

Provincial Sales Tax Electronic Filing Frequently Asked Questions

While we are always happy to address your electronic filing questions, filing on-line is a service provided by your financial institution. If you have any technical support issues or inquiries specific to tax transactions, please contact your financial institution directly.

1. What is the difference between an EDI and an EFT?

EDI is an acronym for *Electronic Data Interchange*, and refers to the process of transmitting business documents over a network - which can also include payment information. When doing your Provincial Sales Tax EDI payment using your bank's internet payments option, you are able to input all of your taxable sales information the same as you would on your PST return form. All of this information is transmitted with your payment.

EFT is an acronym for *Electronic Funds Transfer*, it refers to the process of transmitting payments over a network. An EFT only includes payment information, and you are therefore required to submit your return to us via fax on or before your payment date so that we can match it with your payment amount. (You can find our fax number at the bottom of this page.)

2. My bank is telling me they are waiting to hear from the province for EDI approval.

It may take up to three business days for your application to be approved. If it has been longer than three days since you sent in your application, and you have not received notification of approval from your bank, try applying again. If you do not hear back from your bank within three business days after the second application, please contact us using the information at the bottom of this page.

3. Is electronic filing available for Hotel or other consumption taxes?

Unfortunately, not at this time, however, you can still send payment for your Motor Fuel, Tobacco, or Rural Property Tax via Electronic Funds Transfer. If you are interested in this payment method, please contact us using the information at the bottom of this page.

4. I bank with a credit union; can I still send my PST payment and return via EDI?

Not at this time, however, we are currently working together with the Credit Unions to offer this payment option in the future.

5. My bank's form will not let me select the correct filing period for my EDI payment, what should I do?

You need to contact your bank to have them change the filing frequency on their internet form. If your bank needs to verify your filing frequency, they can contact us using the information at the bottom of this page.

6. My bank's form will not let me input an amount for commission, what should I do?

First, make sure you have selected the correct filing period for this payment, and that the payment is on-time. If you are still unable to input your commission, please contact your bank, and request them to enable the commission field for you. If your bank needs to verify that you are entitled to receive a commission, they can contact us using the information at the bottom of this page.

7. Why won't the web page let me make my EDI payment for today's date?

You have exceeded your financial institution's time lines for same day processing. Please ensure that you are aware of your bank's cut-off time or date to ensure your tax return and payment are received on time. In most cases, the payment needs to be prepared the day before it is due to be paid.

8. If I can't make this payment method work for today's date, how can I get my payment in on time so that I don't have to pay a penalty or lose my commission?

Please make your payment over the counter at a financial institution or Government Agent's office before the deadline. You can also mail your PST payment on your due date, and it will be considered on-time by the post-mark date.

9. I sent my PST payment using my bank's internet payments option, but the money hasn't come out of my account yet, what should I do?

It is your financial institution's responsibility to forward your payment to the Province. As this service is provided by your financial institution, you will have to contact them regarding any technical support issues or inquiries specific to tax transactions.

If you have any other questions about electronic filing, please contact:

Revenue Services of British Columbia
Electronic Payments

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