600.0420

July 27, 1953

Your letter of May 5
Account No.

Attention: Mr.
Accountant

Gentlemen:

You inquire concerning the application of the watercraft exemption to your sales of large 2½" four man, hand operated fire pumps. The pumps are for use on fishing vessels and are kept aboard at all times. A pump weighs about 250 pounds and is mounted on a plywood base to facilitate moving from one side of the deck to the other.

As indicated in Sales and Use Tax Ruling 51.5 (copy enclosed), the sales tax does not apply to the sale of tangible personal property becoming a component part of watercraft for use in commercial deep sea fishing operations outside the territorial waters of this State. The exemption extends only to property which is an integral part of the boat and is affixed or attached in a substantial manner when in use.

It is our opinion that the fire pump in question is to be regarded as an item of portable equipment and not a component part of the vessel. Accordingly, the sales tax applies to your sales of the fire pumps.

Yours very truly,

Bill Holden
Junior Counsel

BH:ja

cc: San Diego - Auditing