

PST-59

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THE PROVINCIAL SALES TAX ACT

INFORMATION FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY

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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.

The contents of this bulletin are presented under the following sections:

- A. General Information
- B. Taxable Goods
- C. Taxable Services
- D. Exemptions
- E. Contractors
- F. Sales and Transfers of Business Assets
- G. Saskatchewan Electronic Tax Service (SETS)

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

This bulletin is intended for businesses involved in the mining industry other than potash mining. Businesses involved in the potash industry may contact the Ministry of Finance for tax information. Businesses involved in the oil and gas industry, please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-13, Petroleum Drilling & Well Servicing Contractors](#).

There are currently two tax remissions in place with respect to mineral exploration in the province. In general these relate to exploration activities for a new mine and do not include costs related to processing, developing or producing minerals from the site.

- The PST remission for mineral exploration relates to specially designed equipment used exclusively for mining exploration or geophysical surveys. As well, engineering services directly related to exploration are not subject to tax. The remission excludes goods consumed in the exploration process, equipment not specially designed for exploration such as motor vehicles, snowmobiles and watercraft, and goods and equipment used for development, production or extraction of minerals.

- The Fuel Tax remission provides a rebate on fuel used in unlicensed machinery and equipment used in mineral exploration. Please see Information Bulletin [FT-11, Fuel Tax Rebate for Mineral Exploration](#).

B. TAXABLE GOODS

1. Equipment, Tools, Materials, Supplies and Repair Parts

New and used equipment, tools, materials, supplies and repair parts that are purchased for use in Saskatchewan are subject to tax.

If the goods are purchased from a licensed supplier, the tax must be paid to the supplier. If the goods are purchased from an unlicensed supplier, such as one located outside Saskatchewan, the tax must be self-assessed and submitted with your return on the laid down cost, which includes the purchase price plus currency exchange, transportation charges, customs and excise duties and importation charges, but not the GST.

For information on equipment and goods that are manufactured for your own use, please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-37, Manufactured Cost of Goods Produced for Own Consumption](#).

2. Railcars Used in Saskatchewan

Tax is due on railcars when stops and deliveries or pickups are made in Saskatchewan. The tax payable is based on the portion attributed to consumption or use in Saskatchewan and may be calculated as follows:

(a) Company Owned Railcars

Tax is calculated in the month the car first enters Saskatchewan. This is a one time payment using estimated annual mileage and based on the portion attributed to consumption or use in Saskatchewan. An adjustment entry may need to be made if the initial estimate was not accurate.

$$\text{Tax Due} = \text{Railcar Cost} \times \frac{\text{Estimated Annual Saskatchewan Miles Travelled}}{\text{Estimated Annual Total Miles Travelled}}$$

The railcar cost includes the original cost of the car, capitalized additions, maintenance charges and repair parts. Repair labour for company owned railcars is excluded from the above formula and is taxable at 100 per cent when provided in Saskatchewan. Repair labour provided outside Saskatchewan is not subject to tax.

(b) Leased Railcars

Tax is due beginning when a leased car first enters Saskatchewan and is based on estimated annual mileage. Tax is calculated using the total monthly lease charge which includes the lease amount, improvements and maintenance charges paid by the lessee. The lease payment will continue to be included in the formula for the duration of the lease.

An adjustment entry may need to be made at the end of the reporting period if the initial estimate was not accurate.

Tax Due = Total Lease Charge X $\frac{\text{Estimated Annual Saskatchewan Miles Travelled}}{\text{Estimated Annual Total Miles Travelled}}$

3. Crushed Rock and Gravel

Purchases of crushed rock and gravel are subject to tax.¹

C. TAXABLE SERVICES

1. Labour Services

Labour services provided to repair, install, assemble, dismantle, adjust, restore, recondition, examine, refinish or maintain tangible personal property are subject to tax. Tax does not apply to charges for mileage, travel, meals and accommodation related to these labour services providing the charges are reasonable and segregated on the customer's sales invoice.

Effective April 1, 2017, PST also applies to services to real property. Taxable services include construction, alteration, repair, erection, remodeling, improvement, or any other service in relation to real property or a building or other structure on real property, whereby the value or use of the real property is improved.

Labour services provided by an employee to their employer during the course of employment are not subject to tax.

For further information regarding repair and installation services, please refer to [PST-57, Information for Businesses Providing Repair and Installation Services](#).

2. Engineering and Architectural Services²

Taxable engineering services are those services that are provided by a person who is licensed pursuant to *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act* and that consist of preparing engineering designs, drawings, specifications or contract documents. This includes services related to the development, maintenance, enhancement, expansion or decommissioning of any production or processing facility with respect to oil, natural gas, potash or other minerals.

- Services related to the construction of a portable milling or processing facility that is specifically designed for primary sampling only, is considered to be part of the exploration process and are not subject to tax.

¹ Information Bulletin, PST-71, *Information for Suppliers of Sand, Gravel, Crushed/Screened Bases and Decorative Rock*

² Information Bulletin, PST-65, *Information for Businesses Providing Engineering, Geoscience and Architectural Services*

A discussion of mineral exploration activities can be found in Section B of Information Bulletin [FT-11, Fuel Tax Rebate for Mineral Exploration](#).

Engineering services that are related to the exploration for oil, natural gas, potash or other minerals are not subject to tax. This includes engineering and architectural services that are in the nature of feasibility studies, environmental studies, general consulting or advisory services.

Taxable architectural services are those services that are provided by a person who is a licensed architect as defined in *The Architects Act, 1996* and that consist of schematic design, design development, preparation of construction documents and any service related to bidding, negotiating or tendering for a construction contract.

3. Other Taxable Services

Other taxable services include legal services, accounting services, computer services, commercial building cleaning services, employment placement services and security and investigation services. Information bulletins concerning the taxation of these services are available [here](#) on the Internet.

Where taxable services are provided in relation to more than one jurisdiction, only the fees related to Saskatchewan are subject to tax. If a breakdown of charges by jurisdiction is not available, a reasonable allocation for the Saskatchewan portion of the services must be made.

Taxable services provided by a person to that person's employer for the sole use of the employer are not subject to tax. A person is considered to be an employee when the employer makes regular deductions from wages as required by the *Income Tax Regulations* (Canada).

D. EXEMPTIONS

1. Electricity and Fuel

Electricity, natural gas, and propane used in the processing of minerals are not subject to PST.

Electricity that is consumed by equipment and machinery used in the processing of minerals is exempt. The power exemption typically begins when the raw materials enter the mill and ends when the final product is moved to storage. Electricity consumed for any other purpose, including lighting of premises, underground extraction of minerals, shaft hoist and elevators, movement of raw materials prior to processing, water pumping, ventilation, and movement of finished product to storage, is subject to tax.

If your power billings are less than \$200,000 per year, you are allowed an exemption based on 80 per cent of your electrical consumption. If your power billings exceed \$200,000 per year, you are required to contact the Ministry of Finance and complete a power survey.

Natural gas and propane used to produce steam that is used in the milling process is not subject to tax. Natural gas and propane used for other heating purposes is also exempt of tax.

Please see bulletin [FT-11, Fuel Tax Rebate for Mineral Exploration](#) concerning the application of Fuel Tax to diesel fuel used to generate electricity for mineral exploration.

2. Chemical Reagents and Catalysts

Chemical reagents and catalysts, which are used in the transformation or manufacture of a product by contact or temporary incorporation with the raw materials being processed, fabricated or manufactured are not subject to tax.

Catalyst means a substance that by its presence causes, speeds up or retards a chemical reaction, but does not itself undergo any chemical change as a result of that reaction.

A reagent is a substance that is involved in one or more chemical reactions or biological processes and is used to detect other substances.

If you are unsure if a chemical qualifies for this exemption, information regarding the chemical should be referred to Finance for a ruling.

3. Containers, Packaging Materials and Labels

Containers, packaging materials, labels and product literature which are sold with a product are not subject to tax. You can purchase these items tax free by providing the supplier with your vendor's licence number.

Returnable containers and packaging materials which are utilized for handling merchandise before delivery, returned for a deposit and not for resale are subject to tax. The tax must be paid to the supplier. If the tax is not paid to the supplier, the tax must be self-assessed and submitted with your return on the purchase price or on the manufactured cost if produced internally.

4. Equipment Used for Mineral Exploration

Specially designed equipment used exclusively for mining exploration or geophysical surveys in Saskatchewan is not subject to tax. Eligible equipment includes:

- (i) computer software programs specially designed for mining exploration or geophysical surveys;
- (ii) drill rigs designed for mining exploration, including any vehicle on which a drill rig is permanently mounted;
- (iii) electromagnetic transmitters, receivers and antennae;
- (iv) geotechnical instrumentation;
- (v) gravimeters and other instruments designed to measure the elements, variations and distortions of the natural gravitational force;
- (vi) induced polarization transmitters and receivers;
- (vii) magnetometers;
- (viii) magnetic susceptibility equipment;
- (ix) magnetotelluric survey equipment;

- (x) radiometric equipment;
- (xi) radio imaging transmitters and receivers;
- (xii) seismic survey equipment, including recording equipment;
- (xiii) specialized aircraft equipped with geophysical survey or exploration equipment; and
- (xiv) global positioning satellite (GPS) equipment used to locate survey spots;

but does not include:

- (xv) equipment not specially designed for mining exploration or for conducting geophysical surveys;
- (xvi) goods which are consumed during mining exploration or geophysical surveys, including drill bits and drill stem;
- (xvii) motor vehicles, snowmobiles and watercraft; and
- (xviii) any equipment, tools or other items used solely for the development, production or extraction of mineral resources.

5. Royalty Charges and Technology License Fees

A royalty charge paid to the manufacturer of equipment for the continuing right to use the manufacturer's technology is not subject to tax. Technology license fees paid for the right to use certain technology, for mine or mill processes, are also exempt of tax.

E. CONTRACTORS

1. Supply and Install Contractors³

Effective April 1, 2017, PST applies to services to real property. Taxable services include construction, alteration, repair, erection, remodeling, improvement, or any other service in relation to real property or a building or other structure on real property, whereby the value or use of the real property is improved.

For further information, please see Information Bulletin [PST-12, Information for Businesses Providing Services to Real Property](#).

2. Bonding and Clearance Process⁴

Under Section 29 of *The Provincial Sales Tax Act*, non-resident and resident contractors carrying on business in Saskatchewan are required to post a guarantee bond or cash deposit in an amount equivalent to six per cent of the total amount to be paid under the contract with respect to the sale of:

- A taxable service related to real property, or
- A taxable service related to real property where tangible personal property is installed in conjunction with a taxable real property service.

³ Information Bulletin PST-12, *Information for Businesses Providing Services to Real Property*

⁴ Information Bulletin PST-38, *Information for Non-Resident Real Property and Service Contractors*

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that contractors comply with this provision. Failure to do so can leave the principal liable for any taxes which the contractor fails to remit, in addition to possible fines and penalties.

Alternatively, contractors required to demonstrate to a principal that their security obligation has been fulfilled can request a clearance letter from Finance. If approved, the letter obtained from Finance can be provided to the principal. It is recommended that principals maintain a holdback of six per cent until a clearance letter is provided or proof of bonding is obtained.

Before the final payment is made on a contract, the sub-contractor must obtain a clearance letter from the Revenue Division and provide a copy of the letter to the general contractor or principal. To obtain a clearance letter, please call 1-800-667-6102, extension 0956. If the contractor's account is not in good standing, the general contractor or principal will be requested to withhold from any hold back an amount equal to the tax due and remit this amount to the Revenue Division.

Non-resident contractors, please see Information Bulletin [PST-38, Information for Non-Resident Real Property and Service Contractors.](#)

F. SALES AND TRANSFERS OF BUSINESS ASSETS

1. Sales of Used 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.

For further reference please see Information Bulletin [PST-58, Information on the Taxation of Used Goods.](#)

2. Sales of Properties

Tax applies to the sale of tangible personal property associated with the sale of a property. There are no tax implications with the sale of minority joint venture partner interests when the operator of the properties has not changed, unless there is an identifiable change in the ownership of tangible personal property.

3. Equipment Transfers between Properties

Transfers of tax paid equipment between company operated properties within Saskatchewan are not subject to tax. When the properties are operated by the same company, equipment transfers are not considered to be a change in ownership whether or not the joint venture participation is affected.

Equipment transferred from outside Saskatchewan is subject to tax in all cases, unless it can be shown that the tax has been previously paid.

4. Property Transfers between Closely Related Parties

Sections 7.3 and 7.4 of *The Provincial Sales Tax Regulations* provide an exemption of tax on transfers of assets between parent and subsidiary corporations and upon formation of a new corporation where specific criteria are met. These provisions allow for the continuity of business through a change in the organizational structure, such as the incorporation of a proprietorship, without incurring a tax liability.⁵

G. SASKATCHEWAN ELECTRONIC TAX SERVICE (SETS)

Finance has made it possible to report and remit tax electronically through the use of a standard Internet connection. The Saskatchewan Electronic Tax Service (SETS) offers a secure, fast, easy and convenient alternative to filing returns in paper format. Several E-File services are currently available through SETS.

Businesses may use SETS to file and pay returns for PST and other provincial taxes.

SETS allows businesses to:

- file and pay returns or make payments on account;
- file a return and post-date the payment to the due date;
- view account balance and statement information;
- authorize your accountant to file on your behalf; and,
- Subscribe to an email notification service that allows the option to be notified by email that a tax return should be filed. This replaces the paper forms normally received in the mail.

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

In-Person: Ministry of Finance
Revenue Division
2350 Albert St
REGINA SK S4P 4A6

Fax: 306-787-9644

Internet: Tax bulletins, forms and information are available [here](#).

To receive automatic email notification when this or any other bulletin is revised, click [here](#) and then click the "Subscribe" button.

Government website: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/>

⁵ PST-60, *Information on Transfers of Business Assets between Closely Related Parties*