

Children's Clothing

Social Service Tax Act

Do you sell children's clothing, footwear or accessories?

Do you know when to use a certificate of exemption?

This bulletin provides specific tax information to help children's clothing, footwear and accessory retailers understand how the social service tax, also called the provincial sales tax (PST), applies to their businesses.

For general PST information that applies to all businesses, such as who needs to register, when general exemptions apply, and how to charge and collect the PST, please read our [Small Business Guide to Provincial Sales Tax \(PST\)](#).

Non-taxable Sales

Clothing and Footwear for Children Under Age 15

You do not use a certificate of exemption and do not charge PST on clothing or footwear sold in the following sizes:

- children's dresses, suits, coats, skirts, trousers, blouses, shirts, underwear, sweaters, and pyjamas up to and including girls' Canada Standard Size 16 and boys' Canada Standard Size 18,
- hosiery up to and including girls' size 9 1/2 and boys' size 10,
- gloves up to and including girls' and boys' size 7,
- footwear up to and including girls' and boys' size 6, and
- hats in infants' and children's sizes designed for children under age 12.

You also do not use a certificate of exemption and do not charge PST on the following items, when the items are **clearly** intended for children or are in children's sizes:

- baby clothing, such as bibs, blankets, bunting bags, cloth diapers, rubber pants and shawls,
- belts and suspenders,
- mittens,
- certain sportswear, such as track suits and shoes, hockey sweaters, baseball caps and shoes, bathing caps and suits, and ski boots,
- ties, and
- uniforms, such as school, Girl Guide, Boy Scout and team uniforms.

Adult-sized Clothing

You do not charge PST when larger or adult-sized clothing and footwear is purchased for children under age 15, if you get certification from the customer. Have the customer fill out and sign a *Certificate of Exemption for Children's Clothing and Footwear* form ([FIN 417](#)) and keep the certificate in your records to show why you did not charge PST. This form is available from the ministry or any Service BC-Government Agent office. You will also find it on our website at www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/ctb/forms.htm

You do not charge PST on larger or adult-sized uniforms purchased by a youth sporting organization for children under age 15. Have the customer fill out and sign a *Certificate of Exemption for Children's Clothing and Footwear* form ([FIN 417](#)) or give you a letter stating how many uniforms they are buying for children under age 15. Keep the certificate or letter in your records to show why you did not charge PST on some, or all, of the uniforms. For example, if the customer is buying 100 uniforms and 70 of those uniforms are for children under age 15, the certificate or letter must indicate that 70 of the 100 uniforms are for children under age 15.

Safety Equipment

You do not charge PST on safety helmets for sport, recreation and transportation, whether they are purchased for children under age 15 or not.

Used Clothing and Footwear

You do not charge PST on sales of used clothing and footwear if the price of the individual item is less than \$100, whether the item is purchased for a child under age 15 or not.

Taxable Sales

You charge PST on sales of the following items, whether they are purchased for children under age 15 or not:

- aprons,
- athletic protective gear, such as supports, padding, shin guards and shoulder harnesses,
- badges and patches (e.g. Scout and Girl Guide),
- children's blankets,
- disposable diapers designed for babies and young children,
- sports gloves, such as baseball, golf and hockey gloves,
- hair accessories, such as barrettes, ribbons, clips and elastics,
- handbags and purses,
- handkerchiefs and scarves,
- hooded baby towels,
- jewellery,
- skates, such as ice skates, roller skates and in-line skates,
- shoe insoles and laces,
- smocks,
- snowshoes,
- sports pinnies (e.g. vests used to identify a team),
- sunglasses (non-prescription),
- swim fins,
- transfers for T-shirts when sold separately from the T-shirt, and
- umbrellas.

Refunds on Children's Clothing

Customers who paid PST on clothing or footwear for children under 15 may apply to the ministry for a refund. They fill out an *Application for Refund of Social Service Tax* form (**FIN 413**). For more information on refunds, please see **Bulletin GEN 008**, *Refunds of Overpayments of Tax*.

Need more info?

Children's Clothing website: www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/ctb/Children.htm

Telephone (Vancouver): 604 660-4524

Toll-free in Canada: 1 877 388-4440

E-mail: CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca

The information in this bulletin is for your convenience and guidance and is not a replacement for the legislation. The *Social Service Tax Act* and Regulations are on our website at www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/ctb

References: *Social Service Tax Act*, Sections 70(f) and 70(h), and Regulations 2.22 and 2.45(b)