

Information Bulletin

PST-42

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THE PROVINCIAL SALES TAX ACT

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

This bulletin has been prepared to help you apply and collect the Provincial Sales Tax (PST). It is a general guide and not a substitute for the legislation.

Changes to this bulletin are indicated by a (I) in the left margin.

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A. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIERS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND FACILITIES

Resident and non-resident vendors that sell taxable medical equipment and supplies are required to be licenced to collect the PST. Medical practitioners and facilities that make incidental retail sales of taxable goods, or use taxable items in providing their services, are also required to register for PST purposes.

A registered consumer number is issued to businesses that do not provide taxable services and do not typically make retail sales but purchase taxable goods and services for business use. Registered consumers must pay the tax on purchases of taxable goods and services (see Section E) and must also collect the tax on their retail sales. The tax that was paid to the supplier on the items that are sold may be deducted from the tax collected from the customer, and the difference reported on the return form.

For further information, please see Information Bulletins [PST-5, Registration and Recordkeeping Requirements](#) and [PST-46, Service Enterprises](#).

B. EXEMPT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Certain medical equipment and supplies are exempt from tax when purchased by individuals or medical institutions (providers of medical or palliative care such as hospitals, nursing homes, etc.).

These items include prescription drugs and medicines that can only be obtained by prescription, prosthetic appliances and equipment, artificial limbs, and orthopedic appliances.

Note that medical institutions do not receive all of the same exemptions as individuals. See below for a complete listing of exempt medical equipment and supplies. The purchaser entitled to the exemption is indicated in the left column.

**Medical
Institutions and
Individuals**

- Adult incontinence products, including bags, pants, pads, diapers, liners and urinary drainage bags
- Artificial limbs and prosthetic appliances and equipment
 - Note:** Prostheses include all materials which are intended to remain permanently in place in the body, including but not limited to:
 - Artificial eye, intraocular lens
 - Artificial knees, artificial teeth, bone repair material (including cement), elbow prostheses, finger joints, hips, inner ear bone implants, shoulder prostheses, tibia plateau prostheses, synthetic cartilage (including silicone nasal cartilage and nostril retainers)
 - Gastro-intestinal (GI) and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes, but not temporary feeding tubes
 - Mastectomy prostheses (including specially designed brassieres, nightgowns, swimsuits for mastectomy patients)
 - Penile implants
 - Pacemakers and heart valves,
 - Screws, nails, pins, plates and silastic ventricular peritoneal shunts, but not suture materials
 - Transmitter of electrical nerve stimulator (implant to reduce pain)
 - Vascular and arterial grafts
- Baby diapers(disposable and cloth), toilet training pants, including rubber pants, and diaper inserts and liners
- Crutches and canes
- Drugs and medicines that can only be prescribed by a medical practitioner or pharmacist, including:
- Feminine hygiene products including sanitary napkins, belts, tampons and menstrual cups, but not sprays, deodorants, douches, wipes
- Glacial acetic acid used to disinfect artificial kidney machines
- Hearing aids, parts and accessories
- IV solutions, TPN solutions, uromatic solutions and solutions used to treat blood
- Lifts installed in vehicles (wheelchair lifts and patient lifts)
- Non-prescription drugs for life-threatening conditions listed in paragraph 2(e), Part I of Schedule VI of the *Excise Tax Act* (Canada) are exempt of PST. This list includes:
 - Naloxone and its salts
 - Epinephrine and its salts
 - Prenylamine
 - Deslanoside

**Medical
Institutions and
Individuals
(Continued)**

- Erythryl tetranitrate
- Isosorbide dinitrate
- Isosorbide-5-mononitrate
- Nitroglycerine
- Quinidine and its salts
- Medical oxygen
- Digoxin
- Digitoxin
- Orthopedic appliances and supports, including:
 - Trusses and parts
 - Surgical supports and appliances and parts
 - Spinal braces
 - Cervical collars but not general use comfort products such as inflatable Neck supports
 - Sacroiliac belts and supports
 - Elastic hosiery, including anti-embolic stockings and venous pressure gradient elastic supports
 - Orthopedic shoes (when prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner)
- Oxygen and other gases, and gas mixtures for medical purposes and for diagnostic purposes
- Repair parts and repair labour to exempt medical equipment
- Vaccine serums
- Wheelchairs, including invalid chairs, walkers and scooters – includes specifically designed parts and accessories, such as removable seats and replacement cushions, motorizing kits and batteries

Individuals

The following items may be purchased exempt of PST by individuals only:

- Adjustable beds and hospital beds when prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner
- Blood glucose monitors
- Blood pressure monitors
- Catheters
- Cholesterol testers and monitors
- Colostomy appliances and supplies
- Diabetic needles and syringes **but not** any other type of needles or syringes
- Diabetic blood and urine testing agents (e.g. testing strips and tablets)
- Dialysis machines for use in residence
- Equipment specifically designed solely for the use of blind persons, physically handicapped persons or chronic invalids, not for use in medical institutions. See Section D for more information.
- Extremity pumps/intermittent pressure pumps to treat lymphedema
- Eyeglasses and contacts (prescription)
- Ileostomy appliances and supplies
- Infusion pumps and intravenous apparatus

**Individuals
(Continued)**

- Insulin infusion pumps
- Lancets and lancet holders
- Medical alert bracelets
- Medical alert monitoring systems
- Nebulizers and compressors
- Orthotic devices
- Ostomy equipment and supplies
- Oxygen and other gases
- Portable oxygen units, including concentrators, cylinders, liquid units, regulators, stands, hoses, etc.
- Pumps, filters and sets for therapy – IV, uromatic, dialysis
- Reagent strips
- Tracheotomy supplies
- Urinary appliances

**Medical
Institutions**

- Internal diagnostic materials

C. TAXABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Medical institutions are required to pay tax on equipment and consumables for their own use (excluding the exempt items listed in Section B).

The following are examples of taxable medical equipment and supplies for use by individuals or medical institutions:

**Medical
Institutions and
Individuals**

- First aid kits and supplies such as:
 - Absorbent cotton
 - Band-aids and bandages
 - Gauze
 - Medical tape
 - Rubbing alcohol
- Mouth care products such as antiseptics (gargles and rinses), tooth paste, tooth powders, denture cleaners and denture adhesives.
- Athletic supports, braces and compression sleeves (ankle, knee, thigh and wrist)
- Contraceptive devices, gels, lotions and lubricants
- Disinfectants and germicides, including sterile water
- External testing supplies and diagnostic materials
- Eye solutions and wetting agents
- Feminine hygiene sprays, deodorants, douches, syringes and feminine wipes
- Laxatives, fleet enemas and suppositories
- Foot medications, powders and fungicides
- Heart rate monitors
- Hot water bottles, ice bags and heating pads

**Medical
Institutions and
Individuals
(Continued)**

- Massage bath units
- Nasal sprays and drops
- Non-prescription drugs and medications
- Pool lifts
- Skin, hand and face creams and lotions, including medicated dermatologic skin preparations, eczema preparations, psoriasis preparations, diaper rash ointments or creams and first aid creams
- Thermometers
- Vaporizers and humidifiers

Individuals

- Adjustable beds (except adjustable beds prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner)
- Needles and syringes except diabetic needles and syringes purchased by individuals

**Medical
Institutions**

- Equipment used in medical procedures and care including:
 - Beds (including hospital beds, adjustable beds, mattresses, rails, etc.)
 - Blood collection units, transfer packs, blood administration products and hardware
 - Blood pressure monitors
 - Cholesterol testers and monitors
 - Diabetic blood glucose monitors and lancets
 - Dialysis machines
 - Frames and head halters
 - Grab bars and gripping devices
 - Infusion pumps and related equipment
 - Intravenous therapy equipment
 - Laboratory supplies and equipment
 - Linens (uniforms, gowns, bedding, surgical drapings, curtains, etc.)
 - Monitoring equipment
 - Portable oxygen units, including concentrators, cylinders, liquid units, regulators, stands, hoses, etc.
 - Respirators and aspirators
 - Stretchers
 - Surgical instruments
 - Viaflex bags and machine to fill bags
 - X-ray equipment and film
- Environmental controls, communication aids and vocational aids equipment designed for handicapped persons or chronic invalids purchased by or for use in hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres or clinics
- Equipment and medical devices purchased by or for use in hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres or clinics, for use by blind persons, physically handicapped or chronic invalids, **including:**
 - Clothing specially designed for use by the disabled

**Medical
Institutions
(Continued)**

- Communication devices for use with telephones to assist hearing/speech impairment
- Convertor of sound to light signals for hearing impaired
- Elevators (wheelchair and stairway) designed for the physically handicapped and installed in hospitals or clinics but not crutches, canes, wheelchairs and similar equipment
- Installation, parts and labour in relation to taxable medical equipment
- Surgical and medical care supplies including:
 - Biopsy kits
 - Clinical assays
 - Catheters
 - Clips used in performing tubal ligations and bowel resections
 - Colostomy and ileostomy units and parts
 - Cosmetic fillers including collagen, unless listed on the Provincial or Federal Drug Formularies
 - Feeding tubes other than gastro-intestinal (GI) or percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes
 - Gloves, face masks and shoe covers
 - Intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUD)
 - Lancets and lancet holders
 - Needles and syringes
 - Ostomy equipment and supplies
 - Plaster of paris
 - Pumps
 - Reagent strips
 - Spinal anaesthesia kits
 - Sutures
 - Surgical adhesives
 - Suspensories, including slings and scrotal/testical support (jock strap)
 - Tracheotomy supplies
 - Tubing used for drainage, collection, etc.
 - Urine specimen collection apparatus and bottles

D. SPECIALLY DESIGNED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Equipment designed solely for the use of blind persons, physically handicapped persons or chronic invalids is exempt from tax when purchased by an individual or business (including schools, places of worship, office buildings, etc.) but not when purchased by a medical institution.

Effective April 1, 2023, if the purchaser is eligible for a PST exemption on the medical equipment, they are also eligible for an exemption on the real property installation materials and labour. If tax applies to the equipment, tax also applies to any related repairs, repair parts, and installation labour and materials. See Information Bulletin [PST-12, Services to Real Property](#) for more information regarding the application of PST to real property services.

Specially designed medical equipment includes:

- Articles designed for blind persons and supplied by order of a physician or association for blind persons
- Artificial breathing apparatus for a person with respiratory disorders (e.g. oxygen tents, respirators)
- Auxiliary driving controls for disabled persons
- Baths – walk-in safety baths
- Bed rail system (and accessories including trays)
- Feeding tubes and enteral feeding pumps
- Feeding utensils
- Grab bars
- Gripping devices
- Home traction kits
- Laryngeal speaking aids
- Leisure lift chairs
- Lifts – bath, bed, chair and vehicle, but not pool
- Mechanical percussors
- Reaching aids (designed for disabled individuals)
- Selector control devices for use by disabled persons to control office, household and industrial equipment
- Telecaption adapters
- Utility bath seats
- Wheelchair ramps or similar aids
- Wheelchair/stairway elevators (specially designed)

E. GOODS AND SERVICES FOR YOUR OWN USE

Businesses are required to pay tax on purchases of new and used equipment, supplies and taxable services purchased for use in their business operations. Tax is payable as follows:

- When purchased from a licensed supplier, the tax must be paid to the supplier at the time of purchase.
- When purchased from a supplier who did not collect the tax or when taken from an exempt resale inventory, the tax must be self-assessed and remitted with the regular tax return. This includes goods taken for personal or business use.
- When purchased from an unlicensed supplier located outside Saskatchewan, the tax must be self-assessed and remitted with the regular tax return on the laid down cost, which includes currency exchange, transportation charges, customs and excise duties and importation charges, but not the GST.

F. SALES OF USED BUSINESS ASSETS

Businesses are required to collect tax on the sale of used assets, such as taxable vehicles and equipment. When used assets are being sold as part of the closure of a business, the purchaser is required to self-assess and report the tax.

When individuals purchase used goods for personal use, other than vehicles, tax applies to the selling price of the goods less a deduction of \$300 per item. If a trade-in is involved, the purchaser is entitled to a deduction of \$300 or the value of the trade-in, whichever is greater. If the goods are for commercial use, the \$300 deduction does not apply.

For further information please see Information bulletin, [PST-58, Used Goods](#).

G. TAX TIPS LINE

When a business or individual does not comply with provincial tax legislation, businesses face unfair competition and a burden is placed on all taxpayers who do comply. It causes significant loss in the revenue available to fund services such as health, education and other important government programs.

Tax Tips Line provides an anonymous, fully confidential way for the public to report businesses or individuals who are participating in tax fraud. If you suspect that a business or individual is being dishonest with their provincial taxes or is misrepresenting their activities to reduce their taxes, you can report them using Tax Tips Line.

Please visit our website at saskatchewan.ca/business/taxes-licensing-and-reporting/provincial-taxes-policies-and-bulletins/tax-tips-line to find out more regarding types of tax fraud and the information to report, if possible.

Tax Tips Line is specifically and solely for information related to provincial tax compliance. Any unrelated inquiries or information will not be addressed by the Tax Tips Line, and should be directed to the appropriate organization.

How to Report:

- 1) Toll-free 1-833-334-8477
- 2) Write: Ministry of Finance
Revenue Division
PO Box 200
REGINA SK S4P 2Z6
- 3) [Online Form Submission](#)

H. SASKATCHEWAN eTAX SERVICES (SETS)

Finance has made it possible to report and remit tax electronically through the Finance has made it possible to report and remit tax electronically through a secure, fast, easy and convenient online self-service portal. Several services are currently available to businesses through SETS (sets.saskatchewan.ca):

- Register for secure, self-managed access to all your tax accounts.
- Apply for a new tax account.
- File and pay returns and amend previously filed returns.
- Make payments on account, including post-dated payments.
- View account balance and statement information.
- Authorize employees or accountants to file on your behalf.

- Receive notifications by email when a tax return should be filed. This replaces the paper forms usually sent in the mail.
- Submit a service request to update the mailing address or add a new business location.
- Submit a service request to receive tax information, interpretations or rulings related to your specific business activities.
- View and download up-to-date tax information promptly.
- Subscribe to receive email notifications when new and revised tax publications are available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Write: Ministry of Finance
Revenue Division
PO Box 200
REGINA SK S4P 2Z6

Telephone: Toll Free 1-800-667-6102
Regina 306-787-6645

Email: sasktaxinfo@gov.sk.ca

Internet: Tax bulletins, forms and information are available at saskatchewan.ca/business-taxes.

To receive automatic email notifications when this or any other bulletin is revised, go to sets.saskatchewan.ca/subscribe.

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Government website: Saskatchewan.ca