



2nd Quarter 2012

REMINDER

As the busy summer months are ahead of us, please be reminded the sales tax rate is 6% during the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September. Rentals of Real Property for thirty or more consecutive days remain at 5% (SGC 4.09.120 except for Long Term Residential Rentals which are tax exempt). Transient Room Tax (or known as Bed tax) remains at 6%.

Sales Tax Cap increase to \$1,500.00 effective October 1, 2012

Over the last year, the City and Borough of Sitka's Assembly has looked at several ordinance's dealing with Sales Tax issues. Ordinance 2012-07S passed at the Tuesday, June 26, 2012 Assembly meeting putting into effect a change in Sitka General Code 4.09.100(N) to increase the sales tax cap from maximum taxable single sale unit at one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to one thousand five hundred (\$1,500.00). This increase will go into effect beginning October 1, 2012.

Furthermore, this ordinance adds the "domestic partners" to the definition of "members of immediate family" regarding bundling of services.

If you have any questions or need assistance on how to implement this change, feel free to contact the Sales Tax offices.

Keep an eye out...Ordinance 2012-19 passed at first reading at last night's Assembly meeting. If passed, this ordinance would limit the tax exempt status of senior citizens to exclude alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, and other tobacco products purchases from being sales tax exempt.

AS ALWAYS, a tax exempt card must be presented in order for a business to grant a senior tax exemption.



We are available to answer questions and help with filing of your sales tax quarterly returns Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except on City recognized holidays. The City Offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4th and Monday, September 3rd in recognition of the 4th of July and Labor Day. Our offices are located on the second floor of the City building in the Finance Department or we may be contacted by phone at 747-1840 or 1853.

2nd Quarter, 2012
April, 2012
May, 2012
June, 2012
DUE JULY 31ST

We're on the Web
www.cityofsitka.com
Under the "Doing Business in the City" link

Fish Box Tax

It's that time again!!! As we approach our busy summer season, processors and charter operators are reminded of Ordinance No. 06-38 effective January 1, 2007 imposing a sales tax of "a flat rate of ten dollars per fish box... on packaged fish and/or seafood caught or taken and retained by fish charter customers as part of the fish charter." The ordinance also explains that the "tax shall be paid by the fish charter customer, collected by whoever packages the fish and/or seafood caught or taken by the fish charter customer, and is in addition to any sales tax paid based on the cost of the charter." This provision is included in Section 4.09.010(C) of the Sitka General Code. Contact the Sales Tax offices for more clarification on this tax.



**** ALERT ****

regarding

RESALE CARDS



Businesses are reminded that the items that they have been granted on their resale cards for tax exemption must be resold or used in the production of a product that will be resold. Improper usage of the resale card could result in cancellation of the card and/or fines.

Also, businesses are reminded to verify on the card that the item that is being requested as tax exempt is listed on the resale card as a tax exempt item. **YOU MUST SEE THE CARD BEFORE YOU GRANT A TAX EXEMPTION.** If the business has a charge account, a copy of the card should be left with the billing department so the billing department can verify the tax exemptions prior to the billing statement being issued. Businesses are required to be able to properly document their tax exemptions that are claimed on their sales tax returns or may be liable for the additional tax owed.

Please Remember

*LIST YOUR ACCT. NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAYMENTS.

*SIGN YOUR TAX RETURNS!!!

***TAX MUST BE STATED & ITEMIZED ON INVOICE!!!!**

Per the Sitka General Code 4.09.040, *the sales tax must be stated separately for all sales, except for sales from coin-operated or currency-operated machines, sales of drinks in a bar, sales on the dock, sales from street vending carts, admission fees, taxi fares, and other sales as determined by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka.* It has come to our attention that inclusion of sales tax in sales has become an issue. We realize that the pressure can often be intense by angry customers who do not want to pay sales tax. However, you as a business owner are subject to the Sitka General Code and must abide by it. Sales Tax cannot be used as a bargaining tool. The Code is established in order that all businesses will operate by the same set of rules.

