

THE RETAIL SALES TAX ACT

INFORMATION FOR VENDORS

This bulletin will help you determine if you are required to be registered as a vendor under The Retail Sales Tax Act (the Act) and to understand a vendor's obligations to collect and remit the Retail Sales Tax (RST).

Section 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION / INSTRUCTIONS FOR VENDORS

What is the Retail Sales Tax?

- RST is a 7 per cent tax applied to the retail sale or rental of most goods and certain services in Manitoba. The tax is calculated on the selling price, before the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is applied. See Bulletin No. 030 - Summary of Taxable and Exempt Goods and Services for additional information.

What is a retail sale?

- A retail sale is the sale of goods or services to a person or business for own use, but does not include a sale to a registered vendor for the purpose of resale.

What are my responsibilities as a vendor?

- Vendors who sell taxable goods and services must register with the Taxation Division and collect the RST on sales. See Section 2 for registration requirements.
- Vendors must prepare a tax return and remit the RST collectable to the Taxation Division each month.

Please note: Vendors that on average have RST collectable less than \$1,000 per month may file less frequently as follows: \$500 to \$999 - quarterly; \$200 to \$499 - semi-annual; less than \$200 – annually.

- Vendors must state separately on each invoice the sale price of each item and the total amount of RST payable.
- Vendors must record the purchaser's RST number on the sales invoice when taxable goods or services are sold exempt for the purpose of resale, or other exempt usage.
- Where goods are sold RST exempt for out-of-province use, the vendor must retain evidence that he/she delivered the goods out-of-province or that he/she acquired the services of a common carrier to deliver the goods out-of-province.

Note: Revisions to contents of previous Bulletin (October 2002) have been identified by shading ()

- The RST must be collected from the purchaser at the time of sale. In the case of credit or instalment sales, the sales tax payable must still be reported and remitted by the vendor for the month in which the sale was made, even if the tax has yet to be collected.
- While a purchaser cannot refuse to pay the RST when applicable, if a vendor fails to collect the correct amount of the tax, he/she is responsible for the sales tax payable to the Taxation Division.
- Vendors must report and remit the RST on taxable goods for their own use that were taken from tax-free inventory, or goods and services purchased from a supplier who did not charge the tax, e.g. purchased from an out of province supplier that is not registered as a vendor in Manitoba.
- Vendors who manufacture goods for their own use must remit the RST calculated on the value of the goods as determined in Section 3 of the regulations under the Act.
- Vendors must record all business transactions. See Section 4 for record retention requirements.
- Vendors must quote their RST number when buying goods or services tax-free for resale. An RST number does not allow for the purchase of taxable goods or services without paying the RST, unless they are purchased for resale or other exempt purpose under the Act.
- Vendors are allowed a commission for collecting and remitting the RST. The commission is equal to 15 per cent of the first \$200 of tax collectable, and 1 per cent of the remaining tax collectable, except as follows:

- The maximum commission allowed is \$58 per period.
- If the RST collectable reported on a return is more than \$3,000, the vendor receives no commission for that period.
- If the RST collectable is under \$3, the commission equals the amount collectable.
- If the RST collectable is \$3 to \$20, the commission is \$3.

Please note: Commission is not allowable on tax remitted on purchases for own use.

How much commission do I receive?

How do I account for bad debts?

- Vendors may claim a credit for the RST portion of their receivables written off as uncollectable.
For example - A vendor charges a sale of \$150 plus \$10.50 GST and \$10.50 RST, for a total billing of \$171. The \$10.50 RST is reported and remitted. But the vendor only collects \$125 and subsequently writes off the balance of \$46 as a bad debt. The RST credit adjustment would be calculated as: $\$46/\$171 \times \$10.50 = \2.82 .
- The tax credit should be taken as an internal adjustment of tax payable, claimed within two years of the date the amount was written-off. For audit purposes, vendors must keep records, which support the eligibility and calculation of adjustments taken.

- Where a vendor subsequently recovers an amount (or portion of) that was written off, the RST credit adjustment previously claimed (or portion of) must be repaid on the next RST return.

Section 2 – REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER AS A VENDOR

General

- Any person carrying on a business in Manitoba must have a valid RST number issued under The Retail Sales Tax Act before making any taxable sales in the province.
- Application forms for registration are available from the Taxation Division offices listed on page 7 of this bulletin. There is no charge to apply.
- The Taxation Division will review the information provided on the application and issue an RST number.

Out-of-province businesses

- Out-of-province businesses that sell/lease taxable goods to Manitoba purchasers are required to be registered as a vendor under the Act and to collect the RST if **all** of the following circumstances exist:
 - 1) The seller solicits the order for the sale in Manitoba, directly or through an agent, by advertising or any other means, e.g. in person, by telephone, mail, e-mail, fax, posters, television or newspaper advertisement targeted towards Manitoba customers,
 - 2) The seller accepts orders originating in Manitoba to purchase tangible personal property. The order can be originated by telephone, Internet, e-mail, fax, letter or any other means from a location in Manitoba to the seller or agent located in or out of Manitoba,
 - 3) The goods are acquired for consumption or use in Manitoba, i.e. not for resale, and
 - 4) The seller causes the goods to be delivered in Manitoba, i.e., delivered by the seller, or shipped by the seller by common carrier, whether or not the goods are shipped at a specified cost to the customer.

Please note: Out-of-province businesses are not required to be registered under the Act if they only sell/lease non-taxable goods to Manitoba purchasers, such as

- Goods that are exempted from tax by the Act, see Bulletin No. 030 - Summary of Taxable and Exempt Goods and Services for additional information
- Goods that are being purchased for resale by the customer

Unsure if you must register?

- If you are unsure whether you are required to register, please contact a Taxation Division office listed on page 7 of this bulletin.

What if you collected RST but you are not registered?

- You must immediately remit the RST collected to the Taxation Division along with a letter reconciling the amount collected. If you anticipate additional taxable sales in Manitoba, you must apply for an RST number under The Retail Sales Tax Act.

- Display of RST number**
- A vendor must be able to produce his/her RST number upon request.
- Unauthorized use**
- The unauthorized use of RST numbers to purchase goods and services without paying the RST is an offence under The Retail Sales Tax Act.
- Changes to business name, etc.**
- RST numbers are non-transferable. The Taxation Division must be notified immediately when:
 - The name of the business changes
 - The address or phone number of the business changes
 - The business is sold
 - The form of business (partnership, corporation, etc.) changes
 - The business ceases to operate

Section 3 – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT RETAIL SALES TAX RETURNS

- Who must file a RST return?**
- Businesses registered with the Taxation Division as vendors and registered purchasers are required to file RST returns.
- Must I file each month when I only have a small business?**
- No. Returns may also be filed on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis depending on the amount of RST collectable as outlined in Section 1. Please contact the Taxation Division if you qualify and wish to file less frequently than monthly.
- How do I get the RST return?**
- The Taxation Division mails RST returns so that businesses will receive their tax return approximately 10 days before the due date for the period.
- What is the reporting period?**
- Monthly tax returns cover the previous calendar month's RST transactions. **For example** - For the month of February you will be mailed a return in March, which you must complete and remit by March 20.
 - Quarterly returns cover the previous 3 months RST transactions. **For example** - The quarterly return mailed to you in April covers the sales transactions from January 1 to March 31, which you must complete and remit by April 20.
 - Semi-annual returns cover the previous 6 month's RST transactions. **For example** - The semi-annual tax return mailed to you in July covers the sales tax transactions from January 1 to June 30, which you must complete and remit by July 20.
 - Annual returns cover the calendar year and are due by January 20.
- What information is provided on the tax return?**
- The customized RST return will show your business name and address, your account number, the return period to which the form applies, the due date for filing and the amount of tax you last remitted. Also pre-printed is any tax adjustment you must make for arrears, interest and penalties, and credit adjustments.

- How do I fill out the tax return?**
- Review the instructions for completing and filing the RST return printed on the back of each return. Proceed as follows:
 - 1) The top portion of the form is a working copy. Complete this portion and keep it for future reference.
 - 2) Transfer the information to the bottom portion of the return.
 - 3) Submit the bottom portion of the return along with your remittance of the amount due. Cheques or money orders are payable to the Minister of Finance (Manitoba).
 - See Appendix A for an example of how to complete a vendor's return.
- When must I file my tax return?**
- RST returns and payments are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on the due date shown on the return (i.e., the 20th day of the month following the date of the reporting period pre-printed on the return).
 - If the 20th day falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, the due date is the last working day before the 20th.
 - If you file by mail, allow adequate time for mail delivery to ensure your return and remittance is received no later than 4:30 p.m. of the due date. The postmark date on the envelope will not be accepted as the date of receipt.
 - If you are filing your return through your financial institution, ensure that the return is delivered to the institution before 4:30 p.m. of the due date.
 - **Please note:** Tax returns received by the Taxation Division after 4:30 p.m. of the due date are subject to penalty charges and loss of commission.
- How do I send my tax return and payment?**
- You may deliver the return to the Taxation Division in person, by courier, or by mail. You may also file your original RST returns and payments in person at any chartered bank or participating credit union across Canada. Credit union users should check with their credit union to determine if it participates in the tax-filing program.
 - **Please note:** Service charges applied by your financial institution are your responsibility.
- What is the penalty for late filing?**
- If your RST return and remittance are not received by the Taxation Division or a bank by 4:30 p.m. on the due date, a penalty charge will be assessed in the amount of 10 per cent of the tax due. The minimum penalty is \$10.
 - **Please note:** Late filing will result in forfeiting the commission allowable for the filing period.

- Are there any charges in addition to the late filing penalty?**
- The Taxation Division will assess a \$20 charge if your remittance cheque is rejected by a financial institution as N.S.F. or for other reasons.
 - Outstanding debts will be subject to interest compounded monthly. The interest rate payable is set every January 1 and July 1 at the prime lending rate given to the province plus 4 per cent.
- What happens if I don't receive a return?**
- You are responsible for submitting the RST owing by the due date even if you do not receive your tax return from the Taxation Division.
 - If you don't receive your RST return by the 10th day of a month, contact Tax Information Services at (204) 945-5603 or Manitoba Toll Free 1-800-782-0318. A replacement return will be mailed or faxed to you.
- What if I have no taxable sales to report?**
- You must still file a RST return even if you have not collected any tax, nor have any tax on purchases for own consumption to report. In this case, record the word "nil" on each appropriate space on the return.
- Do I get a receipt when I remit sales tax?**
- Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. Each RST return you receive will show the amount of tax remitted with your last tax return.
- How do I report changes to my business name, etc.?**
- The Taxation Division should be informed immediately of any changes in name, address, phone or fax numbers, or if your business has been sold, discontinued or the ownership changes.
 - Any changes to information should be submitted by writing or contacting a Taxation Division office listed at the end of this bulletin. The "flap" attached to the RST return envelope can also be used for this purpose.
 - **Please Note:** Business name changes must be reported in writing to the Taxation Division.
- What if I require additional information?**
- Please contact a Taxation Division office listed on page 7 of this bulletin. Please have your RST number available when making telephone inquiries or quote your RST number on all correspondence.

Section 4 – RETENTION OF RECORDS

- What records do I retain?**
- Businesses are required to maintain sufficient records and documents that provide the following particulars:
 - Counted inventory
 - Sales of goods and services
 - Purchases of goods, including fixed assets, goods processed or produced for own use and goods purchased for promotional distribution
 - Purchases of services
 - Goods purchased or taken from inventory and services utilized for personal or business use, or supplied to employees
 - Discounts and refunds provided to customers and received from suppliers
 - Amount of RST collectable

- Payment of sales tax including the commission taken
- Documentation to substantiate allowance of a tax exemption conditional on use, e.g. farm use, sales to Status Indians

Can I destroy old records?

- Records and documents must be retained for audit purposes. However, persons may destroy certain old records and documents without having to obtain permission, providing that all the following conditions are met:
 - General ledgers must be retained indefinitely and not destroyed.
 - Records and documents of the current fiscal year plus the immediately preceding 6 years must not be destroyed.
 - Records and documents must not be destroyed for any year in respect of which there are tax amounts outstanding or in dispute, or where written notice has been given from Taxation Division requesting that those records and documents be retained.
- See Bulletin No. 016 – Record Keeping and Retention Requirements for additional information.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This bulletin is intended as a guideline and is not all-inclusive. For the specific wording of the law, please refer to the Act and Regulation stated below. Further information may be obtained from:

Winnipeg Office

Manitoba Finance
Taxation Division
101 - 401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P8
Telephone (204) 945-5603
Manitoba Toll Free 1-800-782-0318
Fax (204) 948-2087
E-mail: MBTax@gov.mb.ca
Web Site: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation

Westman Regional Office

Manitoba Finance
Taxation Division
349, 340 - 9th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6C2
Telephone (204) 726-6153
Manitoba Toll Free 1-800-275-9290
Fax (204) 726-6763

**Principal
References in
Legislation**

*The Retail Sales Tax Act of Manitoba (C.C.S.M. c. R130).
Manitoba Regulation (75/88R).*

APPENDIX A EXAMPLE OF COMPLETED RETAIL SALES TAX RETURN

(Please refer to attached completed sales tax return)

ABC Company sells widgets and remits sales tax on a monthly basis. The RST collectable for the month of June 2004, was \$1,400. They also purchased a computer from an Ontario company for \$950 plus \$50 delivery for use in the office. The Ontario company did not charge ABC Company Manitoba sales tax.

Reference #	Instructions/Explanation
①	The company name and address is pre-printed on the return.
②	The return period, the due date for filing of the return, your account number and the amount of sales tax you remitted on the previous return are pre-printed on the return.
③	Using the top portion or working copy of the return, enter the total sales tax collectable for the month of June 2004 on Line 1. In this example, enter \$1,400.
④	Enter the commission earned for collecting sales tax on Line 2 of the top portion of the return. Commission is equal to 15 per cent of the first \$200 of sales tax collectable plus 1 per cent of the remaining sales tax collectable, to a maximum of \$58 per month. In this example commission is \$42 ($[\$200 \times 15 \text{ per cent}] + [\$1,200 \times 1 \text{ per cent}]$). Note: If the tax reported on Line 1 is more than \$3,000, commission is not allowed - enter Nil on Line 2.
⑤	On Line 3 of the top portion of the return enter any sales tax payable on goods purchased or taken from inventory for your own use where Manitoba sales tax has not been paid. Since Manitoba sales tax was not paid on the computer purchased from an Ontario company for ABC Company's use, sales tax must now be remitted on its purchase price. The sales tax owing on the purchase is equal to \$70 ($[\$950 + \$50] \times 7 \text{ per cent}$). The tax is calculated on the total cost of the computer, which includes the delivery charge.
⑥	Outstanding Balance, including interest and penalty is pre-printed on the return. This occurs if returns are filed late or a tax underpayment or overpayment occurs. In this example, the \$30 is an underpayment .
⑦	Enter the total amount of sales tax due on Line 4 of the top portion of the return, i.e. the net of $\$1,400 - \$42 + \$70 + \$30 = \$1,458$.
	When you have completed the top portion of the return, copy this information to the bottom portion of the return.
⑧	Enter the amount of your remittance cheque on the bottom portion of the return. In this example, ABC Company shall remit sales tax of \$1,458.
⑨	Sign and submit the bottom portion of the return with your remittance. Keep the top portion of the return for your records.

Vendor's Return – Retail Sales Tax
Déclaration du marchand – Taxe sur les ventes au détail



② June 2004 July 20, 2004 000000000MT0000
 RETURN PERIOD / PÉRIODE DE DÉCLARATION DUE DATE / DATE D'ÉCHÉANCE ACCOUNT NO. / N° DE COMPTE

AMOUNT REMITTED LAST MONTH \$ 1600 00
 MONTANT PAYÉ LE MOIS DERNIER

TO AVOID PENALTIES AND INTEREST, THIS RETURN SHOULD BE FILED BY THE DUE DATE SHOWN.
 POUR ÉVITER TOUTE PÉNALITÉ ET TOUT INTÉRÊT, DÉPOSER LA PRÉSENTE DÉCLARATION ET VOTRE PAIEMENT AU PLUS TARD À LA DATE D'ÉCHÉANCE INDIQUÉE.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE
VOIR LES INSTRUCTIONS AU VERSO

① ABC Company
 123 Anywhere Street
 Winnipeg, MB R0R 0R0

	\$	¢
③ 1. TAX COLLECTABLE ON SALES / TAXE PERCEVABLE SUR LES VENTES	1400	00
④ 2. DEDUCT COMMISSION / DÉDUIRE LA COMMISSION	-	42 00
⑤ 3. TAX OWING ON PURCHASES / TAXE SUR LES ACHATS FRAPPÉS D'UNE TAXE	+	70 00
⑥ 6. OUTSTANDING BALANCE INCLUDING INTEREST / SOLDE À PAYER INCLUANT LES INTÉRÊTS	+	30 00
⑦ 4. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE / MONTANT TOTAL DÛ	=	1458 00

IF NO TAX IS PAYABLE, A "NIL" RETURN MUST STILL BE FILED.
 S'IL N'Y A PAS DE TAXE À PAYER, VOUS DEVEZ INSCRIRE «NÉANT» DANS LES CASES APPROPRIÉES.

Transfer information in numbered boxes to corresponding box on remittance stub below.
 Reporter les renseignements qui apparaissent dans les cases numérotées sur le coupon de versement ci-dessous, dans les cases correspondantes.

FORM R.T. 4 MG 2234 REV. 12-03
 FORMULAIRE T.V. D4 MG 2234 REV. 12-03

DETACH HERE
 DÉTACHEZ ICI

RETAIN THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS. RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE.
 CONSERVEZ CETTE PARTIE DANS VOS DOSSIERS. ENVOYEZ LE COUPON CI-DESSOUS AVEC VOTRE VERSEMENT.

DETACH HERE
 DÉTACHEZ ICI

Vendor's Return – Retail Sales Tax
Déclaration du marchand – Taxe sur les ventes au détail



② June 2004 July 20, 2004 000000000MT0000
 RETURN PERIOD / PÉRIODE DE DÉCLARATION DUE DATE / DATE D'ÉCHÉANCE ACCOUNT NO. / N° DE COMPTE

TO AVOID PENALTIES AND INTEREST, THIS RETURN SHOULD BE FILED BY THE DUE DATE SHOWN.
 POUR ÉVITER TOUTE PÉNALITÉ ET TOUT INTÉRÊT, DÉPOSER LA PRÉSENTE DÉCLARATION ET VOTRE PAIEMENT AU PLUS TARD À LA DATE D'ÉCHÉANCE INDIQUÉE.

① ABC Company
 123 Anywhere Street
 Winnipeg, MB R0R 0R0

CERTIFICATION / ATTESTATION

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE STATEMENTS ON THIS RETURN ARE CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT.
 J'ATTESTE POUR AUTANT QUE JE SACHE, QUE LES RENSEIGNEMENTS DONNÉS DANS CETTE DÉCLARATION SONT EXACTS.

IF NO TAX IS PAYABLE, A "NIL" RETURN MUST STILL BE FILED.
 S'IL N'Y A PAS DE TAXE À PAYER, VOUS DEVEZ INSCRIRE «NÉANT» DANS LES CASES APPROPRIÉES.

Signature ⑨ Joe Anyone

* PAYMENT - TOTAL AMOUNT DUE SHOULD BE PAID BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (MANITOBA)
 * PAIEMENT - LE MONTANT TOTAL DÛ DOIT ÊTRE PAYÉ PAR CHEQUE OU MANDAT FAIT À L'ORDRE DU MINISTRE DES FINANCES DU MANITOBA.

PAYABLE AT MOST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA.

PAYABLE DANS LA PLUPART DES ÉTABLISSEMENTS FINANCIERS AU CANADA.

	\$	¢
③ 1. TAX COLLECTABLE ON SALES / TAXE PERCEVABLE SUR LES VENTES	1400	00
④ 2. DEDUCT COMMISSION / DÉDUIRE LA COMMISSION	-	42 00
⑤ 3. TAX OWING ON PURCHASES / TAXE SUR LES ACHATS FRAPPÉS D'UNE TAXE	+	70 00
⑥ 6. OUTSTANDING BALANCE INCLUDING INTEREST / SOLDE À PAYER INCLUANT LES INTÉRÊTS	+	30 00
⑦ 4. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE / MONTANT TOTAL DÛ	=	1458 00
⑧ AMOUNT PAID / MONTANT PAYÉ	1458	00