

CHANGES WITHOUT REGULATORY EFFECT UNDER
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 1, SECTION 100

Statement of Explanation

Changes to Title 18. Public Revenue

Regulation 1699, *Permits*

A. Factual Basis

Statutes 2009, chapter 16 (Assem. Bill No. 18 (2009-10 4th Ex. Sess.)), section 1, added Revenue and Taxation Code section 6225, to “require a qualified purchaser, as defined, to register with the State Board of Equalization and to report and pay by April 15 the use tax owed for the previous calendar year.” (Legislative Counsel Digest.) Section 6225 expressly provides that:

6225.

(a) In order to facilitate the collection of use tax imposed by this part, a qualified purchaser shall register with the board on a form prescribed by the board and shall set forth the name under which the qualified purchaser transacts or intends to transact business, the location of the qualified purchaser's place or places of business, and other information as the board may require.

(b) Article 1 (commencing with Section 6451) of Chapter 5 of this part shall apply to a qualified purchaser, except that a return showing the total sales price of the tangible personal property purchased by the qualified purchaser, the storage, use, or other consumption of which became subject to the use tax during the preceding calendar year, and which was not paid to a retailer required to collect the tax or which was not paid to a retailer the qualified purchaser reasonably believed was required to collect the tax, shall be filed, together with a remittance of the amount of the tax due, with the board on or before April 15.

(c) A "qualified purchaser" means a person that meets all of the following conditions:

- (1) The person is not required to hold a seller's permit pursuant to this part.
- (2) The person is not required to be registered pursuant to Section 6226.
- (3) The person is not a holder of a use tax direct payment permit as described in Section 7051.3.
- (4) The person receives at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in gross receipts from business operations per calendar year.
- (5) The person is not otherwise registered with the board to report use tax.

(d) This section shall not apply to the purchase of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft as defined in Article 1 (commencing with Section 6271) of Chapter 3.5 of this part.

Furthermore, the provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code section 6225 requiring qualified purchasers to report and pay use tax by April 15 of each year became effective on January 1,

2010, and apply to returns and taxes for the 2009 calendar year, which are due by April 15, 2010, and returns and taxes for subsequent years.

Therefore, the State Board of Equalization (Board) proposes to add subdivision (j) to California Code of Regulation, title 18, section (Regulation) 1699, *Permits*, to read as follows pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section (Rule) 100, to conform to the current provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code section 6225; and the Board proposes to amend subdivisions (a) through (f) of Regulation 1699 to clarify that these subdivisions are referring to “seller’s” permits. In addition, the Board proposes to add a citation to Revenue and Taxation Code section 6225 to Regulation 1699’s reference note and revise the reference note, which inadvertently cites Revenue and Taxation Code sections 6066 and 6075, instead of correctly citing Revenue and Taxation Code sections 6066 through 6075.

The changes to Regulation 1699 are appropriate for processing under Rule 100 because the changes are without regulatory effect and do not materially alter any requirement, right, responsibility, condition, prescription, or other regulatory element of any California Code of Regulations provision. Furthermore, the changes are necessary to bring Regulation 1699 into conformity with the current provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code section 6225 and correct the citations in Regulation 1699’s reference note.

B. Proposed Amendments

The Board proposes to amend Regulation 1699 to read as follows:

Regulation 1699. Permits.

(a) Seller’s Permit In General -Number of Permits Required. Every person engaged in the business of selling (or leasing under a lease defined as a sale in Revenue and Taxation Code section 6006(g)) tangible personal property of a kind the gross receipts from the retail sale of which are required to be included in the measure of the sales tax, and only a person actively so engaged, is required to hold a seller’s permit for each place of business in this state at which transactions relating to sales are customarily negotiated with his or her customers. For example:

A seller’s permit is required for a branch sales office at which orders are customarily taken or contracts negotiated, whether or not merchandise is stocked there.

No additional permits are required for warehouses or other places at which merchandise is merely stored and which customers do not customarily visit for the purpose of making purchases and which are maintained in conjunction with a place of business for which a permit is held; but at least one permit must be held by every person maintaining stocks of merchandise in this state for sale. However, permits are required for warehouses or other places at which merchandise is stored and from which retail sales of such merchandise negotiated out-of-state are delivered or fulfilled.

If two or more activities are conducted by the same person on the same premises, even though in different buildings, only one seller’s permit is required. For example:

A service station operator having a restaurant in addition to the station on the same premises requires only one seller’s permit for both activities.

(b) Persons Selling in Interstate Commerce or to United States Government. A seller's permit is not required to be held by persons all of whose sales are made exclusively in interstate or foreign commerce but a seller's permit is required of persons notwithstanding all their sales (or leases under a lease defined as a sale in Revenue and Taxation Code section 6006(g)) are made to the United States or instrumentalities thereof.

(c) Persons Selling Feed. Effective April 1, 1996, a seller's permit is not required to be held by persons whose sales consist entirely of sales of feed for any form of animal life of a kind the products of which ordinarily constitute food for human consumption (food animals), or for any form of animal life not of such a kind (nonfood animals) which are being held for sale in the regular course of business, provided no other retail sales of tangible personal property are made.

If a seller of hay is also the grower of the hay, this exemption shall apply only if either:

1. The hay is produced for sale only to beef cattle feedlots or dairies, or
2. The hay is sold exclusively through a farmer-owned cooperative.

(d) Concessionaires. For the purposes of this regulation, the term concessionaire is defined as an independent retailer who is authorized, through contract with, or permission of, another retail business enterprise (the prime retailer), to operate within the perimeter of the prime retailer's own retail business premises, which to all intents and purposes appear to be wholly under the control of that prime retailer, and to make retail sales that to the general public might reasonably be believed to be the transactions of the prime retailer. Some indicators that a retailer is not operating as a concessionaire are that he or she:

- Appears to the public to be a business separate and autonomous from the prime retailer. Examples of businesses that may appear to be separate and autonomous, while operating within the prime retailer's premises, are those with signs posted on the premises naming each of such businesses, those with separate cash registers, and those with their own receipts or invoices printed with their business name.
- Maintains separate business records, particularly with respect to sales.
- Establishes his or her own selling prices.
- Makes business decisions independently, such as hiring employees or purchasing inventory and supplies.
- Registers as a separate business with other regulatory agencies, such as an agency issuing business licenses, the Employment Development Department, and/or the Secretary of State.
- Deposits funds into a separate account.

In cases where a retailer is not operating as a concessionaire, the prime retailer is not liable for any tax liabilities of the retailer operating on his or her premises. However, if a retailer is deemed to be operating as a concessionaire, the prime retailer may be held jointly and severally liable for any sales and use taxes imposed on unreported retail sales made by the concessionaire while

operating as a concessionaire. Such a prime retailer will be relieved of his or her obligation for sales and use tax liabilities incurred by such a concessionaire for the period in which the concessionaire holds a seller's permit for the location of the prime retailer or in cases where the prime retailer obtains and retains a written statement that is taken in good faith in which the concessionaire affirms that he or she holds a seller's permit for that location with the Board. The following essential elements must be included in the statement in order to relieve the prime retailer of his or her liability for any unreported tax liabilities incurred by the concessionaire:

- The seller's permit number of the concessionaire
- The location for which the permit is issued (must show the concessionaire's location within the perimeter of the prime retailer's location).
- Signature of the concessionaire
- Date

While any statement, taken timely, in good faith and containing all of these essential elements will relieve a prime retailer of his or her liability for the unreported sales or use taxes of a concessionaire, a suggested format of an acceptable statement is provided as Appendix A to this regulation. While not required, it is suggested that the statement from the concessionaire contain language to clarify which party will be responsible for reporting and remitting the sales and/or use tax due on his or her retail sales.

In instances where the lessor, or grantor of permission to occupy space, is not a retailer himself or herself, he or she is not liable for any sales or use taxes owed by his or her lessee or grantee. In instances where an independent retailer leases space from another retailer, or occupies space by virtue of the granting of permission by another retailer, but does not operate his or her business within the perimeter of the lessor's or grantor's own retail business, such an independent retailer is not a concessionaire within the meaning of this regulation. In this case, the lessor or grantor is not liable for any sales or use taxes owned by the lessee or grantee.

(e) Agents. If agents make sales on behalf of a principal and do not have a fixed place of business, but travel from house to house or from town to town, it is unnecessary that a seller's permit be obtained for each agent if the principal obtains a permit for each place of business located in California. If, however, the principal does not obtain a permit for each place of business located in California, it is necessary for each agent to obtain a seller's permit.

(f) Inactive Permits. A seller's permit may only be held by a person actively engaged in business as a seller of tangible personal property. The Board may revoke a seller's permit where it finds that the person holding the permit is not actively engaged in business as a seller of tangible personal property.

(1) Any person who holds a seller's permit but is not actively engaged in business as a seller of tangible personal property shall promptly surrender the permit by notifying the Board to cancel it.

(2) Except as explained in paragraph (3) of this subdivision, a person holding a seller's permit will be held liable for any taxes, interest, and penalties incurred, through the date on which the

Board is notified to cancel the permit, by any other person who, with the permit holder's actual or constructive knowledge, uses the permit in any way. For example, a permit holder may be held liable for tax, interest, and penalty actually incurred by his or her transferee where the transferee displays the permit in his or her place of business, or uses the permit number on a resale certificate, or files sales and use tax returns under the permit number. The permit holder has the burden of establishing that the Board received notice to cancel the permit.

(A) The seller's permit holder may notify the Board by delivering the actual seller's permit to the Board with the clear request that the permit be canceled. Where the reason for cancellation is that the permit holder transferred the business, the permit holder should identify the name and address of the transferee at the time the permit is surrendered to the Board. The permit holder may also notify the Board by delivering a written statement or email to the Board that the permit holder has transferred or otherwise ceased the business, or will do so at a specified time, and requesting that the permit be canceled. The statement should identify the name and address of the transferee, if any. The permit holder may also provide this notice to the Board orally, but it will be presumed that such notice was not provided unless the Board's records reflect that the permit holder clearly notified the Board of the cessation or transfer of the business for which the permit was held.

(B) The Board will also be regarded as having received notice of cancellation of the seller's permit, and the permit holder will be excused from liability for the tax, interest, and penalty incurred by another person using the permit, as of the date the Board receives actual notice of transfer of the business for which the permit was issued. It will be presumed such notice was not received by the Board unless the Board's records reflect that the Board received a clear notice of the cessation or transfer of the business for which the permit was held. For example, the Board's receipt of an application for a seller's permit from the transferee constitutes sufficient notice if it contains adequate information to show that the application pertains to the same business for which the permit was held. Notice to another state agency of a transfer or cessation of a business does not constitute notice to the Board. Rather, the Board must itself receive actual notice of the transfer or cessation of business.

(3) Where the seller's permit holder does not establish that the Board received actual notice of the transfer of the business for which the permit was held and is thus liable for the taxes, interest, and penalties incurred by another person using that permit, that liability is limited to the quarter in which the business was transferred and the three subsequent quarters, and shall not include any penalties imposed on the other person for fraud or intent to evade the tax. However, these limitations (liability only for the quarter in which the business was transferred and the three subsequent quarters and no fraud or intent to evade penalty) do not apply where, after the transfer of the business, 80 percent or more of the real or ultimate ownership of that business is held by the permit holder. For these purposes, stockholders, bondholders, partners, or other persons holding an ownership interest in an entity are regarded as having the "real or ultimate ownership" of that entity.

(g) Due Date of Returns -Closeout of Account on Yearly Reporting Basis. . . . (unchanged).

(h) Buying Companies –General. . . . (unchanged).

(i) Web Sites. . . . (unchanged).

(j) Use Tax Permit –Qualified Purchasers.

Except for the purchase of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft, a person who meets all of the following conditions is required to register and report and pay use tax directly to the Board:

- (1) The person is not required to hold a seller’s permit.
- (2) The person is not required to be registered pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 6226.
- (3) The person is not a holder of a use tax direct payment permit as described in Revenue and Taxation Code section 7051.3 and Regulation 1685.
- (4) The person receives at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in gross receipts from business operations per calendar year.
- (5) The person is not otherwise registered with the board to report use tax.

The return must show the total sales price of the tangible personal property purchased by the qualified purchaser, the storage, use, or other consumption of which became subject to the use tax during the preceding calendar year, for which the qualified purchaser did not pay tax to a retailer required to collect the tax or a retailer the qualified purchaser reasonably believed was required to collect the tax. Notwithstanding Revenue and Taxation Code sections 6451, 6452, 6452.1, and 6455, the returns for the 2009 calendar year and subsequent years shall be filed with the Board, together with a remittance of the amount of the tax due, on or before April 15 of the succeeding calendar year.

Note: Authority cited: Section 7051, Revenue and Taxation Code. Reference: Sections 6066–6075 and 6225075, Revenue and Taxation Code.