



Returns Excise Enterprise

Support for Sales & Use Returns



Business challenge

Midstream and downstream energy companies often need to collect sales and use tax in addition to motor fuel excise, environmental, and alternative fuel taxes. Tax rules can be complex and vary by jurisdiction, but many states require sales and use tax collection on fuel sales, while others require sales and use tax only be charged when there is an exemption from excise tax. Some fuel suppliers also sell non-fuel products subject to sales and use tax.

Automation of filing processes for these companies can prove difficult and time consuming. Since solutions for sales and use tax filing don't support excise returns, tax managers often use a mix of manual, spreadsheet-based processes or use two different tax automation solutions for excise and sales tax returns. This complexity typically results in complicated filing processes, duplicated work, and tax errors, which leads to higher costs and increased audit risk.

Solution

Returns Excise Enterprise is a comprehensive solution for energy and motor fuel tax compliance. It provides a single, integrated process which automates filing for motor fuel excise returns, sales and use returns, and terminal operator reports. Sales and use returns no longer require their own special processes and tools. The same raw transaction data used for excise returns is also used to file sales and use returns. This combined process simplification results in increased filing productivity and reduced tax errors.

By leveraging Avalara's extensive sales tax expertise, Returns Excise Enterprise can calculate sales and use taxes from raw transaction data and reconcile tax returns with invoices and accruals prior to filing. This enables detection of invoicing and accrual errors, further improving tax accuracy and reducing audit liability.

Returns Excise Enterprise is the most widely deployed fuel tax automation solution in the U.S. and Canada. With comprehensive support for all major jurisdictions, hundreds of companies depend on it, from small single-state filers to the largest oil companies processing millions of monthly transactions. Tax professionals and jurisdictions alike have come to trust Avalara to determine and file taxes accurately and reliably.

KEY BENEFITS

- **Simplify filing operations** by leveraging a unified filing solution and process for both excise and sales & use returns
- **Reduce costs** with a single implementation of a single tax solution from a single vendor
- **Improve productivity** by enabling a single tax analyst to handle all returns easily, without the complexity or cost of spreadsheets or multiple tax solutions
- **Reduce audit liability** through the detection of invoicing or sales & use tax accrual errors



Get started with
Returns Excise Enterprise
today.

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Sales & use return filing process

The Returns Excise Enterprise filing process has been extended to support transaction import, tax determination, calculation, and filing of sales and use taxes. Although tax accruals can be imported, sales tax is determined independent of accruals based on raw transaction data. This provides a check against tax accrual errors and improves tax accuracy.

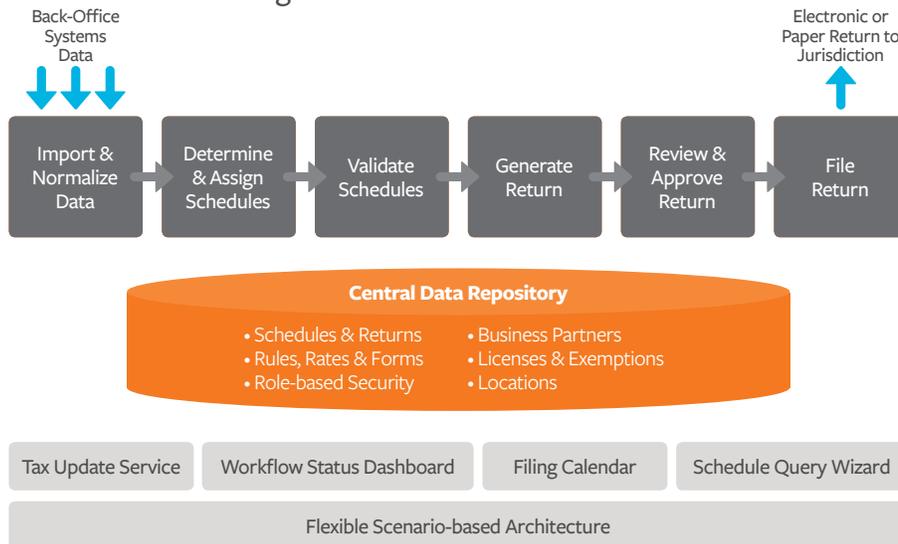
Once transaction data is imported, built-in rules handle schedule determination and tax calculation. Tax managers can also configure sales tax nexus and provide custom mappings of product codes to tax codes. After taxes are calculated, returns are generated and a pdf form is available for review. Filing processes are managed by the same customizable workflow and filing calendar used for excise returns. When internal approvals are complete, the return can be printed for mailing or filed electronically. Sales and use return data is also available for reporting using the schedule query wizard, supporting easy tax analysis and audit support.

Monthly tax rule, rate, and form updates for both excise and sales and use tax are included with Returns Excise Enterprise. Tax and IT departments no longer need to try to track regulatory changes to ensure tax calculations stay up-to-date. Avalara's team of tax experts constantly monitors jurisdictions for new tax regulations to ensure on-going compliance.

KEY FEATURES

- Comprehensive tax rules, rates, and forms for downstream fuel** — Supports signature-ready tax return generation for sales & use taxes at all jurisdiction levels, in addition to excise taxes.
- Unified user experience for excise and sales & use returns** — Simplifies the filing process and enables filing of all required returns by a single tax analyst.
- Reconciliation of calculated and accrued sales & use taxes** — Enables detection of tax accrual errors.

Filing Process Flow and Architecture



About Avalara – making sales tax less taxing

Avalara helps businesses of all sizes achieve compliance with sales tax and other transactional tax requirements by delivering comprehensive, automated, cloud-based solutions that are fast, accurate, and easy to use. Avalara's end-to-end suite of solutions are designed to effectively manage the complicated and burdensome tax compliance obligations imposed by state, local, and other taxing authorities in the United States and internationally.

Avalara is integrated with leading accounting, ERP, ecommerce and other business applications. Founded in 2004 and privately-held, Avalara's venture capital investors include Battery Ventures, Sageview Capital, Arthur Ventures, and other institutional and individual investors. Avalara employs more than 500 people at its headquarters on Bainbridge Island, WA and in offices across the U.S. and in London, England and Pune, India.



Getting started with Avalara Returns Excise is easy.

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