose of Form

Use Form 6478 to figure your credit for alcohol used as fuel. This credit consists of the following:

1. Alcohol mixture credit,
2. Alcohol credit, and
3. Small ethanol producer credit.

You may claim or elect not to claim the alcohol fuel credit at any time within the 3 years from the due date of your return (determined without regard to extensions) on either an original or an amended return.

### Definitions and Special Rules

**Alcohol.**—Alcohol, for credit purposes, includes ethanol and methanol but does not include:

1. Alcohol produced from petroleum, natural gas, or coal (including peat), or
2. Alcohol of less than 150 proof. In figuring the proof of any alcohol, disregard any denaturants (additives that make the alcohol unfit for human

consumption). The volume of alcohol includes any denaturant up to 5% of the volume of the alcohol and denaturant combined.

However, methanol produced from methane gas formed in waste disposal sites is not alcohol produced from natural gas, and is included for credit purposes.

**Alcohol mixture.**—The alcohol must be used to make a qualified mixture. A qualified mixture combines alcohol with gasoline, diesel, or special motor fuel. The producer of the mixture either:

1. Uses it as fuel, or
2. Sells it as fuel to another person.

The credit is available only to the producer who blends the mixture. The producer must use or sell the mixture in a trade or business and the credit is available only for the year the mixture is sold or used. The credit is not allowed for casual off-farm production of a qualified mixture.

**Straight alcohol.**—The alcohol must not be a mixture with gasoline, diesel, or special motor fuel (other than as a denaturant). The credit is for alcohol that during the tax year is:

1. Used by the taxpayer as a fuel in a trade or business, or
2. Is sold by the taxpayer at retail to another person and put in the fuel tank of that person's vehicle.

However, no credit is allowed for alcohol used by the taxpayer as a fuel in a trade or business if that alcohol was sold in a retail sale described in 2 above.

**Qualified ethanol fuel production.**—This is ethanol produced by an eligible small ethanol producer (defined below) and during the tax year:

1. Is sold by the producer to another person—
  - a. For use by the buyer in the buyer's trade or business to produce a qualified mixture (other than casual off-farm production),
  - b. For use by the buyer as a fuel in a trade or business, or
  - c. Who sells the ethanol at retail to another person and puts the ethanol in the retail buyer's fuel tank; or
2. Is used or sold by the producer for any purpose described in 1 above.

**Eligible small ethanol producer.**—This is a person who, at all times during the tax year, has a productive capacity for alcohol of 30 million gallons or less. This includes alcohol made from petroleum, natural gas, coal, peat, and alcohol of less than 150 proof.

**Diesel fuel.**—This is any liquid other than gasoline that can be used as a fuel in a diesel-powered highway vehicle.

**Special motor fuel.**—This is any liquid other than gasoline that is suitable for use or is used in a motor vehicle or motor boat.

**Noncommercial aviation.**—This is the use of an aircraft other than in a business of transporting persons or property for pay.

**Recapture of credit if not used as fuel.**—You must pay the tax on each gallon of the alcohol or the alcohol in the mixture at the applicable rate that you used to figure the credit if you claim any alcohol fuel credit and later you:

1. Separate the alcohol from the mixture,
2. Use the mixture other than as a fuel,
3. Mix straight alcohol on which the credit was allowed for the retail sale,
4. Use the straight alcohol other than as a fuel, or
5. Do not use the fuel for the purposes described under **Qualified ethanol fuel production** above.

Report the tax on **Form 720**, Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Return.

## Specific Instructions

Use lines 1 through 9 to figure any alcohol fuel credit from your own trade or business.

**Note:** *We have shown in column (b) the rate for ethanol only. If you have a credit for alcohol other than from ethanol, enter in column (b) the applicable rate shown in the instructions for lines 2a, 2b, and 7a through 7c.*

Skip lines 1 through 9 if you are claiming only a credit that was allocated to you from a flow-through entity (i.e., S corporation, partnership, estate, or trust).

**S corporations, partnerships, estates, and trusts.**—Figure the total credit on lines 1 through 11. Then, allocate the line 11 credit to each shareholder, partner, and beneficiary in the same way that income and loss are divided.

If the line 11 credit includes any small ethanol producer credit (line 1), you must separately state to each shareholder, partner, beneficiary, etc., the number of gallons on which the credit was figured, and the productive capacity for alcohol that you, the flow-through entity, have. State the productive capacity in terms of gallons.

**Line 1.**—Enter the number of gallons of ethanol that meet the conditions listed above under **Qualified ethanol fuel production**. Do not enter more than 15 million gallons. Multiply by the rate of 10 cents per gallon.

**Line 2.**—Enter on the appropriate line the number of gallons sold or used.

**Line 2a.**—Enter the number of gallons of 190 proof or greater alcohol and multiply by the rate.

For alcohol other than from ethanol, the rate is 60 cents per gallon.

**Line 2b.**—Enter the number of gallons of alcohol that is less than 190 proof but at least 150 proof and multiply by the rate.

For alcohol other than from ethanol, the rate is 45 cents per gallon.

**Line 4.**—Enter the number of gallons of other fuels that you blended with the alcohol shown on lines 2a and 2b. Other fuels include gasoline, diesel, and special motor fuel.

**Line 5b.**—Enter the number of gallons included on line 5a that contain less than 5.7% of 190-proof alcohol or are exempt from excise taxes. The fuel can be exempt because of specific exemption, credit, or refund provisions other than the alcohol fuel credit. Examples of fuels exempt from excise tax include fuel that is:

- Used on a farm for farming purposes.
- Supplied to military ships or aircraft or certain commercial ships or aircraft.
- Used in off-highway business use.
- Used as fuel by a state, any political subdivision of a state, or the District of Columbia.
- Used as fuel by a nonprofit educational organization.
- Used in an intercity, local, or school bus.
- Used for certain helicopter uses.

**Line 7.**—If you sold or used alcohol or an alcohol mixture as fuel, you may have been entitled to an exemption, credit, refund, or a reduced rate of excise tax. The alcohol fuel credit must be reduced to take into account any of these benefits.

**Line 7a.**—Enter under column (a) the number of gallons of fuel sold for use in or used in an aircraft in noncommercial aviation that is alcohol or alcohol blended with aviation fuel other than gasoline if you received an excise tax benefit because the mixture contained at least 10% alcohol. If the alcohol did not contain ethanol, the rate under column (b) is 14 cents (zero before August 27, 1996, and after December 31, 1996).

**Lines 7b and 7c.**—Use these lines for all other fuels (including gasohol) if you received an excise tax benefit because the fuels contained alcohol.

**Line 7b.**—Enter under column (a) the number of gallons of fuel that is a mixture containing less than 85% alcohol.

The rates are based on the percentage of alcohol in the mixture.

Percentage of alcohol in mixture	Rate*	
	Ethanol	Other than ethanol
At least 10%	.054	.060
At least 7.7% but less than 10%	.04158	.0462
At least 5.7% but less than 7.7%	.03078	.0342

\*These rates are zero after December 31, 1996, for mixtures of alcohol and aviation gasoline.

**Line 7c.**—Enter under column (a) the number of gallons of special motor fuel that contain 85% or more alcohol. If the alcohol did not contain ethanol, the rate under column (b) is 6 cents.

**Line 9.**—Include this amount in income, under "Other income" on the applicable line of your income tax return, even if you cannot use all the credit because of the tax liability limitations.

**Line 10.**—Enter the amount of credit that was allocated to you as a shareholder, partner, or beneficiary.

If your credit from a flow-through entity includes the small ethanol producer credit, the flow-through entity must tell you the amount of the small producer credit included in the flow-through credit, the number of gallons for which the entity claimed the small ethanol producer credit, and the productive capacity for alcohol. You as a shareholder, partner, beneficiary, etc., are subject to the 15-million-gallon limitation for line 1 and the 30-million-gallon productive capacity limitation for an eligible small ethanol producer. If you receive a small ethanol producer credit from more than one entity, your credit may be limited.

**Line 11.**—For an estate or trust, the credit on line 11 is allocated between the estate or trust and the beneficiaries in proportion to the income allocable to each. In the margin to the right of line 11, the estate or trust should enter its part of the total credit. Label it "1041 PORTION" and use this amount in lines 12 through 21 (or Form 3800) to figure the credit to claim on Form 1041. Also, enter and identify the beneficiaries' share of the credit to the right of line 11, and attach a schedule to Form 6478 showing how the total credit was divided.

## Who Must File Form 3800

If for this year you have more than one of the credits included in the general business credit listed below, or have a carryback or carryforward of any of the credits, or have a credit from a passive activity, you must complete **Form 3800**, General Business Credit, instead of completing lines 12 through 21 of Form 6478 to figure the tax liability limitation.

The general business credit consists of the following credits:

- Investment (Form 3468),
- Work opportunity (Form 5884),
- Alcohol used as fuel (Form 6478),
- Research (Form 6765),
- Low-income housing (Form 8586),
- Enhanced oil recovery (Form 8830),
- Disabled access (Form 8826),
- Renewable electricity production (Form 8835),
- Indian employment (Form 8845),
- Employer social security and Medicare taxes paid on certain employee tips (Form 8846),
- Orphan drug (Form 8820),
- Contributions to selected community development corporations (Form 8847), and
- Trans-Alaska pipeline liability fund.

The empowerment zone employment credit (Form 8844), while a component of the general business credit, is figured separately on Form 8844 and is never carried to Form 3800.

**Line 17.**—Enter the tentative minimum tax (TMT) that was figured on the appropriate alternative minimum tax (AMT) form or schedule. Although you may not owe AMT, you must still compute the TMT to figure your credit.

**Line 18.**—See section 38(c)(3) for special rules that apply to married couples filing separate returns, controlled corporate groups, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, and estates and trusts.

**Line 21.**—If you cannot use part of the credit because of the tax liability limit (line 20 is smaller than line 11), carry it back 3 years, then forward for 15 years. See the separate Instructions for Form 3800 for details.

