

SUBCHAPTERS 8 THROUGH 9. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 10. REAL PROPERTY DEFINED

18:12-10.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise.

“Affixed” means fastened or attached physically.

“Appurtenance” includes any tangible personal property affixed to land or improvements thereon.

“Functionally essential” refers to machinery, apparatus or equipment necessary for the habitability of the structure, including, but not limited to, such items as air conditioning and heating equipment or apparatus, lighting and bathroom fixtures, elevators, escalators, electrical wiring, plumbing, etc.

“Machinery, apparatus or equipment” means any machine, device, mechanism, instrument, tool, tank or item of tangible personal property used or held for use in business. The term includes, but is not limited to, that machinery, apparatus or equipment described in N.J.A.C. 18:24-4.2. The term also includes machinery, apparatus or equipment directly used in the production of sale of gas, water, steam, electricity or telecommunication services and such items directly used in the production of property on farms as defined in N.J.S.A. 54:32B-8.16.

“Material injury” in the case of real property means serious physical damage to the real property. Some of the factors which can be considered in determining whether “serious physical damage” has occurred are any appreciable change in the market value of the real property as a result of removal; the amount of time and the cost required to repair the condition caused by removal; and the hazard or dislocation caused by the removal.

“Material injury” in the case of property severed or removed from the real property means physical damage to the personal property sufficient to destroy its utility.

“Not ordinarily intended to be affixed permanently to real property” means that, in the custom and usage of the trade, like personal property is not intended to be permanently affixed. Indicators that personal property of a like kind is not ordinarily intended to be affixed permanently to real property include the following:

1. In the event of sale of the realty, the personal property would not ordinarily pass with title to the realty;

2. In the case of a business, the personal property ordinarily would be removed from the real property in the event of the relocation of the business;

3. Similar items of personal property are frequently resold separate from the real property.

“Production process” means the process of commencing with the introduction of raw materials or components into a systematic series of manufacturing, assembling, refining or processing operations and ceasing when the product is in the form in which it will be sold to the ultimate consumer.

“Structure” means any assemblage of building or construction materials fixed in place for the primary purpose of supporting, sheltering, containing, or enclosing persons or property. The term “structure” does not include machinery, apparatus or equipment which the structure is designed to hold in place, shelter, contain or enclose.

“Used or held for use in business” means any item of machinery, apparatus or equipment used or held for use in a business transaction, activity or occupation conducted for profit in New Jersey.

Amended by R.1993 d.504, effective October 18, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 61(a), 25 N.J.R. 4792(a).

Case Notes

Insulated walls and ceiling panels of refrigerated areas of warehouse did not constitute “machinery,” “apparatus,” or “equipment,” for purposes of real property tax exemption. *Freehold Tp. v. Javin Partnership*, 15 N.J.Tax 88 (1995).

Radio towers did not merely support separate broadcasting antennae and were within real property tax exemption for “machinery, apparatus, or equipment”. *Emmis Broadcasting Corp. of N.Y. v. East Rutherford Borough*, 14 N.J.Tax 524 (1995).

Floating docks and finger piers were not “machinery, apparatus or equipment”. *Taylor v. Lower Tp.*, 13 N.J.Tax 371 (1993).

Floating docks and finger piers were not “used or held for use in business”. *Taylor v. Lower Tp.*, 13 N.J.Tax 371 (1993).

Dam used in creation of hydroelectric power was not “structure” for purposes of real property taxation. *American Hydro Power Partners, L.P. v. Clifton City*, 12 N.J.Tax 264 (A.D.1991).

Machinery and equipment in batch ester plant property were not within real property tax exclusion. *Badische Corp. v. Town of Kearny*, 11 N.J.Tax 385 (1990).

Items such as gauges and electrical control systems were to be taxed as real property when functionally essential to special purpose property. *Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. v. Department of Treasury Div. of Taxation*, 11 N.J.Tax 198 (1990).

Legislature intended to broaden definition of real property to include personal property intended to be affixed permanently to real property. *Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. v. Department of Treasury Div. of Taxation*, 11 N.J.Tax 198 (1990).

Tax regulation’s definition of “structure” was limited to general purpose property and did not apply to special purpose property. *Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. v. Department of Treasury Div. of Taxation*, 11 N.J.Tax 198 (1990).

Under tax regulation for special purpose property, “functionally essential” refers to supporting, sheltering or enclosing persons or property which were functionally essential. *Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. v. Department of Treasury Div. of Taxation*, 11 N.J.Tax 198 (1990).

All property permanently affixed to mainline natural gas pipe was real property not subject to business personal property tax. *Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. v. Department of Treasury Div. of Taxation*, 11 N.J.Tax 198. (1990).

18:12-10.2 Real property

(a) Real property means all lands and improvements thereon and includes personal property affixed to real property or an appurtenance thereto, unless personal property so affixed meets all of the conditions in (a)1 through 3 below or in (a)4 below.

1. It can be removed or severed without material injury to the real property;
2. It can be removed or severed without material injury to the personal property itself; and
3. It is not ordinarily intended to be affixed permanently to the real property; or unless
4. The personal property so affixed is machinery, apparatus, or equipment used or held for use in business and is neither a structure nor machinery, apparatus or equipment the primary purpose of which is to enable a structure to support, shelter, contain, enclose or house persons or property. For purposes of this subsection, real property includes pipe racks, and piping and electrical wiring up to the point of connections with the machinery, apparatus, or equipment of a production process.

(b) Personal property includes only the machinery, apparatus or equipment of a petroleum refinery that is directly used to manufacture petroleum products from crude oil in any of the series of petroleum refining processes commencing with the introduction of crude oil and ending with refined petroleum products, excluding items of machinery, apparatus or equipment which are located on the grounds of a petroleum refinery but which are not directly used to refine crude oil into petroleum products.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to repeal or alter in any way the classification of property as either real or personal where that classification is otherwise provided by statute.

Amended by R.1993 d.504, effective October 18, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 61(a), 25 N.J.R. 4792(a).

Case Notes

Dam was not "structure" for purposes of real property tax. *American Hydro Power Partners, L.P. v. Clifton City*, 12 N.J.Tax 264 (A.D. 1991).

Valuation of real property must result in fair and reasonable distribution of local property tax burden of municipality among its property owners. *Brockway Glass Co. v. Freehold Tp.*, 10 N.J.Tax 356 (1989), affirmed 12 N.J.Tax 263, certification granted and remanded 130 N.J. 3, 611 A.2d 643.

18:12-10.3 Tanks with a capacity in excess of 30,000 gallons

A storage tank having a capacity of more than 30,000 gallons is deemed to be real property. The fact that products are mixed, blended, heated or subjected to a similar non-production process within a storage tank shall not in itself render that tank personal property.

Amended by R.1993 d.504, effective October 18, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 61(a), 25 N.J.R. 4792(a).

18:12-10.4 Security interests

The classification of property as real property under this subchapter shall not affect any transaction or security interest provided for in N.J.S.A. 12A:9-101 et seq.