

Florists

Social Service Tax Act

Do you sell flowers and other related gift items?

Do you need to know how PST applies to delivery charges?

This bulletin provides specific tax information to help florists understand how the social service tax, also called the provincial sales tax (PST), applies to their businesses. If you operate a nursery, garden store or greenhouse, you should also read [Bulletin SST 088, Nurseries and Garden Stores](#).

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 \(PST\)](#).

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Sales

You charge PST on the sale of flowers, vases, greeting cards and other related gift items. PST applies differently depending where the order takes place and the location for delivery.

The tables below explain how PST applies to common sale and delivery orders filled by florists.

When to Charge PST

Situation	PST is charged on
The customer places an order for pick up in the store.	The total purchase price.
The customer places an order that is filled and delivered locally by the same florist who took the order.	The total purchase price, however , PST is not charged on the delivery if separately stated on the invoice.
The customer places an order for delivery through one florist but the order is filled and delivered by a florist in a different British Columbia location.	The total purchase price including delivery even if separately stated on the invoice.

When Not to Charge PST

Situation	PST is charged on
The customer places an order for delivery outside of British Columbia.	No PST is charged.

Other Charges

You do not charge PST for telex, telephone and relay service charges if the charges are separately stated on the invoice.

Sales to Other Retail Florists

You do not charge PST on goods sold to other retail florists if they provide their PST registration number. When you sell to other retail florists, you record their PST registration number on each invoice and keep it in your records to show why you did not charge PST.

If a particular situation is not described above and you are unsure of how PST applies, please contact us.

Purchases

When to Pay PST

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

- display cases, stands and coolers,
- stationery, furniture and office equipment,
- advertising materials, such as flyers and brochures,
- free promotional items, and
- computer hardware and software (unless custom software).

If your 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.

When Not to Pay PST

You do not pay PST on the following:

- items you purchase for resale or lease to your customers, such as flowers, greeting cards, vases and other related gift items, and
- wrapping paper, plant pots, containers, labels or packaging materials that are included with your sales at no extra charge to your customers.

To purchase the above items without paying PST, give the supplier your PST registration number.

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

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.



Need more info?

Florist website: www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/industry_specific/florists/florists.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/business/Consumer_Taxes/Provincial_Sales_Tax/legislation.htm

Acknowledgments

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References: *Social Service Tax Act*, Sections 1, 5, 78, 92 and 93