

Ministry of Finance

Tax Bulletin



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Dentists

Social Service Tax Act

Do you provide dental services?

Do you know how PST applies to your business?

This bulletin provides specific tax information to help dentists 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 \(PST\)](#).

Table of Contents

Sales	1
Purchases	2

Sales

When to Charge PST

You charge PST on the sale of goods, such as dental hygiene products (e.g. toothbrushes, dental floss, toothpaste and denture cleansers).

If you do not have a PST registration number, you send in the PST due using the *Casual Remittance Return for Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Due on Taxable Tangible Personal Property by a Seller Not Registered under the Social Service Tax Act* form (**FIN 428S**). This form is available from the ministry or any Service BC Centre. It is also available on our website at www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/business/Consumer_Taxes/Provincial_Sales_Tax/forms.htm

When Not to Charge PST

You do not charge PST on the sale of goods and services, such as:

- dental services,
- medicaments, if they are:
 - drugs listed on Schedule I or IA of the Drug Schedules Regulation, or
 - sold on prescription,
- pain relief medications, including anaesthetics, analgesics and pain tablets that clearly have a primary purpose of relieving pain, whether they are sold with, or without, a prescription,
- dentures and denture adhesives, and
- dental appliances sold on prescription.

Please note: A dental appliance provided to a patient as part of the dental service is considered to be sold on prescription if you charge a separate fee for the appliance. If you do not charge your patient a separate fee, the dental appliance is considered to be used by you in the course of your business, rather than sold on prescription.

Purchases

When to Pay PST

You pay PST on the purchase or lease of new or used goods and services that you use in your business, such as:

- stationery, furniture and office equipment,
- advertising materials, such as flyers and brochures,
- computer hardware and software (unless custom software),
- equipment used, or supplies consumed, in performing your services, such as:
 - dental equipment, instruments and tools,
 - x-ray film,
 - tooth filling, polishing and cleaning materials,
 - fluoride and fluoride applicators, and
 - mouthwashes and tissue papers,
- goods you purchase to give away as free promotions, such as dental hygiene products, and
- services to repair your equipment.

If the supplier does not charge you PST on the above items, you self-assess and record the PST due at Step 3 of your next tax return. If you do not have a PST registration

number, you self-assess the PST due using the *Casual Remittance Return for Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Due on Taxable Tangible Personal Property by a Purchaser Not Registered under the Social Service Tax Act* form ([FIN 428P](#)).

Goods Sold from Your Supply Stock

If you purchased a product to provide a service and paid PST on the product, but you later sell the product to a customer, you charge the customer PST. If you did not use the product before you sold it, you may qualify for a refund from the ministry. For more information, please see [Bulletins GEN 008](#), *Refunds of Overpayments of Tax*, and [SST 068](#), *Personal Services*.

Purchases from Out-of-Province Suppliers

If you purchase taxable goods from an out-of-province supplier, you pay PST on the total amount that you pay to bring the goods into British Columbia, including charges for transportation, customs, excise and any other costs, except the goods and services tax (GST). If the supplier does not charge you PST, you self-assess and record the PST due at Step 3 of your next tax return.

If you do not have a PST registration number and the supplier does not charge PST at the time of the sale, you self-assess the PST due using the *Casual Remittance Return for Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Due on Taxable Tangible Personal Property by a Purchaser Not Registered under the Social Service Tax Act* form ([FIN 428P](#)). Do this at the time you bring or ship the goods into British Columbia.

For more information, please see [Bulletin SST 043](#), *Goods Purchased from Out-of-Province Suppliers*.

When Not to Pay PST

You do not pay PST on the following items when purchased for use in providing dental services:

- goods you purchase for resale to your patients,
- pain relief medications, including anaesthetics, analgesics and pain tablets that clearly have a primary purpose of relieving pain,
- antiseptics, rubbing alcohol and germicides when used as patent medicines or as protection for yourself and your staff,
- first aid supplies,
- oxygen containers and oxygen dispensing apparatus purchased for medical or emergency use,
- rubber or synthetic gloves,

- dental hygiene products and prescription dental appliances obtained as samples from suppliers at no charge,
- dentures, parts to make dentures and denture adhesive, and
- dental apparatus prescribed and fitted for a patient, including crowns, bridges, inlays, orthodontic appliances, acrylic materials, wire, porcelain powders, metals and other materials that become a component part of dental appliances, and that you do not re-use.

To purchase the above items without paying PST, give the supplier your PST registration number. If you do not have a PST registration number, you use a *Certificate of Exemption (FIN 453)* to purchase these goods without paying PST. You can leave this form on file with the suppliers to make repeat purchases of the same goods.

If you purchase both non-taxable goods for resale and taxable goods for use in your business as a single sale, you need to tell the supplier which goods are non-taxable and which goods are taxable.

If you take taxable items from your resale inventory for business or personal use, you self-assess PST on your cost of the items.

Need more info?

Telephone (Vancouver): 604 660-4524

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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/business/Consumer_Taxes/Provincial_Sales_Tax/legislation.htm

References: *Social Service Tax Act*, Sections 71(b), 71(b.1), 71(e), 71 (f) and 71(i), and Regulations 2.12, 2.16, 2.18, 3.16, 3.21 and 3.26.