

Chapter Tax 11

SALES AND USE TAX

	General Provisions		
Tax 11.001	Forward and definitions (p. 138)	Tax 11.46	Summer camps (p. 195)
Tax 11.002	Permits, application, department determination (p. 138)	Tax 11.47	Commercial photographers and photographic services (p. 196)
Tax 11.01	Sales and use tax return forms (p. 139)	Tax 11.48	Landlords, hotels and motels (p. 197)
	Exempt Entities	Tax 11.49	Service stations and fuel oil dealers (p. 199)
Tax 11.03	Elementary and secondary schools and related organizations (p. 140)	Tax 11.50	Auctions (p. 200)
Tax 11.04	Constructing buildings for exempt entities (p. 141)	Tax 11.51	Grocers' guidelist (p. 202)
Tax 11.05	Governmental units (p. 142)	Tax 11.52	Coin-operated vending machines and amusement devices (p. 206)
	Exemptions	Tax 11.53	Temporary events (p. 207)
Tax 11.08	Medical appliances, prosthetic devices and aids (p. 146)	Tax 11.54	Temporary amusement, entertainment, or recreational events or places (p. 209)
Tax 11.09	Medicines (p. 147)	Tax 11.55	Agents, consignees, lienors and brokers (p. 210)
Tax 11.10	Occasional sales (p. 149)	Tax 11.56	Printing industry (p. 211)
Tax 11.11	Waste treatment facilities (p. 152)	Tax 11.57	Public utilities (p. 214)
Tax 11.12	Farming, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture (p. 154)	Tax 11.61	Service Enterprises
Tax 11.13	Sale of a business or business assets (p. 159)	Tax 11.61	Veterinarians and their suppliers (p. 216)
Tax 11.14	Exemption certificates (including resale certificates) (p. 161)	Tax 11.62	Barbers and beauty shop operators (p. 217)
Tax 11.15	Containers and other packaging and shipping materials (p. 165)	Tax 11.63	Radio and television stations (p. 218)
Tax 11.16	Common or contract carriers (p. 168)	Tax 11.64	Background music (p. 219)
Tax 11.17	Hospitals, clinics and medical professions (p. 171)	Tax 11.65	Admissions (p. 219)
Tax 11.18	Dentists and their suppliers (p. 173)	Tax 11.66	Communication and CATV services (p. 221)
Tax 11.19	Printed material exemption (p. 173)	Tax 11.67	Service enterprises (p. 222)
	Gross Receipts	Tax 11.68	Construction contractors (p. 225)
Tax 11.26	Other taxes in taxable gross receipts and sales price (p. 175)	Tax 11.69	Financial institutions (p. 232)
Tax 11.27	Warranties (p. 176)	Tax 11.70	Advertising agencies (p. 233)
Tax 11.28	Gifts, advertising specialties, coupons, premiums and trading stamps (p. 177)	Tax 11.71	Computer industry (p. 234)
Tax 11.29	Leases and rentals of tangible personal property (p. 180)	Tax 11.72	Laundries, dry cleaners, and linen and clothing suppliers (p. 239)
Tax 11.30	Credit sales, bad debts and repossessions (p. 182)		Types of Tangible Personal Property
Tax 11.32	"Gross receipts" and "sales price" (p. 184)	Tax 11.78	Stamps, coins and bullion (p. 239)
	Manufacturers and Producers	Tax 11.79	Leases of highway vehicles and equipment (p. 240)
Tax 11.38	Fabricating and processing (p. 186)	Tax 11.80	Sales of ice (p. 241)
Tax 11.39	Manufacturing (p. 187)	Tax 11.81	Industrial gases, welding rods and fluxing materials (p. 242)
Tax 11.40	Exemption of machines and processing equipment (p. 190)	Tax 11.82	Mailing lists and mailing services (p. 243)
Tax 11.41	Exemption of property consumed or destroyed in manufacturing (p. 192)	Tax 11.83	Motor vehicles (p. 244)
	Types of Retailers	Tax 11.84	Aircraft (p. 248)
Tax 11.45	Sales by pharmacies and drug stores (p. 194)	Tax 11.85	Boats, vessels and barges (p. 249)
		Tax 11.86	Utility transmission and distribution lines (p. 251)
		Tax 11.87	Meals, food, food products and beverages (p. 252)
		Tax 11.88	Mobile homes (p. 256)
			Administrative Provisions
		Tax 11.91	Successor's liability (p. 258)
		Tax 11.92	Records and record keeping (p. 259)

Tax 11

Tax 11.925	Sales and use tax security deposits (p. 262)	Tax 11.96	Interest rates (p. 266)
Tax 11.93	Annual filing of sales tax returns (p. 264)	Tax 11.97	"Engaged in business" in Wisconsin (p. 267)
Tax 11.94	Wisconsin sales and taxable transportation charges (p. 264)	Tax 11.98	Reduction of delinquent interest rate under s. 77.62 (1), Stats. (p. 270)
Tax 11.95	Retailer's discount (p. 266)		

Tax 11.001 Forward and definitions. (subchs. III and V, ch. 77, Stats.) Chapter Tax 11 is applicable to the state sales and use taxes imposed under subch. III of ch. 77, Stats., and is also applicable to county sales and use taxes authorized under subch. V of ch. 77, Stats. In this chapter, unless otherwise specified:

(3) "Consumers" are persons who purchase and use tangible personal property, and sales to consumers are retail sales to which either the sales or use tax applies. Resale certificates should not be accepted from consumers.

(5) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of revenue.

(8) "Retailer" means a person who sells taxable tangible personal property or a taxable service and who shall comply with all requirements imposed upon retailers, including:

- (a) Obtaining a seller's permit for each place of business in this state;
- (b) Filing tax returns and paying tax;
- (c) Collecting use tax when applicable and remitting the tax with returns; and
- (d) Keeping proper records. (See Tax 11.92)

(12) "Tax" means the Wisconsin sales or use tax in effect under ss. 77.52 (1) and (2) and 77.53 (1), Stats.

(13) "Taxable", "subject to the tax", "tax applies", "the sale is taxable", "_____ (specific tangible personal property or a specific service) is/are taxable", or "the purchase of _____ (specific tangible personal property or a specific service) is taxable", means that: (a) The sales tax applies to a sale of the property or service, measured by the gross receipts from the sale; or

(b) The use tax applies to the storage, use or other consumption of the property or service sold, measured by the sales price.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (12), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; emerg. am. (intro.), eff. 3-24-86; am. (intro.), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

Tax 11.002 Permits, application, department determination. (ss. 77.52(7), (8), (9) and (12), 77.61(2) and 227.0105, Stats.) (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to set forth the requirements to apply for a seller's permit, use tax registration certificate or consumers use tax registration certificate on the part of persons intending to operate as a seller at retail in this state, to collect use tax for the convenience of customers, or to report use tax; and to establish time limits within which the department of revenue will act on the application.

(2) PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED. (a) *Seller's permit.* Every individual, partnership, corporation or other organization making retail
Register, July, 1987, No. 379

sales or rentals of tangible personal property or selling, performing or furnishing taxable services at retail in this state shall have a seller's permit, unless the seller is exempt from taxation.

(b) *Use tax registration certificate.* Every out-of-state retailer engaged in business in this state and not required to hold a seller's permit or who is not engaged in business in this state but elects to collect use tax for the convenience of its Wisconsin customers shall have a use tax registration certificate.

(c) *Consumers use tax registration certificate.* Every person not required to have a seller's permit or use tax registration certificate who regularly has use tax obligations because purchases are made without sales or use tax being charged by the seller shall have a consumers use tax registration certificate.

(3) **APPLICATION FOR SELLER'S PERMIT OR USE TAX CERTIFICATES.** A person required to have a seller's permit or one of the use tax certificates described in sub. (2) shall file an "Application for Permit", Form A-101, with the department of revenue at the address shown on the form. The application shall include all information and fees required and shall be signed by the appropriate person described on the form. Security, as described in s. Tax 11.925, may be required. Form A-101 may be obtained at any department of revenue office, or by writing the department at P.O. Box 8902, Madison, Wisconsin 53708 or by telephone at (608) 266-2776.

(4) **REVIEW AND ACTION BY DEPARTMENT.** The department or revenue shall review and make a determination on an application for a seller's permit or use tax certificate described in this section within 15 business days from the day the application is received by the department. For this purpose, a determination is made on the day whichever of the following events occurs first:

(a) The approved permit is mailed by the department to the applicant, or

(b) The department mails notification to the applicant that security is required or that the application is incomplete, incorrect or more information is needed. The 15-day period shall reapply from the day all information necessary to make a determination, including payment of a required fee, or payment of security is received by the department, or

(c) A notification of denial of the application with explanation for the denial is mailed by the department to the applicant.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85.

Tax 11.01 Sales and use tax return forms. (s. 77.58, Stats.) (1) For filing sales and use tax returns, the following forms shall be used:

(a) Form MV-1. For occasional and dealer sales of motor vehicles, motor homes, trailers and semitrailers.

(b) Form S-011. For occasional and non-Wisconsin sales of snowmobiles.

Tax 11

(c) Form S-012 (also called "ST-12"). The monthly, quarterly or annual return for each registered retailer and consumer holding a Wisconsin seller's permit.

(e) Form S-013. For concessionaires. (Annual return).

(f) Form S-014. For concessionaires (single events) and temporary sellers (limited) periods).

(g) Form S-015. For occasional bingo sales.

(h) Form S-174. For determination of taxable status of temporary sellers and reporting of tax liability.

(i) Form S-001U. For occasional and non-Wisconsin sales of boats.

(j) Form S-050U (also called "UT-5"). For consumers other than persons holding a Wisconsin seller's permit, retailers having a use registration certificate and nonresident contractors.

(k) Form SU-051. For nonresident contractors having a use tax liability who do not have a Wisconsin seller's permit.

(l) Form A-R-1 (Department of Transportation form). For the occasional sale of aircraft.

(m) Form S-108 (also called "ST-12X"). The amended sales and use tax return for filing refund claims or reporting additional taxes for prior periods.

(2) Returns required to be filed with the department shall be filed by mailing them to P.O. Box 8902, Madison, Wisconsin 53708 or by delivering them to 4638 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

Note: Forms may be obtained by mail request to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8903, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1978, No. 266, eff. 3-1-78; am. (1) (a), r. (1) (d), cr. (1) (m), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83.

Tax 11.03 Elementary and secondary schools and related organizations. (s. 77.54 (4), (9) and (9a), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITIONS.** (a) In this rule, elementary school means a school providing any of the first 8 grades of a 12 grade system and kindergarten where applicable. Secondary school means a school providing grades 9 through 12 of a 12 grade system and includes the junior and senior trade schools described in s. 119.30, Stats.

(b) Elementary and secondary schools include parochial and private schools not operated for profit which offer any academic levels comparable to those described in par. (a) and which are educational institutions having a regular curriculum offering courses for at least 6 months in the year.

(c) Elementary or secondary schools do not include flying schools, driving schools, art schools, music schools, dance schools, modeling schools, charm schools, or similar schools which do not offer systematic instruction of the scope and intensity common and comparable to elementary and secondary schools.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(2) SALES BY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. (a) Sales by elementary or secondary schools, the gross receipts from which are exempt, include:

1. The sale or rental of books, yearbooks, annuals, magazines, directories, bulletins, papers or similar publications.
2. School lunches and library and book fines.
3. Rental of auditoriums or gymnasiums including any charges for lights, heat, janitor fees and equipment.
4. Admissions to school activities such as athletic events, art and science fairs, concerts, dances, films or other exhibits, lectures and school plays, if the event is sponsored by the school, the school has control over purchases and expenditures and the net proceeds are used for educational, religious or charitable purposes.

(b) The gross receipts of an elementary or secondary school from the sales of admissions to recreational facilities, such as golf courses which are open to the general public, are taxable.

(3) SALES BY SCHOOL-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS. Sales by school-related organizations and others, the gross receipts from which are taxable, include:

(a) The sale of class rings, photographs or caps and gowns rented or sold to students by retailers or photographers whereby the school acts as a collection agent for the seller, whether or not the school receives a commission for such collection. The retailer (e.g., a photographer) is subject to the tax on these sales.

(b) Sales made by school-related organizations, such as parent-teacher associations and student organizations, not subject to the control and supervision of school officials.

(c) Sales of tangible personal property or taxable services by vocational, technical and adult education schools.

(4) SALES TO SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS. Under s. 77.54, Stats., gross receipts from sales to the following organizations are exempt:

(a) All public schools, vocational schools, state colleges and universities and public school districts. This exemption may be claimed without use of an exemption certificate. A purchase order shall be acceptable evidence of a sale's exempt status.

(b) Private schools having certificates of exempt status.

(c) Related organizations of private or public schools having certificates of exempt status. Such organizations include parent-teacher associations and student organizations.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that gross receipts from sales by vocational, technical and adult education schools are exempt for the period from July 1, 1972 through October 3, 1973.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77.

Tax 11.04 Constructing buildings for exempt entities. (ss. 77.51 (2) and (14), 77.54 (9a) and 77.55 (1), Stats.) (1) DEFINITION. In this rule, "ex-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

empt entity" means a person qualifying for an exemption under s. 77.54 (9a) or 77.55 (1), Stats. Section 77.54 (9a) provides an exemption for sales to this state or any agency thereof, or any county, municipality as defined in s. 41.02 (4), school district or other political subdivision; any corporation, community chest fund, foundation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Section 77.55 (1) provides an exemption for sales to the United States, its unincorporated agencies and instrumentalities, and any unincorporated agency of instrumentality of the United States wholly owned by the United States or by a corporation wholly owned by the United States.

(2) **TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS.** Sales of building materials to contractors or subcontractors used in the construction of buildings or structures, or the alteration, repair or improvement of real property for exempt entities, are subject to the tax.

(3) **PURCHASES PRESUMED TAXABLE.** When a contractor and an exempt entity enter into a construction contract to improve real property, which provides that the contractor is to furnish the building materials, it is presumed until the contrary is established, that deliveries of building materials to the contractor are made pursuant to purchases made by the contractor.

(4) **SUPPLIER IS CONTRACTOR.** A supplier, who is also the contractor who uses the building materials in the construction of buildings or structures, or the alteration, repair or improvement of real property for an exempt entity, is the consumer of such building materials, not the seller of personal property to the exempt entity. The sale of building materials to the consumer is subject to the tax.

(5) **EXEMPT GROSS RECEIPTS.** A supplier's sales of building materials made directly to an exempt entity are not taxable, even though such tangible personal property is used by the contractor in the erection of a building or structure, or in the alteration, repair or improvement of real property for the exempt entity. Suppliers of building materials may presume that a sale is made directly to an exempt entity if the supplier receives a purchase order from the exempt entity, and payment for such building materials is received from the exempt entity.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969. This rule supersedes the policies contained in Technical Information Memorandum S-53, entitled "Constructing Buildings for Exempt Entities", dated November 1, 1972. The policies in this rule apply to periods open to adjustment under the statute of limitations (s. 77.59, Stats.).

History: Cr. Register, January, 1979, No. 277, eff. 2-1-79.

Tax 11.05 Governmental units. (ss. 77.51 (10), 77.52 (2) (a)1., 2., 9. and 20., and 77.54 (9a), (10), (15), (17), (20), (30) and (32), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** Sales by the state of Wisconsin, any agency thereof and governmental units within this state are generally subject to the Wisconsin sales tax. However, sales by the United States government or any agency thereof are not taxable.

(2) **TAXABLE RECEIPTS.** Taxable receipts of governmental units include gross receipts from the following:

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

- (a) Admissions to recreational facilities (e.g., green fees, campground fees, swimming fees, ice skating fees and park shelter house fees).
- (b) Food and gift stand sales, including sales of sandwiches, beverages, candy, cigarettes, ice cream, confections, tobacco products, postcards, books, magazines and other periodicals described in s. Tax 11.19, and novelties. Newspaper sales are exempt.
- (c) Sales or rental of recreational equipment and supplies.
- (d) Charges for access to or use of athletic facilities such as baseball and softball diamonds, stadiums and gymnasiums.
- (e) Sales of electricity, gas and steam by municipal utilities, except as provided in sub. (3) (b).
- (f) Sales of maps, plat books, photocopies or other printed material.
- (g) Sales or rental of equipment and office furniture, including the rental of motor vehicles to employes. Governmental units shall not collect tax on their sales of motor vehicles. Instead, the purchaser shall pay the tax to the department of transportation when the motor vehicle is registered.
- (h) Sales of buildings or timber when the purchaser acquires such property for removal.
- (i) Rental of lodging facilities to any person residing for a continuous period of less than one month, except that the tax does not apply to the receipts from accommodations furnished by any hospitals, sanitoriums nursing homes, colleges or universities operated by governmental units.
- (j) Vending machines and amusement devices, if the governmental unit owns the machine or has control over the gross receipts from the machine and its contents.
- (k) Sales of soda water beverages and beer, including sales of such items by hospitals, sanitoriums and nursing homes to patients, employes or guests.
- (l) Charges for meals to "Huber" law prisoners.
- (m) Sales of books and supplies, including sales by vocational, technical and adult education schools. Sales of tangible personal property by elementary and secondary schools are exempt under s. 77.54 (4), Stats.
- (n) Sales of craft supplies for playground craft programs.
- (o) Auction sales of tangible personal property, but excluding motor vehicles (see par. (g)).
- (p) Charges for filing, entering, docketing, recording or furnishing certified or uncertified copies of records by a state registrar, register of deeds, health officers and clerk of court under ss. 59.42, 59.57, 69.24, Stats., or by a filing officer under s. 409.407 (2), Stats., and fees charged by a register in probate pursuant to s. 814.66, Stats. Also, charges by an "authority", as defined in s. 19.32 (1), Stats., for copying a public record or confidential record, including charges for search of records.
- (q) Sales of impounded animals, even though the amount received may be designated as a placement fee.

(r) The gross receipts from parking and providing parking space for motor vehicles and aircraft, and docking or providing storage space for boats.

(s) The gross receipts from landscaping and lawn maintenance services, including weed cutting in lawn, garden and other developed areas, but not charges for damages described in sub. (3) (c).

(3) NONTAXABLE RECEIPTS. Gross receipts of governmental units from the following are not taxable:

(a) Fees for licenses and permits, including tavern, cigarette, hunting and fishing, marriage, building and septic tank permits and I.D. cards, but not camping permits or I.D. cards issued exclusively for obtaining admission to facilities or events taxed under s. 77.52 (2) (a) 2, Stats.

(b) Water delivered through mains. Coal, fuel oil, propane, steam and wood used for fuel, sold for residential use. Electricity and natural gas sold for residential use and electricity sold for farm use during the months of November through April. "Sold" is defined in s. 77.54 (30) (b), Stats. In this paragraph, "residential use" has the meaning in s. Tax 11.57 (2) (1) 7.

(c) Claims assessed against persons for damaging government property.

(d) Rental of buildings or space, such as offices, warehouses and meeting rooms.

(e) Storage fees, notary public fees and bid deposits.

(f) Library fines, including charges for books that are not returned or charges for a duplicate library card.

(g) Police escort and ambulance service charges.

(h) Separately stated fees for instruction.

(i) Special assessments and fees for garbage or trash removal. However, sales of bags or receptacles for garbage or trash are taxable.

(j) Commissions on vending machines or amusement devices when the governmental unit does not own the machines or have control of the machines' gross receipts and contents.

(k) Sales or rental of tangible personal property or services to other governmental units, schools or organizations which hold a certificate of exempt status.

(l) Meals, food, food products or beverages (except soda water beverages and beer) sold by hospitals, sanitoriums and nursing homes to patients, employes or guests; dormitory meals furnished in accordance with any contract or agreement by a public or private institution of higher education; and meals sold to the elderly or handicapped by "mobile meals on wheels".

(m) Service charges for snow removal, police officers at social gatherings, service of legal papers including summons, complaints and civil process, and ushers and door guards.

(n) Sales for resale, if supported by a valid resale certificate obtained from the purchaser.

(o) Fees charged for admission to a university student union building.

(p) Charges for filing, entering, docketing, recording or furnishing certified or uncertified copies of records by a state registrar, register of deeds, health officers and clerk of court under ss. 59.42, 59.57, 69.24, Stats., or by a filing officer under s. 409.407 (2), Stats., and fees charged by a register in probate pursuant to s. 814.66, Stats. Also, charges by an "authority", as defined in s. 19.32 (1), Stats., for copying a public record or confidential record, including charges for search of records.

(q) The sale of all admission fees or admission stickers to state parks and recreational areas in state forests imposed under s. 27.01 (2r), Stats.

(4) PURCHASES. Section 77.54(9a), Stats., exempts sales to and the storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property and services by this state or by any agency thereof, or any Wisconsin county, city, village, town, school district, county-city hospital established under s. 66.47, Stats., sewerage commission organized under s. 144.07 (4), Stats., metropolitan sewerage district organized under ss. 66.20 to 66.26, Stats., or any other unit of government, or any agency or instrumentality of 2 or more units of government within this state. However, the exemption does not apply to governmental units of other states.

(a) A Wisconsin governmental unit need not give a retailer an exemption certificate to purchase taxable property or services without tax. A purchase order identifying the Wisconsin governmental unit shall be acceptable evidence of the exempt nature of the purchase.

(b) A Wisconsin governmental unit's payments to sellers for welfare recipients' purchases are generally subject to the tax, except when the purchase is made directly by the governmental unit and:

1. The governmental unit gives its purchase order to the seller before the sale is completed or the taxable service is performed;

2. The seller bills the governmental unit directly; and

3. The seller retains a copy of each purchase order received from the governmental unit to substantiate the exempt sale.

(c) Purchases by state chartered credit unions are subject to the tax. Purchases by federally chartered credit unions and federal reserve banks are not subject to the tax.

(d) Purchases (such as for lodging, meals or uniforms) by employes of a governmental unit are not exempt, whether or not the employe is subsequently reimbursed for such purchases by the governmental unit.

(e) Purchases by consular and diplomatic personnel of other countries which have entered into multilateral treaties with the United States government providing for sales and use tax exemptions.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11:05 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except as follows: (a) Sales by vocational, technical and adult education schools were exempt from July 1, 1972 through October 3, 1973, (b) Mobile meals on wheels became exempt October 4, 1973, pursuant to Chapter 90, Laws of 1973, (c) Admission fees to state parks became exempt on July 1, 1978, pursuant to Chapter 418, Laws of 1977, (d) Sales of coal, fuel oil, propane, steam and wood used for fuel became exempt July

Tax 11

1, 1979 and the electricity and natural gas six-month exemption became effective on November 1, 1979, both pursuant to Chapter 1, Laws of 1979, (e) A governmental unit's charges for parking motor vehicles and aircraft and docking and providing storage space for boats became taxable June 1, 1980 pursuant to Chapter 221, Laws of 1979, (f) Landscaping and lawn maintenance services became taxable on May 1, 1982 pursuant to Chapter 317, Laws of 1981, (g) A governmental unit's charges for copying public records became exempt April 27, 1984 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 287. The exemption language in s. 77.54 (32), Stats., was amended by 1985 Wisconsin Act 149, effective April 2, 1986, to clarify that the exemption also applies to confidential records.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 284, eff. 1-1-78; am. (3) (f) and (h), (4) (c) and (4) (e), Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; am. (2) (e) and (f), cr. (2) (r), r. and rec. (3) (b), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (b) and (m), (3) (a), (l), (m) and (p), cr. (2) (s) and (3) (q), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (p), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.08 Medical appliances, prosthetic devices and aids. (s. 77.54 (14s) and (22), Stats.) (1) DEVICES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS. Section 77.54 (22) (a), Stats., exempts gross receipts from the sale of "Artificial devices individually designed, constructed or altered solely for the use of a particular physically disabled person so as to become a brace, support, supplement, correction or substitute for the bodily structure including the extremities of the individual." This exemption includes trusses, supports, shoes, braces and elastic hose when specially fitted and altered to fit a particular person. "Altered" does not include the adjusting of straps or seams but does include the bending of metal stays. The following items normally are not designed for use by a particular person, and if that is the case, do not qualify for the exemption:

- (a) Kidney dialysis equipment.
- (b) Special communication equipment for the deaf.
- (c) Hydraulic lifts for wheelchairs.
- (d) Special controls installed in motor vehicles to steer and operate the vehicle.
- (e) Humidifiers.
- (f) Stationary walking machines.
- (g) Stairway chair elevators.
- (h) Electric nerve stimulators.
- (i) Insertion or application equipment and supplies used to insert or apply exempt devices.

(2) PROSTHETIC DEVICES, APPLIANCES AND AIDS. Section 77.54 (22) (b), Stats., exempts gross receipts from the sale of "Artificial limbs, artificial eyes, hearing aids, and other equipment worn as a correction or substitute for any functioning portion of the body." "Other equipment" includes colostomy, ileostomy and urinary appliances, artificial breast forms and heart pacemakers. This exemption does not apply to:

- (a) Garments designed to restrict or enhance the body's shape for cosmetic purposes, or to wigs or hair pieces.
- (b) Incontinent briefs, pads, shields or adult diapers.
- (d) Bed wetting alarm systems.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(e) Blood pressure kits.

(f) Insertion or application equipment and supplies used to insert or apply exempt devices.

(3) **EYE GLASSES.** Section 77.54 (22) (d), Stats., exempts gross receipts from the sale of "Eye glasses when especially designed or prescribed by an ophthalmologist, physician, oculist or optometrist for the personal use of the owner or purchaser." This exemption does not include tools and supplies, eyeglass cases, eye shields, thermal and chemical care units for contact lenses, chains, clips or other accessories associated with eye glasses. Frames for prescription glasses are exempt.

(4) **CRUTCHES AND WHEELCHAIRS.** Section 77.54 (22) (e), Stats., exempts gross receipts from the sale of "Crutches and wheelchairs including motorized wheelchairs and scooters for the use of persons who are ill or disabled." This exemption includes open and closed end walkers with or without casters and canes which provide walking support by making contact with the ground at more than one point.

(5) **OXYGEN EQUIPMENT.** Section 77.54 (14s), Stats., exempts the gross receipts from the sale of "Equipment used to administer oxygen for medical purposes by a person who has a prescription for oxygen written by a person authorized to prescribe oxygen." The exemption applies to oxygen carts acquired for use by patients with a prescription for oxygen.

(6) **REPAIR PARTS AND SERVICE.** Gross receipts from the sale of repair parts and service for exempt property are exempt.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.08 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) Charges for oxygen equipment became exempt September 1, 1983 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 27; (b) Charges for motorized wheelchairs and scooters became exempt September 1, 1985 pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77; am. (1) and (4), Register, July, 1978, No. 271, eff. 8-1-78; am. (1), (2) and (3), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; r. (2) (c), renum. (5) to be (6), cr. (5), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (4), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.09 Medicines. (s. 77.54 (14) and (14g), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITION.** For the exemption in s. 77.54 (14), Stats., "medicines" means any substance or preparation intended for use by external or internal application to the human body in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease and which is commonly recognized as a substance or preparation intended for such use.

(2) **EXAMPLES OF MEDICINES.** Medicines include the following items described in sub. (1):

- (a) Bone pins.
- (b) Dyes.
- (c) Insulin (furnished by a registered pharmacist).
- (d) Liquids.
- (e) Oxygen for medicinal purposes.
- (f) Oral contraceptives.
- (g) Pacemakers.

Tax 11

- (h) Pills.
- (i) Powders.
- (j) Salves and ointments.
- (k) Suppositories.
- (l) Sutures.
- (m) Vaccines.
- (n) Vitamins.
- (o) Other medicinal preparations consumed orally, injected or applied.
- (p) Other articles permanently implanted in the human body which remain or dissolve in the body.

(3) **ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT MEDICINES.** Items which are not described in sub. (1) and which are not medicines include:

- (a) Alcoholic beverages, soda water beverages or distilled water.
- (b) Auditory, prosthetic, ophthalmic or ocular devices or appliances.
- (c) Medical supplies (such as bandages, compresses, dressings, pads, splints and supports).
- (d) Medical instruments or equipment.
- (e) Cast materials.
- (f) Intra-uterine devices.

(4) **EXEMPT SALES OR USE OF MEDICINES.** Medicines shall be exempt if:

(a) Prescribed by a licensed physician, surgeon, podiatrist or dentist for treatment of a human being and dispensed on prescription filed by a registered pharmacist in accordance with law.

(b) Sold to a licensed physician, surgeon, podiatrist, dentist or hospital for the treatment of a human being.

(c) Furnished by a licensed physician, surgeon, podiatrist or dentist to a patient for treatment of the patient.

(d) Furnished by a hospital for treatment of any person by the order of a licensed physician, surgeon, dentist or podiatrist. For this exemption, "hospital" has the meaning described in s. 50.33 (2), Stats., and does not include nursing homes.

(e) Sold to this state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof, for use in the treatment of a human being; or furnished for the treatment of a human being by a medical facility or clinic maintained by this state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof.

(5) **TAXABLE SALES OF MEDICINES.** Taxable sales of medicines include:

(a) Retail sales for use in laboratories.

(b) Retail sales for use on domestic animals.

(6) **TAXABLE USE OF MEDICINES.** Persons who sell medicines are subject to the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) on samples furnished without charge to hospitals, physicians, surgeons, podiatrists or dentists.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77; r. (3) (g), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (4) (d) and (6), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.10 Occasional sales. (ss. 77.51 (9), 77.52 (2) (a) 2, and 77.54 (7), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** Sales of tangible personal property and taxable services are not taxable if they are exempt "occasional sales". However, if the number, scope and character of the sales are such that they exceed the standards in the statutes and this rule, a taxable sale occurs.

(2) **STATUTES.** (a) "Occasional sales" is defined in s. 77.51 (9), Stats.

(b) Section 77.54 (7), Stats., exempts most occasional sales from the sales and use taxes.

(3) **SALES BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.** No special statute exempts all sales by nonprofit organizations. However, the following sales by neighborhood, religious, charitable, civic or educational organizations and other nonprofit organizations which conduct one or more fund raising events during the year shall be occasional sales under the conditions shown:

(a) *Admissions or tickets.* Sales of admissions or tickets to an event conducted by a neighborhood association, church, civic group, garden club, social club or similar nonprofit organization shall be exempt occasional sales if:

1. The event does not involve professional entertainment;
2. The organization is not engaged in a trade or business and is not otherwise required to have a seller's permit; and
3. The organization did not conduct more than 3 events involving sales of admissions or tickets in the previous calendar year, no more than 3 are anticipated during the current calendar year and the events do not fall on more than 9 different days or 9 consecutive 24-hour periods within the calendar year. If 3 or less events are anticipated, but a fourth event takes place during the year, only the fourth event shall be taxable. However, in the following year, all events shall be taxable, even though there are 3 or less of the events in that year.

(b) *Meals, food and beverages.* Sales of meals, food, food products, and beverages, including beer, for direct consumption at an event including a church supper or refreshment stand at a fair by a neighborhood association, church, civic group, garden club, social club or similar nonprofit organization shall be exempt occasional sales if:

1. The organization is not engaged in a trade or business and is not otherwise required to have a seller's permit; and
2. The organization conducted no more than 3 events involving sales of meals, food, food products and beverages in the previous calendar year, no more than 3 are anticipated during the current calendar year and the

Register, July, 1987, No. 379.

events do not fall on more than 9 different days or 9 consecutive 24-hour periods within the calendar year. If 3 or less events are anticipated, but a fourth event takes place during the year, only the fourth event shall be taxable. However, in the following year, all events shall be taxable, even though there are 3 or less of the events in that year.

(c) *Other sales of tangible personal property and services.* Except for sales under pars. (a) and (b), sales of tangible personal property and taxable services, including light bulbs, Christmas trees, candy or parking, by a neighborhood association, church, civic group, garden club, social club or similar nonprofit organization shall be exempt occasional sales if:

1. The organization is not engaged in a trade or business and is not otherwise required to have a seller's permit; and

2. The gross receipts from sales of property and services otherwise subject to the tax under s. 77.52 (1) and (2), Stats., do not exceed \$2,500 within a calendar year.

(d) *Exceeding the \$2,500 standard.* Nonprofit organizations with sales exceeding \$2,500 annually are taxable on all receipts unless the department of revenue determines that their sales of property or services are isolated and sporadic and that the organizations are not engaged in a part-time business or a partial vocation or occupation. Any organization may request a determination from the department as to whether it qualifies for the exemption. The request should be made in writing, listing items or services sold, unit costs and selling prices, anticipated total gross receipts from all sales activities for the calendar year, the number of days duration of sales throughout the year, and any other information that will assist the department in its determination. Requests for such determinations should be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Income, Sales, Inheritance and Excise Tax Division; P.O. Box 8902, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(e) *Treatment of categories.* Each category of sale listed in pars. (a), (b) and (c) shall be treated separately. However, if an organization exceeds the exempt occasional sales standard in any category, it shall obtain a seller's permit and pay a tax on sales in all categories. If the \$2,500 standard described in par. (c) is exceeded, all receipts from sales of property or services described in that paragraph and all subsequent receipts from admissions and meals shall be taxable.

Note: Example. If an organization engages in separate activities described in pars. (a), (b) and (c) during a year and has a fourth "admissions" event, but only one "meal" event and \$500 receipts from sales of other tangible personal property at that time, it shall obtain a seller's permit and pay the tax on receipts from the fourth "admissions" event and all subsequent receipts from "meal" events and from subsequent sales of other tangible personal property or services.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department is required to act on permit applications.

(4) **SALES WHICH ARE NOT OCCASIONAL SALES.** The following transactions shall not be exempt occasional sales:

(a) Sales by a person who holds or is required to hold a seller's permit. For example, sales of used equipment by a retail store or vending machine operator are taxable.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(b) The sale of a business or the assets of a business when the seller holds or is required to hold a seller's permit. The tax applies to the portion of the gross receipts reasonably attributable to the taxable personal property such as equipment, furniture and fixtures. Refer to s. Tax 11.13 for additional information concerning this subject.

(c) Sales of motor vehicles, aircraft, boats, mobile homes not exceeding 45 feet in length, snowmobiles, trailers and semitrailers, except as specifically provided in s. 77.54 (7), Stats. Unless exempt, a use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) shall be paid by the purchaser at the time the motor vehicle, aircraft, boat, snowmobile, trailer or semitrailer is registered or the mobile home not exceeding 45 feet in length is registered or titled for use within this state.

(d) Unless exempt under sub. (5) (c) sales made by persons who hold themselves out to the public as engaged in business, even though their sales may be few and infrequent. This includes the sales of works of art, handmade articles, antiques or used property by artists or others who are pursuing a vocation or part-time business as a seller of such property.

(e) Sales by persons conducting bingo games.

(f) Unless exempt under sub. (5) (c) sales by persons engaged primarily in the business of making nontaxable sales of personal property, such as manufacturers, wholesalers and grocers. Since these persons are in the business of selling tangible personal property, the mere fact that only a small fraction of their total sales are taxable retail sales does not make these sales exempt occasional sales.

(5) SALES WHICH ARE OCCASIONAL SALES. The following sales are exempt occasional sales:

(a) Auction sales of personal farm property and household goods.

(b) Sales by a sole proprietor, who is required to be a holder of a seller's permit, of tangible personal property which has not been used in the course of the person's business and is not the type of property sold in the course of the person's business. However, all tangible personal property sold by a corporation or partnership holding or required to hold a seller's permit shall be considered to be used or sold in the course of the organization's business activities and is taxable.

Note: *Example.* Taxpayer operates a service station as a sole proprietor and holds a seller's permit for the purpose of selling cigarettes and repairing motor vehicles. The gross receipts from selling a refrigerator and stove used in the taxpayer's residence are not subject to the sales tax. However, the gross receipts from the sale of a desk and refrigerator which were used in the service station's business activities are subject to the sales tax.

(c) Sales of tangible personal property or taxable services by a person not otherwise required to hold a seller's permit, if the total taxable gross receipts of tangible personal property and taxable services are less than \$1,000 during the calendar year. However, purchases of tangible personal property or taxable services which when resold are exempt under this paragraph, are taxable purchases by that person, except when the person is able to claim exemption under s. 77.54 (9a), Stats.

Note: *Examples.* 1) If the gross receipts from a person's garage and rummage sales, lawn maintenance services, bait sales to fisherman, sales of books, charges for parking and other normally taxable receipts are less than \$1,000 during the calendar year, that person's receipts are deemed exempt occasional sales under par. (c).

Tax II

2) Sales of soft drinks by employe groups are not taxable if the gross receipts from soft drink sales do not exceed \$1,000 per year. These groups are deemed consumers and suppliers' sales to them are taxable retail sales.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.10 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1989 except that sub. (5) (b) became effective on March 1, 1979 and the \$2,500 standard in sub. (3) (d) and the \$1,000 standard in sub. (6) (c) are effective on January 1, 1985. Prior to January 1, 1985 the standard in sub. (3) (d) was \$1,000 per year and the standard in sub. (5) (c) was \$500 per year for persons who had gross receipts from sales of fishing bait; soft drinks; garage, lawn or rummage sales; lawn maintenance and landscaping services; parking; firewood and books.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1978, No. 271, eff. 8-1-78; cr. (6) (e), Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79; am. (4) (b) and (c), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (3) (b) (intro.) and (e), (4) (c), (6) (a), (b) and (d), r. and recr. (3) (c), cr. (6) (f) to (l), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (3) (a) 3. and (b) 2., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (c) 2., (d) and (e), (4) (d) and (f), cr. (5), r. (6), Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5-1-85; am. (4) (c), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.11 Waste treatment facilities (industrial or governmental). (s. 77.54 (26), Stats.) (1) **STATUTE.** (a) The sales and use tax exemption for tangible personal property which becomes a component part of a waste treatment facility is contained in s. 77.54 (26), Stats.

(b) The general property tax exemption for a waste treatment facility is contained in s. 70.11 (21) (a), Stats. and the exemption for public utilities and railroads is contained in 76.02 (10), Stats.

(2) **CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS.** (a) The sales and use tax exemption extends to and includes the purchases of tangible personal property by a contractor-installer who incorporates such property into an approved industrial waste treatment facility or who incorporates such property into a municipal waste treatment facility. The contractor-installer shall certify the intended exempt use of the item to each supplier in order to relieve the supplier of the duty of collecting and reporting the tax on the sale. Certification of exempt use shall be made on a Certificate of Exemption, Form S-207.

(b) Contractors shall ascertain whether the industrial waste treatment facility they are constructing has been properly approved by the department of revenue for a property tax exemption under s. 70.11 (21), Stats. If there has been no "approval", the contractor or subcontractor may be liable for the sales or use tax on his or her purchases. As described in sub. (3) (d), approvals are not required for municipal waste treatment facilities.

(c) A contractor's purchases of items used or consumed in the performance of the construction contract, and which do not become a component part of the waste treatment facility, are subject to the tax. This includes industrial gases, form lumber, tunnel shields and supplies used by a contractor during construction. Payments by a contractor for equipment purchased or leased to perform a construction job are also taxable.

(3) **APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.** (a) Tangible personal property which becomes a component part of an industrial waste treatment facility qualifies for the sales and use tax exemption if the facility has been approved for property tax exemption by the department of revenue as provided in s. 70.11 (21), Stats. Sections Tax 6.40 and 12.40 describe how an "approval" may be obtained for public utilities and other commercial and industrial concerns, respectively.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(b) The property tax exemption approvals for public utility, industrial and commercial waste treatment facilities are effective January 1 of each year. Any approvals issued prior to January 1 which apply to contemplated construction must of necessity be "tentative approvals" based on the information presented to the department by the applicant.

(c) Contractors and others may determine whether a facility has been approved by the department of revenue as follows:

1. Public utility facilities, including railroads, airlines and pipelines: Write or call the Department of Revenue, Bureau of Utility and Special Taxes, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 8933, Madison, WI 53708; telephone (608) 266-3964.

2. Other commercial or industrial facilities: Write or call the Department of Revenue, Bureau of Property Tax, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 8933, Madison, WI 53708; telephone (608) 266-8606.

(d) Property tax exemption approvals by the department of revenue are not required for municipal waste treatment facilities for the sales and use tax exemption under s. 77.54 (26), Stats., to apply. Contractors or others constructing municipal waste treatment facilities may purchase construction materials which become a component part of the exempt facility without tax by issuing a properly completed exemption certificate to their suppliers.

(4) INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT EXEMPTION. (a) If an industrial or utility waste treatment facility qualifies for the property tax exemption under s. 70.11 (21) (a), or 76.02 (10), Stats., it qualifies for the sales and use tax exemption under s. 77.54 (26), Stats.

(b) When any plant or equipment has been approved as exempt from the property tax on January 1, the repair, service, alteration, cleaning, painting and maintenance of such exempt property and the repair parts and replacements therefor are also exempt through the following December 31. The sales and use tax exemption applies to chemicals and supplies used or consumed in operating a waste treatment facility.

(5) MUNICIPAL WASTE TREATMENT EXEMPTION. (a) Storm sewers, water supply systems and private domestic waste water facilities do not qualify for the sales and use tax exemption.

(b) Only the central waste treatment plant which actually treats the sewage qualifies for the exemption.

(c) The collection system throughout the area served by the treatment facility, the effluent pipeline carrying the treated sewage away from the central treatment plant, earthen dikes and chain link fences on the boundary of a treatment plant, and dredge material disposal sites are not exempt. The collection systems includes the lift stations, force mains and associated pumping equipment used to bring the raw sewage to the central treatment plant.

(d) The repair, service, alteration, cleaning, painting and maintenance of a municipal central waste treatment facility, the repair parts and replacements therefor, and chemicals and supplies used or consumed in

operating a waste treatment facility are exempt from the sales and use tax.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.11 are effective July 31, 1975 when ss. 70.11 (21) (a) and 77.54 (26), Stats., were revised, except that the exemption for chemicals and supplies used or consumed in operating a waste treatment facility is effective September 1, 1979, the date s. 77.54 (26), Stats., was amended by Chapter 39, Laws of 1979.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; am. (2), (4) (b) and (5) (d), r. and recr. (3), Register, September, 1982, No. 321, eff. 10-1-82; am. (2) (b), (3) (a) and (b) and (5) (b), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.12 Farming, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture. (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 10 and 77.54 (3), (3m), (27) and (30), Stats.) (1) STATUTES. Sections 77.54 (3) and (3m), Stats., provide exemptions for certain sales to persons who are engaged in farming, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture as a business enterprise. Persons who contract with farmers to do agreed upon jobs are not engaged in farming as a business enterprise.

(2) DEFINITIONS. In this section and s. 77.54 (3), (3m), and (30), Stats.:

(a) 1. "Farming" means the business of producing food products or other useful crops by tilling and cultivating the soil or by raising cattle, sheep, poultry, domesticated rabbits or other animals which produce a food product or which are themselves a food product. In addition, consistent with chs. 29 and 94, Stats., "Farming" includes raising pheasants, foxes, fitch, nutria, marten, fisher, mink, chinchilla, rabbit, caracul and bees; producing honey products by a beekeeper of 50 or more hives; commercial raising of fish for food; commercial breeding and raising of horses for sale; and raising ginseng, mushrooms and sod. "Farming" does not include home gardening and other similar noncommercial activities; breeding or raising dogs, cats, other pets or animals intended for use in laboratories; raising earthworms; operating sporting or recreational facilities (e.g., riding stables or shooting preserves); operating stockyards, slaughterhouses or feed lots as described in subd. 2; lumbering and logging, and pulpwood and sawmill operations; milling and grinding grain; and preparing sausage, canned goods, jellies, juices or syrup.

2. Effective on December 1, 1981 and thereafter, "feed lot" means a restricted area containing pens or lots where livestock are held and fed. A person who holds livestock in a feed lot for less than 30 days is not engaged in farming. Feed purchased for livestock held in a feed lot for less than 30 days is taxable. However, a person who holds livestock in a feed lot for 30 days or more is engaged in farming and the feed purchased for such livestock is exempt. If a person holds some livestock for less than 30 days and some livestock for 30 days or more and purchases feed for both types at the same time, an allocation of the feed costs may be made so that tax is paid on the feed consumed by livestock held for less than 30 days and is not paid on feed consumed by livestock held for 30 days or more.

(b) "Horticulture" means the business of producing vegetables, vegetable plants, fruits and nursery stock, including the operation of commercial nurseries and orchards. "Nurseries" do not include businesses which hold stock for purposes other than propagation or growth. Horticulture does not include the business of servicing plants owned by others; the raising of trees as timber; or lumber or sawmill operations.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(c) "Floriculture" means the business of producing flowers, Christmas trees or other decorative trees, plants or shrubs, including such operations as greenhouses.

(d) "Dairy farming" means the business of feeding and raising cattle and other milk producing animals, but does not include operations such as pasteurizing, homogenizing or making butter, cheese or ice cream.

(3) OBTAINING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES. A retailer shall have a signed exemption certificate for every exempt sale made to a farmer. The standard "Farmer's Exemption Certificate" (Form S-206) provides for continuous use under certain conditions. The certificate shall be used only for categories of items listed on it. Every invoice to which the certificate refers must contain the seller's name, the farmer's name and address, the date of sale and a brief description of the product sold.

(4) STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS. (a) Section 77.54 (3), Stats., exempts: *"The gross receipts from the sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of tractors and machines, including accessories, attachments, fuel and parts therefor, used directly in farming, including dairy farming, agriculture, horticulture or floriculture, but excluding automobiles, trucks, and other motor vehicles for highway use, when engaged in by the purchaser or user as a business enterprise, but the purchaser of property exempt under this subsection shall be liable for sales tax under s. 77.57 at the time any more than nominal other use, including job contracting other than the performance of farm services by one farmer for another with machinery customarily used by the performing farmer in his own farming operation, is made of such property."*

1. Directly. Items used "directly" in farming include a plow and a combine. Items of "indirect" or non-qualifying use include typewriters, electric drills or other repair tools, dog and cat food, and lawn and garden tractors.

2. Accessories, attachments and parts. Included within the exemption are accessories, attachments, parts and fuel for tractors and machines used directly in agriculture. "Accessories" and "attachments" include devices designed to be mounted on a machine or to be pushed or pulled by a machine. Examples include farm wagons and portable pipes attached to mobile irrigation pumps. A machine "part" means a durable unit of definite, fixed dimensions and includes tractor cabs, oil filters and slow-moving-vehicle signs. Canvas covers and paint for exempt machines are exempt. "Parts" does not include fluids (e.g., antifreeze or lubricants) nor milk filters which must be replaced every time a machine is used. These are "supplies" rather than "parts" and are not exempt. The exemption for fuel for farm machines does not apply to purchases of electricity.

3. Machines. "Machines" include all terrain vehicles or trucks not licensed for highway use, auxiliary power generators, bale loaders, balers, barn cleaners, barn elevators, chain saws for orchard use but not for use in lumbering, pulping or cutting firewood, choppers, conveyors, corn pickers, crop conditioners, crop thinners, cultivators, discs, drags, and loaders, electric clippers and hoof trimmers, electric dehorners, electric fence charges, not fencing or insulators, electric foggers, feed elevators and augers, fork lifts, grain dryers and grinders, harrows, harvesting combines, hay wagons, manure spreaders, milk coolers, milking ma-

chines, including piping, pipeline washer and compressor, mowers, planters, plows, powered feeders, not including platforms or troughs constructed from ordinary building materials, powered posthole diggers, pumps and associated portable piping for irrigation, rock pickers, rotary hoes, silo unloaders, space heaters, not for residential use and not realty improvements, sprayers, stalk shredders and windrowers.

4. Realty improvements. a. Certain machines in addition to those in subd. 3 qualify for the exemption if purchased by farmers directly from retailers, even though they are used to make realty improvements. Machines included are automated livestock feeder bunks (but not ordinary building materials), automatic stock waterers (powered by electricity or water pressure and built into a permanent plumbing system), automatic water softners (e.g., for milkhouses), barn fans and blowers and other ventilating units, unit heaters and other heating units, water heaters serving production areas, and water pumps serving production areas.

b. However, a person (such as a plumbing contractor) who contracts with a farmer to provide and install such a machine permanently into real estate is a consumer of the machine, not a seller. Such a contractor, not being a farmer, may not furnish a Farmer's Exemption Certificate on the person's purchase of the machine. Being the consumer, the contractor must pay the sales tax to the supplier or report the use tax on the purchase price directly to the department.

5. Motor vehicles. Specifically excluded from the statutory exemption are "motor vehicles for highway use", including motor trucks, auto mobiles, station wagons, buses and motor cycles. "For highway use" means licensed for that use. Sales of parts, supplies and repairs for vehicles for highway use, including nurse tanks and trailers, are also taxable.

6. Other non-exempt sales. The exemption does not apply to:

a. Tools used in construction or for making repairs to real estate or farm machinery, such as block and tackle sets, chain hoists, cutters, electric drills, hammers, hand tools, planers, sharpeners, sanders, saws and wheelbarrows.

b. Building materials used to repair or improve real estate such as cement, drain tile fencing, light fixtures, lumber, nails, stanchions and underground and fixed in place water supply systems.

c. Applicators for insecticides (non-powered), cattle chutes, farrowing crates, feed carts, fire extinguishers, flood gates, gravity flow feeders (non-powered), saddles and bridles, incinerators, lawn and garden tractors, portable calf stalls, rope and cable, scales, self-treating stations (oilers), snowmobiles, stationary salt and mineral feeders.

7. Sales or use tax. A person who buys without tax by claiming the farming exemption owes the sales tax at the time the person uses the item purchased more than nominally for a nonexempt purpose.

(b) Section 77.54 (3m), Stats., exempts: "*The gross receipts from sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of seeds for planting, plants, feed, fertilizer, soil conditioners, sprays, pesticides, fungicides, breeding and other livestock, poultry, farm work stock, baling twine and baling wire, and containers for fruits, vegetables, grain and animal wastes used exclusively in farming, including dairy farming, agriculture, horticulture or floriculture*

when engaged in by the purchaser or user as a business enterprise." Effective on December 1, 1981 and thereafter, "exclusively" as used in s. 77.54 (3m) and in this section means that the items mentioned in s. 77.54 (3m) are used solely in farming to the exclusion of all other uses, except that the sales and use tax exemption for such items will not be invalidated by an infrequent and sporadic use other than in farming.

1. Seeds for planting. "Seeds for planting" includes seeds for alfalfa, blue grass, canning peas, clover, field corn, field peas, rye grass, sweet corn, timothy and vegetable seeds; plant parts capable of propagation; and bulbs. "Seeds for planting" does not include sod.

2. Plants. "Plants" include herbs, shrubs or young trees, slips or saplings planted or ready to plant.

3. Feed. a. "Feed" includes processed vegetable and animal products and essential minerals required for the normal nutritional needs of livestock, poultry and domestic fur bearing animals and other materials which are required for the normal nutritional needs of animals in some domestic environments, such as vitamins A, B-complex, D and E. Essential minerals include phosphorous, calcium, sodium, chlorine, iodine, iron, copper, sulfur, potassium, magnesium and zinc. Common feed additives containing these substances include cod liver oil, salt (granular or block), ground limestone, fish oil, fish meal, oyster shells and bone meal.

b. "Feed" includes medicated feed or drug carriers purchased for use as an ingredient of medicated feed, the primary purpose of which is the prevention of diseases in livestock or poultry. "Feed" does not include a mixture labeled and sold for specific treatment or cure of a disease. Medicines (including antibiotics) which are administered to animals or poultry directly or as an additive to drinking water are taxable.

4. Fertilizers and soil conditioners. a. "Fertilizer" means any substance containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash or any recognized plant food element or compound which is used primarily for its plant food content to improve the soil's agricultural qualities. "Fertilizer" and "soil conditioners" include fertilizer and insecticide combinations, agricultural minerals, carbon dioxide for application to land, urea, sewage sludge, liquid spray mixtures of minerals and plant nutrients, lime, compost, manure, peat moss and soy bean straw.

b. "Fertilizer" and "soil conditioners" do not include fill dirt, top soil, wood chips, wood shavings, litter and hormone growth stimulants. (The difference between fertilizers and hormone growth stimulants is that fertilizers nourish plants whereas hormone growth stimulants act upon the cellular structure.)

5. Sprays, pesticides and fungicides. "Sprays", "pesticides" and "fungicides" include disinfectant sprays, fly sprays and preparations used to destroy insects, mites, nematodes, slugs or other invertebrate animals injurious to plants and animals; chemicals used for crop disease, pest and weed control, including insecticides, rodenticides and pesticides used to sanitize and clean dairy equipment. Products used to sanitize dairy equipment are exempt, if they are registered with the U.S. environmental protection agency as pesticides, advertised and sold as pesticides, and each bottle, can or other container containing the pesticide has an EPA pesticide registration number on it.

Tax 11:

6. Containers for fruits, vegetables, grain and animal wastes. a. "Containers for fruits, vegetables, grain and animal wastes" includes any kind of personal property which is purchased exclusively for holding or storing fruit, vegetables, grains or animal wastes. The phrase does not include feed carts designed to hold various green and dry feeds.

b. A complete corn crib or grain bin may be purchased "knocked-down" in kit form and still qualify for this exemption. However, a person who contracts with a farmer to provide and install such a bin permanently into real estate is a consumer of the bin, not its seller. Such a contractor, dealer or installer, not being a farmer, may not furnish a Farmer's Exemption Certificate on the bin's purchase. Being the consumer, not a seller, the contractor must pay the sales tax to the supplier or report the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) on the purchase price directly to the department. A farmer who wishes to utilize the farmer's exemption certificate on the purchase of a grain bin or corn crib normally built on a slab or otherwise affixed to real estate may purchase the crib or bin separately and do any necessary installation work.

c. Farmers may purchase animal waste containers without tax or the component parts thereof, by issuing their supplier a properly completed "single purchase" Farmer's Exemption Certificate.

d. Silos are not included in the exemption. The purchaser of materials used in building a silo must pay the sales tax to the purchaser's supplier. A silo unloader may be purchased by a farmer as an exempt machine.

e. Milk cans are not covered by the farmer's exemption, but may be purchased without tax under the general exemption for shipping materials if they are used to transfer milk to the purchaser's customers.

7. Livestock and poultry. "Livestock" and "poultry" include animals, the products of which are normally used as food for human consumption, and domestically raised fur bearing animals (such as those purchased for breeding).

8. Farm work stock. "Farm work stock" means animals, such as draft horses and mules, which are used exclusively in farming. The phrase does not include dogs, riding horses, racing horses or laboratory animals. The food for animals which are not farm work stock is taxable (e.g., dog and cat food).

9. Semen. Semen used for artificial insemination of livestock is exempt.

(5) SERVICES FURNISHED TO FARMERS. (a) The repair, service, alteration, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspection or maintenance of tangible personal property which farmers may purchase without tax under s. 77.54 (3) and (3m), Stats., are also exempt from the sales and use tax under s. 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats. Thus, farmers may claim an exemption on the repair services for their tractors and other farm machines, but not on their furnaces, office machines or electric drills. Similarly, they may claim an exemption when having draft horses shod, but not when having riding horses shod.

(b) Breeding fees, and charges for artificial insemination of animals and veterinarians' services are not taxable.

(c) The exemptions under s. 77.54 (3), Stats., do not apply to farmers' purchases of other services which are taxable under s. 77.52 (2) (a), Stats., including telephone, laundry, dry cleaning and photographic services.

(d) A farmer's purchases of electricity and natural gas for residential use, and electricity for use in farming, are exempt under s. 77.54 (30), Stats., if billed during the period November 1 through April 30 each year. Natural gas sold to farmers for use in farm machines is exempt under s. 77.54 (3), Stats., during the entire year.

(6) SERVICES PROVIDED BY FARMERS. (a) *Nontaxable services.* The following services performed by farmers are not subject to the sales tax:

1. Custom work. The performance of custom farm services by one farmer for another farmer, such as harvesting hay or grain.

2. Training animals. The training of horses, dogs or other animals.

(b) *Taxable services.* The following services performed by farmers are taxable:

1. Boarding animals. The boarding of dogs, cats, riding horses, ponies or other recreational animals. The entire boarding charge is taxable, but the retailer may purchase the feed for the animals without tax by supplying a properly completed Resale Certificate.

2. Grooming animals. The grooming of recreational animals.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.12 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1989, except: (a) Chapter 64, Laws of 1971 created s. 77.54 (27), Stats., exempting semen, effective July 22, 1971; (b) Bailing wire and twine became exempt under 77.54 (3m), Stats., on December 24, 1975 under Chapter 146, Laws of 1975; (c) Chapter 1, Laws of 1979 provided a 6 month exemption under 77.54 (30), Stats., each year for electricity for residential use or for use in farming and a 12 month exemption for fuel oil, propane, coal, steam or wood for residential use, and (d) The definition of "feed lot" in sub. (2) (a) 2 and "exclusively" in sub. (4) (b) are effective on December 1, 1981.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1978, No. 267, eff. 4-1-78; am. (2) (intro.), (4) (a) 1., (4) (b) (intro.) and (5) (c), renum. (2) (a) to be (2) (a) 1. and am., cr. (2) (a) 2., Register, November, 1981, No. 311, eff. 12-1-81; am. (2) (a) 1., (4) (b) 5., 6. c. and 9., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (4) (a) 1., 3. and 5., and (5) (c), cr. (5) (d), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (4) (a) (intro.) and 7., (4) (b) 6. b., Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.13 Sale of a business or business assets. (ss. 77.51 (9) (a) and (14g) (h), 77.52 (12) and 77.54 (7), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. The sale of business assets consisting of tangible personal property by a person who holds or is required to hold a seller's permit at the time of the sale is subject to the sales tax.

(a) The tax applies if the business assets are sold as:

1. A disposition of surplus assets of a continuing business.

2. A single transaction or series of transactions at the time of termination of a business.

3. Piecemeal sales, whether part of a continuing business or upon termination.

(b) The tax does not apply to merchandise inventory purchased for resale in the regular course of the purchaser's business.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(2) **EFFECT OF HOLDING A SELLER'S PERMIT.** (a) Pursuant to s. 77.51 (9) (a), Stats., a person holding or required to hold a seller's permit at the time of disposition of business assets may not claim the occasional sale exemption. A person may qualify for the occasional sale exemption if that person delivers the seller's permit to the department for cancellation prior to the disposition. However, the holder of a seller's permit must wait until ceasing business before delivering the permit to the department because a person may not continue regular business operations without a permit.

(b) A person who operates at more than one business location each of which requires the holding of a seller's permit, and who ceases to operate at one of the business locations, and sells the assets at that location, cannot qualify for the occasional sale exemption.

Note: Permits issued by the department are general in nature and can be used to sell any kind of tangible personal property or taxable services at one location. One permit is required under the statute for each location at which a person has business operations which require the holding of a seller's permit.

(3) **DELIVERY OF SELLER'S PERMIT.** A permit holder may deliver the seller's permit to the department for cancellation in any one of the following ways:

(a) Retailers may personally deliver their seller's permits to a representative of the department's income, sales, inheritance and excise tax division at the representative's office during regular office hours. The department shall presume the permit was received at 12:01 a.m. on the day it is received.

(b) The seller's permit may be mailed to the department (P.O. Box 8902, Madison 53708) accompanied by a letter requesting that the permit be canceled on or after the postmark date. Delivery is effective at 12:01 a.m. on the postmark date of a postpaid properly addressed envelope, if the envelope and its contents are actually received by the department. If the retailer desires assurance that the department has received the permit, the retailer may use certified mail, return receipt requested.

(c) If the retailer's seller's permit is not available to be delivered (for example, if it has been lost or destroyed), the retailer may send a letter requesting the cancellation of the permit on or after the postmark date. The letter should clearly explain why it is not possible to deliver the actual seller's permit.

(4) **CANCELLATION OF SELLER'S PERMIT.** (a) Although a seller's permit may be deemed to have been delivered and canceled on a postmark date under sub. (3), cancellation shall not be effective prior to the postmark date.

(b) If a permit is delivered to the department for cancellation, the permittee shall immediately qualify for the occasional sale exemption, even though the person contemplates a subsequent sale of fixtures or equipment. The person shall not qualify for the occasional sale exemption, however, if the person holds or is required to hold another seller's permit for some other sales operation.

(c) The fact that a business ceases operations and no longer conducts its day to day sales of tangible personal property or taxable services shall not result in the automatic cancellation of a seller's permit. Section 77.52

(12), Stats., requires a permittee to “. . . forthwith surrender his permit . . .” when ceasing to operate as a seller. If the permittee does not surrender the permit at that time, the person shall not qualify for the occasional sale exemption until the permit is surrendered to the department for cancellation.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except for subs. (2), (3) and (4). The procedure described in subs. (2), (3) and (4) are effective May 4, 1976 and reflect the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in *Three Lions Supper Club, Ltd. v. Dept. of Revenue* (May 4, 1976), 72 Wis. 2d. 546.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1978, No. 267, eff. 4-1-78; renum. (2) to be (2) (a), cr. (2) (b), r. (5), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.14 Exemption certificates (including resale certificates). (ss. 77.52 (13) to (16), and 77.53 (10) and (11), Stats.) (1) STATUTES. The sales tax status of exemption certificates is contained in s. 77.52 (13) to (16), Stats., and the use tax status of exemption certificates is contained in s. 77.53 (10) and (11), Stats.

(2) GENERAL. (a) Exemption certificates are signed by purchasers or lessees and are given to sellers or lessors to verify that a transaction is exempt. Sellers and lessors can exclude from taxable gross receipts transactions for which they have accepted a valid exemption certificate in good faith from a purchaser. The department has provided retailers with 4 types of exemption certificates, each of which is designed for use in specific types of transactions. These certificates, discussed individually in this rule, are the following:

1. Resale Certificate (Form S-205).

2. Certificate of Exemption (Form S-207).

3. Manufacturer's Exemption Certificate (Form S-207m).

4. Farmer's Exemption Certificate (Form S-206).

(b) Use of an exemption certificate designed by the department is not required by law. A person may use a substitute exemption certificate if it contains all the essential information relating to the transaction and if it is in a form approved by the department. The law requires that the certificate be signed by and bear the name and address of the purchaser and that it indicate the general character of the property or service being purchased and the basis of the claimed exemption.

(c) Under ss. 77.54 (3) and 77.57, Stats., if a purchaser certifies in writing by using an exemption certificate, other than a resale certificate, that the property purchased will be used for activities or under circumstances which makes the purchase of the property exempt from the sales tax, and the property is subsequently used in a manner that makes the property ineligible for exemption from tax, the purchaser shall pay the sales tax.

(3) EFFECT OF OBTAINING CERTIFICATE. (a) A seller is relieved of liability for the tax if the seller takes from the purchaser a valid, written resale or exemption certificate which certifies that the purchaser will use the property or service in a manner or for a purpose entitling the seller to accept the certificate in good faith.

(b) To be valid, a resale or other exemption certificate must upon its face disclose a proper basis for exemption. The use of phrases such as “nontaxable”, “exempt” or similar terminology do not provide a proper

basis for an exemption. A certificate must be properly executed, dated and contain all the necessary information. Thus, all retailers should be familiar with the instructions contained in the certificate. A certificate claiming an exemption not provided by law is not valid.

(c) If a certificate is valid, a seller or lessor who accepts the certificate in good faith is relieved of any liability for collection or payment of tax upon transactions covered by the certificate. For good faith to be shown, the certificate shall contain no statement or entry which the seller or lessor knows, or has reason to believe, is false or misleading. The question of good faith is one of fact and depends upon a consideration of all the conditions surrounding the transaction. If the seller accepts a certificate with knowledge which gives rise to a reasonable inference that the purchaser does not intend to use the item or service as claimed, the good faith of the seller will be questioned. The seller is presumed to be familiar with the law and rules of the department relating to the business or businesses in which the seller is involved.

(4) **FAILURE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE.** If a seller does not obtain a certificate, a seller is not relieved from liability for the tax, nor from the burden of proving the sale was for resale or otherwise exempt. It is not a satisfactory substitute for obtaining an exemption certificate from the purchaser, for the seller to accept payment of the seller's billing with the tax or tax reimbursement deleted, or to accept the purchaser's permit number, or a statement that the transaction is not taxable.

(5) **CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATES.** (a) Continuous exemption certificates do not expire and need not be renewed at any prescribed interval. However, they should be renewed at reasonable intervals in case of a business change, registration number change or discontinuance of the specific business claiming the exemption. The seller should periodically review exemption certificates on file to ascertain that the person claiming the exemption is the person who furnished the certificate.

(b) Continuous exemption certificates (including continuous resale certificates) approved by the department do not allow a purchaser to issue "this time only" purchase orders canceling the continuous tax exemption certificate for the one transaction only. The notation "taxable" on a purchase order is not sufficient to relieve a purchaser of the responsibility for his or her previously issued continuous certificate, unless it is accompanied by a separate letter explaining the inapplicability of the previously issued certificate to a particular order.

(6) **RESALE CERTIFICATE (Form S-205).** (a) *Effect of obtaining resale certificate.* 1. The burden of proving that a sale of property or services is not at retail is upon the seller unless the seller accepts a certificate from the purchaser certifying that the property is purchased for resale. If valid and accepted in good faith from a person who is in the business of selling tangible personal property or taxable services and who holds a seller's permit, the certificate relieves the seller from liability for the sales tax and the duty of collecting the use tax.

2. If a purchaser gives a resale certificate for property acquired and then makes any storage or use of the property other than retention, demonstration or display while holding it for sale in the regular course of business, the storage or use is taxable as of the time the property is first stored or used. The use tax shall be reported and paid by the purchaser

with the tax return for the period in which the property is first so stored or used.

(b) *Contents of resale certificates.* A resale certificate (Form S-205) shall contain the following information:

1. The name and address and the signature of the purchaser.
2. A description of the general character of the tangible personal property or service sold by the purchaser.
3. A general description of the property or service purchased for resale if a "continuous" resale certificate is used, or an itemization of the property or service purchased if a "single purchase" certificate is used.
4. The seller's permit number of the purchaser, except that: a. A wholesaler who sells only to other sellers for resale may insert "wholesale only" in the space for a seller's permit number; or
b. A person registered as a seller in another state, who makes no retail sales in Wisconsin, may insert the name of the state in which registered and the permit number issued to the person by that state.
5. An indication of the general character of the purchaser's business. This is for the protection of the seller, since it may enable the seller to determine whether a particular type of property or service may be sold without collecting the tax. If the nature of the business described is such that the property or services purchased normally would not be resold, the seller should question the purchaser's reason for issuing the certificate. If a satisfactory answer cannot be provided, the certificate should not be accepted. For example, a "continuous" resale certificate describing a business as a "tavern" normally should not be accepted for the sale of a radio, camera, auto part or other item not regularly sold by taverns. If all of these conditions are met, the seller is relieved from the burden of proving that the sale of property or services was not a taxable sale.

(7) **CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION (Form S-207).** (a) The certificate of exemption (Form S-207) is a multiple purpose form which may be used for purchasing any of the following 6 exempt types of property or services:

1. Containers and other packaging, packing and shipping materials used to transfer merchandise to customers of the purchaser.
2. Tangible personal property becoming an ingredient or component part of an article of tangible personal property in any form destined for sale.
3. Trailers or accessories, attachments, parts, supplies, materials and service on motor trucks, tractors and trailers which are used exclusively in common or contract carriage.
4. Property or services purchased directly by and used by a religious, charitable, educational, scientific or other organization holding a Certificate of Exempt Status (C.E.S.). Sales to organizations holding a C.E.S. also can be shown to be exempt by a retailer's recording the certificate number on its bill of sale. A corporation, community chest fund, foundation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty

to children or animals which is located out-of-state, may use the Certificate of Exemption (Form S-207) to purchase without tax even though it has not been issued a Wisconsin Certificate of Exempt Status.

5. Railway cars, locomotives and other rolling stock used in railroad operations, or accessories, attachments, parts or fuel therefor.

6. Commercial vessels and barges of 50-ton burden or over engaged in interstate or foreign commerce or commercial fishing, and accessories, attachments, parts and fuel therefor.

(b) A certificate of exemption may also be used for any other exemption provided by law, except for resale, or for farmers' or manufacturers' exemption claims. The use of the Form S-207 is explained on the back of the certificate.

(8) MANUFACTURER'S EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (Form S-207m). (a) A supplier which accepts a properly completed manufacturer's exemption certificate (Form S-207m) in good faith marked for "continuous" use may make sales to the manufacturer without collecting the tax if the nature of the property or services sold qualifies for one of the exempt uses claimed by the manufacturer on the form. If a Form S-207m is a "continuous" form, each purchase order of the manufacturer shall refer to it. If an individual order contains both exempt and non-exempt purchases, the purchaser must designate which items are taxable.

(b) If the manufacturer uses "single purchase" certificates, it may print these as an integral part of its purchase orders, as long as the essential information on the approved form is retained.

(9) FARMER'S EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE (Form S-206). A retailer shall have a signed farmer's exemption certificate (Form S-206) for every exempt sale made to a farmer. Rule Tax 11.12 describes the types of property which may be sold to farmers without tax, and the use of the farmer's exemption certificate.

(10) DIRECT PAY PERMITS. The law does not provide for use of direct pay permits by manufacturers or other businesses. Such permits are allowed in certain states and authorize a purchaser to report taxes directly to the state, even when making taxable purchases from in-state suppliers. Thus, under Wisconsin law, a purchaser must furnish a supplier with the appropriate exemption certificate when making exempt purchases. Assertions by a purchaser that the purchaser will pay the use tax or sales tax pursuant to sub. (2) (c) directly to the state should not be accepted, as they do not relieve the seller of the obligation to report the tax on such sales.

(11) IMPROPER USE OF CERTIFICATES. A purchaser who gives an exemption certificate knowing at the time that the transaction is not exempt may be guilty of a misdemeanor. (s. 77.52 (16), Stats.) Such purchaser may also be liable for other penalties provided by law for filing incorrect returns.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78; am. (7) (a) 4., Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; cr. (2) (c) and am. (10), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87. Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11.15 Containers and other packaging and shipping materials. (ss. 77.54 (3m) and (6) (b), Stats.) (1) **ITEMS EXEMPT UNDER s. 77.54 (6) (b).** (a) To be exempt, containers, labels, sacks, cans, boxes, drums, bags or other packaging and shipping materials for use in packing, packaging or shipping tangible personal property shall be "used by the purchaser to transfer merchandise to customers". Whether the containers or other packaging or shipping materials are returnable or nonreturnable is not a factor.

(b) Containers include barrels, bottles, cartons, chemical carboys and kegs. Packaging and shipping materials include property used inside a package to shape, form, preserve, stabilize or protect the contents (such as excelsior, straw, cotton, cardboard fillers, separators, shredded paper, ice, dry ice and batting) and rope, twine, gummed tape, wrapping paper, rubber bands, crates and crating materials, pallets, skids and mailing tubes.

(c) Gross receipts from the sale of the following items are within the exemption:

1. Cans in which canned goods, paints and other commodities are contained; medicine bottles; boxes in which jewelry, candy, suits, dresses and hats are delivered to customers; and ice cream cartons.

2. Bottles and cases used by breweries, wineries or soda water beverage producers to transfer the product to customers.

3. Barrels, half-barrels, kegs and the like, used by a brewery to transfer draft beer to wholesalers or retailers.

4. Caps for milk, beer and soda water bottles.

5. "Fragile", "Handle with Care" or other shipping labels.

6. Paper food dividers used to separate food sections in a container for transfer to a customer.

7. Paper bags purchased by grocery stores, bakeries or other retailers and used by their customers in carrying out their purchases.

8. Feed bags purchased by feed dealers who use such bags to transfer merchandise sold to their customers.

9. Bale ties sold to a hay owner and used to deliver hay to the owner's customers.

10. Ice used by a commercial fisherman inside a box of fish to preserve the fish during shipment to market.

11. LPG tanks used to transfer fuel to customers which are replaced each time the fuel is exhausted.

12. Packaging and shipping materials for use in packing, packaging or shipping meat or meat products, regardless of whether such items are used to transfer merchandise to customers, are exempt.

(2) **ITEMS NOT EXEMPT UNDER s. 77.54 (6) (b).** Gross receipts from the sales of the following items are not within the exemption:

(a) Wrapping equipment such as paper holders, tape dispensers, staplers and string holders.

Tax 11

- (b) Coat hangers used on display racks in stores.
- (c) Shopping carts or baskets and similar equipment.
- (d) Computer produced gummed label mailing lists used to address envelopes. However, labels for envelopes used to transfer tangible personal property to customers are exempt.
- (e) Containers or other packaging and shipping materials used merely for storage or to transfer merchandise owned by a person from one location to another, such as bakery delivery carts and containers used in delivering bakery products to retailers.
- (f) Lumber or other material used for bracing, blocking, skidding or shoring items while in transit; and cardboard and paper used to line box cars.
- (g) "Valuable containers" such as fondue bowls, steins and popcorn poppers which are filled with cheese or other exempt food items and sold as a gift package. A "valuable container" is a container which has some use by virtue of its shape or design such that the purchaser envisions further use of the container after the contents have been removed. If the container's contents are not subject to the tax and the cost to the seller of the container or containers in a particular package is \$1 or more, the seller shall assign a reasonable part of the retail selling price of the total package to the valuable container or containers and pay a sales tax on that part of the selling price. If the contents of the container or containers are taxable items such candy, the entire gross receipts from the sale of the package are subject to the tax.
- (h) Price tags and advertising matter used in connection with the sale of tangible personal property, including counter display cards used for advertising and display purposes.
- (i) Tanks on trucks used to deliver merchandise to customers.
- (k) Corrugated boxes and other containers and related packing materials purchased by movers for use in transporting a customer's goods.

Note: In a decision dated November 23, 1979 in the case of *Leicht Transfer & Storage Co., Inc. vs. Wisconsin Department of Revenue* the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission held that corrugated boxes and related packing materials used by Leicht to transport a customer's property from one location to another do not come within the exemption in s. 77.54 (6) (b), Stats. This decision was affirmed by the Dane County Circuit Court on May 19, 1980, by the Court of Appeals, District IV on May 26, 1981.

(3) FARMER'S CONTAINER EXEMPTION. (a) Gross receipts from the sales of the following items are within the exemption in s. 77.54 (3m), Stats.:

1. Fruit baskets used by commercial orchards.
2. Grain storage bins purchased by farmers to store unprocessed corn, wheat, oats or other types of grain.
3. Boxes and crates used by a potato or berry farmer.
4. Animal waste containers or component parts thereof. This includes the usual building materials used to construct an animal waste container.

(b) Gross receipts from sales of the following items are not within this exemption:

1. Silos.
2. Egg cases and crates used by a poultry farm for gathering and storing eggs.
3. Plastic or wooden boxes used by apiaries for the collection and storage of honey.
4. Fruit jars or other containers used for home canning.
5. Gasoline or fertilizer storage tanks used on a farm.

(4) DEPOSITS ON RETURNABLE CONTAINERS. (a) Returnable container deposits received by a retailer at the time of the retail sale of tangible personal property (e.g., soft drink bottles, beer bottles and milk containers) and refunds of such deposits may be excluded from the computation of taxable gross receipts if they are excluded from gross receipts on the retailer's books of account.

(b) If a retailer's books of account include container deposits in gross receipts and if refunds of such deposits are deducted from gross receipts, the retailer shall use this method of reporting taxable gross receipts on a sales tax return. Under this method, the gross receipts from the deposit are subject to the tax and the tax may be collected from the customer. However, when the deposit is refunded to the customer, the applicable sales tax shall also be refunded to the customer.

(5) DISPOSABLE ITEMS USED BY RESTAURANTS. (a) Gross receipts from the sales to restaurants, cafeterias, caterers or vending machine operators of disposable items, including paper and plastic cups, plates, butter chips, hamburger and frankfurter baskets or buckets, utensils, straws, placemats, napkins, doggie bags, and wrapping materials, and toothpicks, transferred to customers for a valuable consideration by these persons as part of the sale of food, food products and beverages to customers are not subject to the tax.

(6) DEMURRAGE, LEASE OR RENTAL OF FUEL STORAGE TANKS. A gas supplier's monthly charge to a customer for the use of an LPG storage tank or other fuel storage tank which remains indefinitely on the customer's premises is taxable. The charge a supplier makes because a gas cylinder is retained by a customer beyond a 30-day period is also taxable. These "demurrage" charges constitute taxable rentals paid for the continuation of possession of the container. If a reasonable charge is made to the customer for the use of the container and the container is used *exclusively* for such leasing purposes, the gas supplier can issue a resale certificate when such supplier purchases the container. However, if the gas supplier furnishes a container or other storage tank to a customer without making a separately itemized charge for its use or charges only a nominal rental, the supplier shall be deemed the consumer of and shall pay tax on the acquisition of such containers or tanks.

(7) CONTAINERS SOLD. If a separate charge is made by a seller or lessor of tangible personal property to a customer for packaging materials used in connection with the shipment of the property, the charge for packaging materials becomes a part of the selling price or rental charge and is subject to the tax.

Tax 11

(8) **GIFT WRAPPING.** The amount charged for gift wrapping packages is taxable.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.15 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the exemption for meat packaging and shipping materials became effective on May 20, 1978 pursuant to Chapter 368, Laws of 1977.

In *Dernehl-Taylor Co. v. Department of Revenue* (Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission, May 26, 1978), it was held that the gross receipts for doggie bags qualify for the exemption under s. 77.54 (6) (b), Stats., because they are used to transfer merchandise to customers.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78; am. (5) (a) and (8), r. (5) (b), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; cr. (2) (k), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; renum. (2) (j) to be (1) (c) 12, and am., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.16 Common or contract carriers. (ss. 77.54 (5) (b), (12) and (13) and 77.57, Stats.) (1) **MOTOR CARRIERS.** (a) Section 77.54 (5) (b), Stats., provides a sales and use tax exemption for: "Motor trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, busses, trailers and semitrailers, and accessories, attachments, parts, supplies and materials therefor, sold to common or contract carriers who use such motor trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, busses, trailers and semitrailers exclusively as common or contract carriers, including the urban mass transportation of passengers as defined in s. 71.18 (2) (a)." Effective on December 1, 1981 and thereafter, "exclusively" as used in s. 77.54 (5) (b) and this section means that the motor trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, busses, trailers and semitrailers are used solely as common or contract carriers to the exclusion of all other uses, except that the sales and use tax exemption for such tangible personal property will not be invalidated by an infrequent and sporadic use other than as a common or contract carrier.

(b) Accessories, attachments, parts and supplies for exempt vehicles are exempt from the sales and use tax under s. 77.54 (5) (b), Stats. This exemption includes the following items if they are assigned to and carried on vehicles used exclusively as common or contract carriers: dollies, pianoboards, ladders, walkboards, tire chains, fire extinguishers, flares, bug deflectors, engine block heaters, defroster fans, auxiliary heaters and cooling units and their fuel, radios, flag kits including flags and reflectors, and items designed to be used with a vehicle which protect or secure the vehicle's load including tape, fitted tarpaulins, tarpaulin straps, furniture pads and covers, load holding chains, logistic straps and shoring beams. This exemption does not include corrugated boxes, containers and related materials that are transferred to customers in conjunction with the selling, performing or furnishing of a moving service, as provided in par. (h).

Note: In a decision dated May 19, 1980 in the case of *Leicht Transfer & Storage Co., Inc. vs. Wisconsin Department of Revenue* the Dane County Circuit Court reversed the November 23, 1979 decision of the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission and held that van equipment and supplies that are exempt under s. 77.54 (5) (b), Stats., include furniture pads, covers, packing supplies, tape, pianoboards, ladders, walkboards, straps, lining paper and corrugated boxes. The Court also stated that "It must be kept in mind that it is undisputed that all of the items are assigned to and carried on the vans." The Court of Appeals District IV, affirmed the Circuit Court's decision. Under this interpretation, the only corrugated boxes and packing materials that qualify for exemption under s. 77.54 (5) (b), Stats., are those that are assigned to and carried on an exempt van and that are not transferred to a customer.

(c) The sale or furnishing of repair, alteration, cleaning, painting and maintenance service to exempt vehicles shall be exempt.

(d) The exemption shall not apply to the following property used by common or contract carriers: automobiles as defined in s. 340.01 (4), Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Stats., station wagons as defined in s. 340.01 (61), Stats., and self-propelled vehicles for off-highway use such as road machinery, fork lifts and other industrial trucks.

(e) Equipment and supplies acquired by a carrier for the repair, service or maintenance of its exempt vehicle are not exempt, including clean towel service, cleaning supplies, repair tools, welding torches and welding gas, battery chargers, grinding discs and masking tape.

(f) If a vehicle purchased without tax is converted to private use, a use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) is due. The tax is measured by the sales price of the vehicle to the purchaser, except that if the taxable use first occurs more than 6 months after the sale to the purchaser, the measure of the tax may be, at the purchaser's option, either the sales price or the vehicle's fair market value at the time the taxable use first occurs.

(g) Examples of special situations related to this exemption include:

1. Moving. A truck purchased to transport pads and packing materials to and from moving jobs qualifies for this exemption.

2. Timber cutting and log hauling. Cutting down trees, cutting them into logs and hauling them to a mill as a private business operation voids the exemption, even though the trucker also hauls logs as a common or contract carrier for other persons at the same time.

3. Refuse, garbage or snow hauling. Trucks purchased for hauling refuse, garbage or snow do not qualify for the exemption.

4. Milk hauling. Vehicles of a milk or cheese factory that engages in hauling milk from farms to its plant for processing do not qualify for the exemption.

5. Towing disabled vehicles. Towing of vehicles to the repair facility of a garage-wrecker operator is part of a private repair business which is not exempt.

(h) The transfer to a customer of corrugated boxes, containers and related packing materials in conjunction with moving or transporting a customer's goods is incidental to the selling, performing or furnishing of the moving or transportation service. The service provider is the consumer of the property and shall pay tax on its purchase of the property to be transferred.

Note: The treatment of par. (h) first applies to transfers on or after September 1, 1983 under the provisions of 1983 Wisconsin Act 27.

(i) Motor carriers shall not be required to register as retailers with the department if their gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property or taxable services are \$1,000 or less within a calendar year. Persons who are exempt from registration under this standard shall pay sales or use tax on all purchases of tangible personal property or taxable services not otherwise exempt, including items that may be resold to customers. Persons who exceed the standard shall register with the department and obtain a seller's permit. Persons who register may purchase tangible personal property for resale without paying tax by issuing to their supplier a properly completed resale certificate or they may pay the tax to their

supplier and, if the property is resold, claim a credit for the tax paid against any sales tax due.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department is required to act on permit applications.

(2) RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK. (a) Section 77.54(12), Stats., provides a sales and use tax exemption for: "The gross receipts from the sales of and the storage, use or other consumption in this state of rail freight or passenger cars, locomotives or other rolling stock used in railroad operations, or accessories, attachments, parts, lubricants or fuel therefor."

(b) The exemption for rolling stock includes:

1. The sale or furnishing of repair, alteration, cleaning, painting and maintenance service to exempt rolling stock.

2. Purchases of any equipment which is operated on railroad rails, including an industrial firm's switching locomotives used to switch freight cars on its own property, except vehicles which may also be used on a highway.

3. Fuel used to heat a caboose, or run a compressor which cools a railway car.

4. A utility's coal cars used to haul coal from mines to the utility.

(c) The exemption does not apply to:

1. Rails, ties and other road building and maintenance materials.

2. Bracing materials, rough lumber and dunnage materials.

3. Ice to refrigerate a railway car.

(3) COMMERCIAL VESSELS. (a) Section 77.54 (13), Stats., provides a sales and use tax exemption for: "The gross receipts from the sales of and the storage, use or other consumption in this state of commercial vessels and barges of 50-ton burden or over primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce or commercial fishing, and the accessories, attachments, parts and fuel therefor."

(b) The exemption for commercial vessels applies to:

1. Vessels and barges primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce or commercial fishing that are documented under the laws of the United States showing a net tonnage of 50 tons or more.

2. Items that become a component part of the exempt commercial vessel.

3. The sale or furnishing of repair, alteration, cleaning, painting and maintenance of exempt commercial vessels.

(c) The exemption does not apply to consumable supplies or furnishings that are not attached to the vessel, such as bedding, linen, table and kitchenware, tables, chairs, lubricants, work clothes, acetylene gas, nets,

fishing tackle, lumber for dry docking, bracing, blocking and dunnage materials and other materials not incorporated into the vessel.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78; am. (1) (a) and (d), (3) (b) 1., Register, November, 1981, No. 311, eff. 12-1-81; am. (3) (b) 1., Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (1) (b), (d) and (2) (b) 2., r. and recr. (1) (e), cr. (1) (h) and (i), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (1) (f) and (3) (b) 1., Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.17 Hospitals, clinics and medical professions. (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 1 and 9, 77.54 (9a), (14), (14g), (14m), (14r), (14s), (20) (c) 4, (22) and (28), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** (a) Although professional personnel in hospitals and clinics and other members of medical professions including physicians, surgeons, oculists, optometrists and podiatrists regularly transfer antibiotics, bandages, splints and other tangible personal property to their patients in the performance of professional services, the transfer of such property is an incident of a service rather than a retail sale of such property. The persons are, therefore, deemed the consumers of the items in the same way they are the consumers of other materials and supplies used by them in the performance of their services. Accordingly, the suppliers of hospitals, clinics and members of medical professions are retailers obligated to register and report tax on sales of tangible personal property or taxable services, unless the transaction is specifically exempt from the tax.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(b) Section 77.54 (14) (b), Stats., specifically provides an exemption for medicines furnished by a licensed physician, surgeon or podiatrist to that person's patient for medical treatment. Section 77.54 (22), Stats., provides an exemption for medical appliances and prosthetic devices. The scope of these exemptions is set forth in rules Tax 11.08, 11.09 and 11.45.

(2) **PURCHASES BY HOSPITALS.** Purchases by hospitals are exempt from the sales and use tax if the hospitals are nonprofit and, as such, qualify as charitable organizations under s. 77.54 (9a), Stats. Each is issued a Certificate of Exempt Status ("C.E.S.") by the department. When purchasing goods and services a hospital can furnish its C.E.S. number to its supplier, and the supplier may make sales of every type of tangible personal property or services to the hospital without tax. Hospitals organized for profit do not qualify for this exemption.

(3) **PURCHASES BY CLINICS AND MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.** Purchases made by medical clinics and physicians are subject to the sales or use tax unless specifically exempt by law. To be exempt, the items on the exempt list must be furnished to patients at the direction of a physician, surgeon or podiatrist in conjunction with providing medical service, except for items noted with an asterisk. These items are exempt even though not purchased under the direction of the health professional. The following is a partial list of taxable and exempt purchases of clinics and members of the medical professions.

Taxable	Exempt
Adhesive tape	*Artificial eyes and limbs
Alcoholic beverages	Bone pins and plates
Bandages, gauze and cotton	*Crutches and wheel chairs
Bed pans	Diaphragms
Beds and linens	*Dietary foods
Compresses and dressings	*Disposable syringes containing insulin
Cosmetics	Dye
Deodorants and disinfectants	*Hearing aids and parts
Distilled water	Medical oxygen and equipment to administer oxygen
Enema kits	Medicines
Instruments	*Needles and syringes used by diabetics
Laboratory equipment and supplies	Oral contraceptives
Medical equipment	Pacemakers
Office equipment and supplies	Prescription drugs
Paper products	Prophylactics
Printed material	Rubbing alcohol
Rib belts and supports	Suppositories
Soda water beverages	Sutures
Soap	Vaccines
Splints and cast materials	Vaginal creams and jellies
Uniforms and gowns	Vitamins
X-ray film and machines	

(4) SALES BY HOSPITALS, HOSPITAL AUXILIARIES, CLINICS AND MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS. (a) The gross receipts from sales of the following are exempt from the tax:

1. Charges made by hospitals to patients for rooms, medical services and other items including charges for anesthesia and anesthesia supplies, bandages applied in the hospital, blood and blood plasma, dressings applied in the hospital, intravenous solutions, laboratory tests, oxygen, radiation and x-ray treatment.

2. Hospitals' sales of meals, food, food products and beverages to patients, staff or visitors.

(b) The gross receipts from the sales of the following are taxable:

1. A hospital's specific charge to a patient for the rental of a television set.

2. Parking fees.

3. Sales of tangible personal property or taxable service by a clinic, which sales are not directly related to the rendition of medical services.

4. Sales of meals and other tangible personal property by an organization affiliated with a hospital (e.g., if a ladies' auxiliary of a hospital operates a coffee shop on the hospital premises, gross receipts from this business are taxable).

5. An optometrist's sales of nonprescription sun glasses, contact lens solution, thermal and chemical care units for contact lenses and other

types of tangible personal property ordinarily taxable when sold at retail, unless the gross receipts from such sales are less than \$1,000 within a calendar year. Optometrists whose receipts from taxable items equal or exceed \$1,000 annually shall register with the department and obtain a seller's permit. Those whose receipts from taxable items are less than \$1,000 shall be exempt as occasional sellers and shall pay tax to their suppliers or a use tax, as appropriate, on purchases of taxable items.

(5) **HOSPITAL DEFINITION.** Section 50.33 (1), Stats., provides the definition of hospital which is to be used for sales tax purposes.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.17 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the exemption in sub. (3) for needles and syringes used by diabetics became effective November 19, 1975 pursuant to Ch. 102, Laws of 1975, and the exemption in sub. (3) for oxygen equipment became effective September 1, 1983 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 27.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1978, No. 269, eff. 6-1-78; am. (4) (a) 1, and cr. (4) (b) 5., Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (3), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (1) (a), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85.

Tax 11.18 Dentists and their suppliers. (ss. 77.52 (1) and 77.54 (14) and (22) (c), Stats.) (1) **DENTISTS.** Charges by dentists for dental services are not subject to the sales tax. In addition, charges by dentists for artificial teeth, fillings, bridges, crowns or inlays are not subject to the tax.

(2) **EXEMPT SALES TO DENTISTS.** The gross receipts from the following sales to dentists are not taxable: medicines (such as nitrous oxide, oxygen or novocain), gold, silver, other alloys used to fill teeth, cement, crowns, inlays, fillings and other items of tangible personal property sold to dentists which are installed in a patient's mouth and are intended to remain there. The labor charge of a dental supplier to fabricate such items also is not taxable.

(3) **TAXABLE SALES TO DENTISTS.** Equipment, materials and supplies sold to dentists which are used to conduct their business provided these items are not included in the list of exempt sales in sub. (2) above.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law effective September 1, 1969. In *Dept. of Revenue v. Milwaukee Refining Corp.*, 80 Wis. 2d 44 (1977), the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that gold bars sold to dentists who use the gold in the course of rendering their professional services are not subject to the sales and use tax.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78.

Tax 11.19 Printed material exemptions. (ss. 77.51 (8), 77.52 (2) (a) 11, 77.54 (2m), (9a), (15), (25) and (30), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** All retail sales of tangible personal property, including printed material, are subject to the tax, except when a specific exemption applies to the transaction. This rule describes exemptions which commonly apply to sales of printed material.

(2) **STATUTES.** (a) Section 77.52 (2) (a) 11 imposes the sales and use tax on certain services. However, an exemption (effective March 15, 1970) is provided for the printing or imprinting of tangible personal property furnished by consumers, which property will be subsequently transported outside the state for use outside the state by the consumer for advertising purposes.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(b) Section 77.54 (15), Stats., provides an exemption for the sale of newspapers, periodicals sold by subscription and regularly issued at average intervals not exceeding 3 months and shoppers guides.

(c) Section 77.54 (25) provides an exemption for printed material which is designed to advertise and promote the sale of merchandise, or to advertise the services of individual business firms, which printed material is purchased and stored for the purpose of subsequently transporting it outside the state by the purchaser for use thereafter solely outside the state.

(d) Section 77.54 (2m), Stats., provides an exemption for "The gross receipts from the sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property or services that become an ingredient or component of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals or that are consumed or lose their identity in the manufacture of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals, whether or not the shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals are transferred without charge to the recipient." This exemption applies to newspapers, shoppers guides and to periodicals which are issued at average intervals not exceeding 3 months. It does not apply to advertising supplements that are not newspapers as defined in s. 77.51 (30), Stats.

(3) NEWSPAPERS, SHOPPERS GUIDES AND PERIODICALS DEFINED. (a) Section 77.51 (8), Stats., defines a "newspaper" under ch. 77 as: ". . . those publications which are commonly understood to be newspapers and which are printed and distributed periodically at daily, weekly or other short intervals for the dissemination of current news and information of a general character and of a general interest to the public. In addition, any publication which qualifies as a newspaper under s. 985.03 (1) is a newspaper. 'Newspaper' also includes advertising supplements if they are printed by a newspaper and distributed as a component part of one of that newspaper's publications or if they are printed by a newspaper or a commercial printer and sold to a newspaper for inclusion in publications of that newspaper. A 'newspaper' does not include handbills, circulars, flyers, or the like, advertising supplements not described in this subsection which are distributed with a newspaper, nor any publication which is issued to supply information on certain subjects of interest to particular groups, unless such publication otherwise qualifies as a newspaper within this subsection. In this subsection, advertising is not considered news of a general character and of a general interest."

(b) Section 77.54 (15), Stats., defines a shoppers guide as: "a community publication delivered, or attempted to be delivered, to most of the households in its coverage area without a required subscription fee, which advertises a broad range of products and services offered by several types of businesses and individuals."

(c) The exemption for periodicals is limited to publications which are sold by subscription and which are regularly issued at average intervals not exceeding 3 months each issue of which contains news or information written by different authors which is of general interest to the public, or to some particular organization or group of persons. Each issue must bear a relationship to prior or subsequent issues in respect to continuity of literary character or similarity of subject matter, and there must be some connection between the different issues of the series in the nature of the articles appearing in them. To qualify for the exemption, the publica-

tion must qualify for the second class mail rate or as a controlled circulation publication under U.S. postal laws and regulations.

(d) The newspaper and periodical exemption does not apply to books complete in themselves, even those issued at stated intervals (for example, books sold by the Book of the Month Club or similar organizations); paperback books, a new one of which may be issued once a month or some other interval; or so-called "one-shot" magazines that have no literary or subject matter connection or continuity between prior or subsequent issues. The exemption also does not apply to catalogs, programs, scorecards, handbills, maps, real estate brokers' listings, price/order books, corporate reports to stockholders, house organs, or to advertising materials which become a component part of a periodical.

(4) PRINTED ADVERTISING MATERIALS FOR OUT-OF-STATE USE. (a) Effective May 21, 1972 printed advertising materials such as catalogs and their mailing envelopes may be purchased from Wisconsin or out-of-state suppliers without tax pursuant to s. 77.54 (25), Stats., when such materials are purchased and stored for the purpose of subsequently transporting the same outside the state by the purchaser for use thereafter solely outside this state. The exemption applies to catalogs designed to be used by a retailer's potential customers.

(b) The exemption does not apply to materials shipped to Wisconsin addresses. It also does not apply to parts price lists, parts stock order books, order forms, stocking and purchasing guides, display racks, or 3-dimensional plastic items designed to be used by wholesalers and retailers. Matchbooks, calendars, calendar pads, desk pads, folders, binders, envelopes which do not contain exempt advertising material and playing cards also do not qualify for the exemption.

(5) EXEMPT PURCHASERS. Sales of printed material to governmental units, public schools, and certain nonprofit religious, charitable, educational or scientific organizations holding a certificate of exempt status are exempt under s. 77.54 (9a) or 77.55 (1), Stats. Sales to governmental units and public schools need not be supported by exemption certificates, if a copy of the purchase order from such organization is retained. Sales to persons holding a certificate of exempt status can be shown to be exempt by recording the certificate number on the bill of sale.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.19 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) where other dates are shown; (b) the second class mail standard described in sub. (3) became effective on August 1, 1974; (c) the exemption for sales of shoppers guides became effective July 1, 1978; (d) the exemption for ingredients and components of shoppers guides, newspapers and periodicals described in par. (2) (d) became effective July 2, 1983; (e) the definition of newspaper in par. (3) (a) was added to the law effective July 2, 1983; and the limitation of the periodical exemption to "periodicals sold by subscription" became effective July 2, 1983.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1979, No. 284, eff. 9-1-79; am. (2) (c) and (4) (b), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (2) (b) and (3) (c), cr. (2) (d), r. and recr. (3) (a) and (b), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.26 Other taxes in taxable gross receipts and sales price. (s. 77.51 (4) (a) 4, and (15) (a) 4, Stats.) (1) GENERAL RULE. (a) Tangible personal property sold at retail often is subjected to many direct and indirect taxes prior to reaching a retailer. Such taxes are commonly included in the price the retailer pays for the property and are not separately identifiable as taxes. Occasionally, however, a tax is either separately passed on to a retailer or is imposed at the retail level of activity, but is different

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

from and in addition to the sales tax. Such tax may be imposed by this state, the federal government or a municipality.

(b) In determining the measure of sales and use taxes, certain separately stated or separately passed on taxes are included in gross receipts and the sales price, while others are not. However, the same taxes that are included or excluded from gross receipts are also included or excluded from sales price. Thus, the treatment of such taxes for sales and use tax purposes is identical, even though the measure of tax for each is gross receipts and sales price, respectively.

(2) TAXES SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED AS PART OF GROSS RECEIPTS AND SALES PRICE. The following taxes shall be included in a retailer's gross receipts and sales price:

(a) The fermented malt beverage tax imposed by s. 139.02, Stats.

(b) The taxes imposed upon intoxicating liquors (including wine) by s. 139.03, Stats.

(c) Any federal stamp tax and manufacturer's or importer's excise tax. Presently there are federal excise taxes on tires, inner tubes, tread rubber, certain trucks, truck parts, firearms, ammunition, lubricating oils, fishing equipment, cigarettes, beer, and intoxicating liquor (including wine).

(d) A federal, county or municipal fuel tax included in the price of special fuels and general aviation fuel subject to the sales tax (e.g., sales for use in aircraft, boats and other non-highway use).

(e) The cigarette tax imposed by s. 139.31 or 139.33, Stats.

(f) The Canadian or any other country's export gallonage tax on fuels.

(g) The tobacco products tax imposed under ss. 139.76 and 139.78, Stats.

(3) TAXES SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM GROSS RECEIPTS OR SALES PRICE. The following taxes shall be excluded from a retailer's gross receipts or sales price:

(a) The federal communications tax imposed upon intrastate telegraph service and telephone service.

(b) Any tax imposed by the United States, this state or a Wisconsin municipality upon or with respect to retail sales, whether imposed upon the retailer or consumer, if measured by a percentage of sales price or gross receipts and if the retailer is required to pay the tax to the governmental unit which levied the tax (e.g., the tax provided in s. 66.75, Stats., which municipalities are permitted to impose upon hotel and motel operators who furnish lodging to transients).

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77; am. (2) (d) and (e) and cr. (2) (f), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; cr. (2) (g), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Tax 11.27 Warranties. (s. 77.51 (4) (a), Stats.) (1) RECEIPTS FROM WARRANTIES. The total gross receipts from a sale of taxable personal property Register, July, 1987, No. 379

by a retailer, who sells a warranty applicable to such property and includes a charge for the warranty in the sales price are taxable.

(2) **REPAIRS BY RETAILERS.** (a) A retailer who performs repair work, including supplying parts and services, without charge under a warranty of a manufacturer or other person is not subject to tax on the amount of the reimbursement received from the warrantor whether the reimbursement is in the form of money or the replacement of parts used to perform the repair work.

(b) Gross receipts from charges by a retailer to a customer for repair parts or service performed under a warranty are taxable, including gross receipts from the sale of service contracts. Charges by a manufacturer or other person for service contracts are taxable.

(c) A retailer who provides free parts or services or both to a customer in order to maintain good customer relations, although not required to do so under the sales agreement, shall report and remit a use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) measured by the retailer's purchase price of any parts used in providing such free service.

(3) **REPAIRS NOT BY RETAILER.** If a retailer does not repair property under a warranty but instead has another person perform such repairs, that person's gross receipts from the retailer for such repairs are exempt, since the repair parts and service are for resale by the retailer to its customer (payment occurred at the time of the original sale of the property and warranty). Such repairs are exempt whether or not the original sale occurred in this state. The person performing such repairs shall obtain a resale certificate from the retailer as evidence of the exempt status of its charges to the retailer.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (1), (2) (a) and (b), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.28 Gifts, advertising specialties, coupons, premiums and trading stamps. (s. 77.51 (4) (a) and (14) (k), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITIONS.** (a) Section 77.51 (14) provides that "sale", "sale, lease or rental", "retail sale", "sale at retail" or equivalent terms include:

"(k) Any sale of tangible personal property to a purchaser even though such property may be used or consumed by some other person to whom such purchaser transfers the tangible personal property without valuable consideration, such as gifts, and advertising specialties distributed gratis apart from the sale of other tangible personal property of service."

(b) For the privilege of selling, leasing or renting tangible personal property at retail, a sales and use tax is imposed upon all retailers' gross receipts from the sale, lease or rental of tangible personal property. Section 77.51 (4) (a) (intro.) provides:

" 'Gross receipts' means the total amount of the sale, lease or rental price, as the case may be, from sales at retail of tangible personal property, or taxable services, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise . . . "

(2) **GIFTS, GIFT CERTIFICATES, ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES AND SALES INCENTIVE PLANS.** Persons who make gifts of taxable personal property to others are the consumers of the property and the tax shall apply to the

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

gross receipts from the sale of the property to such persons. Such taxable sales include sales of samples, advertising material, display cases, racks and other similar marketing aids to manufacturers, distributors, jobbers and wholesalers acquiring such property for the purpose of giving it to retailers for use in selling merchandise to customers. For example, a paint manufacturer is the consumer of color cards which it provides to retailers without charge to facilitate the sale of the manufacturer's paint. A tavern operator is liable for the tax measured by the tavern operator's purchase price of liquor given free to customers. Samples furnished to doctors by drug manufacturers are deemed consumed by the manufacturer, and the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) applies to the cost of the ingredients. When a person purchases property for resale but uses the property for any purpose other than resale, such as giving it to customers or to a charity, the purchaser shall be liable for use tax based on the purchaser's cost of the merchandise.

(a) *Grand opening gifts.* A person who sells tangible personal property to a retailer who uses the property as gifts at a "grand opening" or similar event cannot accept a resale certificate in good faith if the seller is aware, or should be aware with the exercise of reasonable diligence, of how the property will be used. The seller shall be deemed to be aware of how the property is to be used if the retailer does not normally purchase this type of item or if the retailer does not normally purchase from the seller in such volume. In cases where a seller furnishes free property to a retailer for use as gifts at a "grand opening" or similar event, the person furnishing such property to the retailer is subject to the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) on its cost of the property donated.

(b) *Gift certificates.* The gross receipts from the sale of a gift certificate are not taxable because the certificate represents an intangible right. When a gift certificate is redeemed for taxable personal property, the transaction is completed and the retailer's tax liability accrues at that time.

(c) *Gifts shipped out-of-state.* When taxable property to be given as a gift is purchased at retail and the purchaser, without obtaining possession of the gift, directs the seller to ship it to an out-of-state person, gross receipts from the sale are not subject to the sales tax.

(d) *Sales incentive plans.* Persons transferring taxable personal property to salespersons or distributors or both in redemption of awards, such as "points", given under a sales incentive plan shall pay the tax on their purchases of such property.

(3) **COUPONS AND PREMIUMS.** (a) *Coupons for free property issued and redeemable by manufacturer.* When a manufacturer's coupons are distributed to consumers and subsequently are redeemed by a retailer for personal property without charge, the transfer of property by the retailer to the coupon holder is a sale, not a gift. The consideration for the sale, upon which the measure of tax is based if taxable personal property is transferred, is the amount the manufacturer reimburses the retailer for the coupon.

(b) *"Cents-off" coupons redeemable by manufacturers.* A common arrangement between manufacturers and retailers involves the use of "cents-off" coupons. Such coupons are distributed as part of a retailer's advertisements and are used by consumers toward the purchase of tangi-

ble personal property. The retailer then is reimbursed by the manufacturer. In this situation, a retailer's taxable gross receipts include the amount which the retailer is reimbursed and the amount paid by the customer presenting the coupon.

(c) *Coupons issued and redeemable by retailers.* When a retailer distributes coupons which its customers may use to obtain free premiums in the form of tangible personal property, there is no tax liability for the premiums if exempt property is given. However, if taxable property is given:

1. A retailer may not use a resale certificate when purchasing taxable property which the retailer knows is to be given as a premium to customers without the customers being required to purchase other property to receive the premium. If the premium was acquired without tax for resale because the retailer did not know at the time of purchase whether the property would be sold or used as a premium, the retailer shall report the use tax based on the cost of the property.

2. A retailer may not use a resale certificate when purchasing taxable property which the retailer knows will be given as a premium to a customer when that customer purchases other property which is not subject to the sales tax (e.g., gasoline and exempt food). If the premium was acquired without tax for resale because the retailer did not know at the time of purchase whether the property would be sold or used as a premium, the retailer is required to report the use tax based on the cost of the property.

3. A retailer may use a resale certificate when purchasing taxable property which will be given as a premium to the retailer's customer when that customer purchases other property which is also subject to the sales tax. Since this transaction is deemed a sale of both the premium and the other property, the retailer may purchase the premium without payment of the sales tax by claiming an exemption for resale.

4. The taxable gross receipts of retailers, who issue "cents-off" coupons which reduce the price of merchandise they sell and who receive no reimbursement from a manufacturer, are the reduced amounts charged the customer.

(4) **COUPON BOOKS, INCLUDING DINNER CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.** (a) A sales promotional agency may sell coupon books or voucher books to purchasers who use the coupons or vouchers in obtaining reduced prices from participating retailers. For example, coupon books may contain coupons entitling the purchaser to a free meal with the purchase of another meal, free dry cleaning or free bowling games. The coupon books may contain coupons redeemable by several retailers or may contain coupons redeemable by only one retailer. The sales promotional agency may have agreed to retain all receipts from the sales of coupon books, or to remit some portion of such receipts to the participating retailers.

(b) The sales promotional agency's receipts from sales of coupon or voucher books are not taxable, because the agency is providing an advertising service. However, any receipts received by participating retailers from the sales promotional agency are subject to the sales tax, if taxable property or services are furnished to the person using the coupon. Any additional receipts received from the person using the coupons also are taxable.

Tax 11

(c) Except for meals, retailers are subject to the sales and use tax on their cost of taxable property transferred when coupons are redeemed without consideration from a sales agency, the consumer or any other person. No use tax arises when a meal prepared from exempt food is given away, and the retailer shall not pass on any tax to the consumer of a free meal.

(5) **TRADING STAMPS.** (a) Furnishing trading stamps and stamp books, with or without charge, to a retailer is an advertising or sales promotional service. The person furnishing the stamps and books is the consumer of such material and shall pay the Wisconsin sales or use tax on purchases of the material.

(b) A retailer's taxable gross receipts shall not be reduced by the retailer's payments for trading stamps and stamp books or for payments to customers in redemption of such stamps.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (2) (intro.) and (a), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.29 Leases and rentals of tangible personal property. (ss. 77.51 (4) (c) 5, (13) (k), and (14) (j), 77.52 (1) and 77.58 (6), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL RULE.** Gross receipts from the lease or rental of tangible personal property shall be subject to the sales and use taxes to the same extent that gross receipts from the sale of the same property would be subject to the tax. Because a lease is a continuing sale for the duration of the lease while the leased property is situated in this state (s. 77.51 (14) (j), Stats.), a lessor shall pay tax on rental receipts for any period of time leased property is in Wisconsin, even though the property may have been acquired and/or used previously by the lessee in another state.

(2) **PURCHASES FOR RENTAL.** (a) A lessor's purchase of tangible personal property to be used solely for lease or rental shall be exempt as a purchase for resale.

(b) A lessor's purchase of lubricants, repair parts and repair services on personal property used solely for leasing shall also be exempt as a purchase for resale. However, if the same items are purchased by a renter or lessee, the purchases shall be taxable.

(c) Charges by a lessor to a lessee under a maintenance contract on leased personal property shall be taxable.

(3) **PROPERTY BOTH RENTED AND USED PERSONALLY.** If tangible personal property is purchased by a person who uses it part of the time and rents it out part of the time, the sale of the property to such person shall be taxable. The lessor's rental receipts shall also be taxable, unless the transaction is specifically exempt by statute.

(4) **SERVICE VS. RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT.** (a) A person who uses the person's own equipment to perform a job and who assumes responsibility for its satisfactory completion shall be performing a service.

(b) A person who furnishes equipment with an operator to perform a job which a lessee supervises and is responsible for the satisfactory completion of, shall be a lessor renting out such equipment. If it is customary or mandatory that the lessee accept an operator with leased equipment, Register, July, 1987, No. 379

the entire charge is subject to the tax. However, the operator's services shall not be taxable if billed separately and if a lessor customarily gives a lessee the option of taking the equipment without the operator.

(c) Charges for the rental of motor trucks shall be taxable. However, if drivers are provided by the truck's owner to operate the trucks and the public service commission and the department of transportation's division of motor vehicles consider the arrangement a transportation service under statute or under rules adopted by either or both of those state agencies, the charges shall not be taxable.

(5) CREDIT FOR SALES TAX PAID. If a lessor of tangible personal property paid a Wisconsin sales tax on the acquisition of property used solely for leasing purposes, the lessor may either request a refund of the sales tax from the seller or claim a credit against the tax due on rental receipts from the property involved. (s. 77.51 (4) (c) 5). If a credit is claimed, it shall expire when the cumulative rental receipts equal the sales price upon which the seller paid sales tax to the state.

(6) SPECIAL RENTAL SITUATIONS. (a) *Demurrage*. The charge a gas supplier makes to a customer-consumer, because a gas cylinder is retained beyond a 30 day (or other) period, shall be taxable. Such "demurrage" charges shall constitute rentals paid for the continuing possession of the cylinders.

(b) *Water softeners*. The gross receipts from rental of a cylinder type water softener which is periodically removed from a customer's premises for recharging and replaced by another unit shall be taxable.

(c) *Chemical toilets*. A lessor's entire charge for the use of chemical toilets used at fairs and other similar events shall be taxable, including cleaning services provided as part of the total charge.

(d) *Mobile homes*. Rental of a mobile home shall be taxable unless the mobile home is converted to real property by hooking it up to utilities and placing it on a foundation on land owned by the lessor. However, even if it is placed on a foundation and hooked up to utilities, a mobile home shall remain tangible personal property if the lessor does not own the realty on which it is located.

(e) *Lease cancellation charge*. A payment by a lessee to a lessor for the cancellation of a lease of tangible personal property shall be taxable. The payment shall be deemed consideration arising from the original lease since it effectively decreases the term of the lease and thereby increases the rental payments for the actual period the property was used.

(f) *Delivery and erection*. Lessors of scaffolding or other tangible personal property who set forth separate charges for transportation, assembly and disassembly shall pay tax on their total gross receipts. A lessee rents property when it is assembled and in place and the charges for transportation, assembly and disassembly shall be deemed part of a lessor's rental receipts.

(g) *Funeral coaches*. An owner of a hearse shall receive taxable gross receipts when the owner furnishes it (with or without a driver) to a funeral director who is responsible for conducting the funeral service. If it

Tax 11

is customary or mandatory that the lessee (funeral director) take the operator with the leased vehicle, the entire charge shall be taxable.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1977, No. 259, eff. 8-1-77.

Tax 11.30 Credit sales, bad debts and repossessions. (ss. 77.51 (4) (b), (c) 3 and (d), (14) (c) and (14r), 77.52 (6) and 77.53 (4), Stats.) (1) **CREDIT SALES.** (a) *Sales.* If taxable personal property is sold on credit, the entire amount of the retailer's gross receipts from the sale shall be taxable and shall be reported in the tax return for the period in which the sale is made. A sale involving the transfer of ownership of property is completed at the time and place where possession is transferred by the seller or the seller's agent to the purchaser or the purchaser's agent. The tax shall be reported on taxable gross receipts on the accrual basis, except when the department is satisfied that an undue hardship would exist and authorizes reporting on some other basis.

(b) *Repossessions.* No deduction from gross receipts shall be made if property sold on credit is repossessed unless the entire consideration paid by the purchaser is refunded or a deduction for worthless accounts is allowable under s. 77.51 (4) (b) 4, Stats.

(2) **BAD DEBTS.** (a) *Deduction from measure of tax.* A retailer is relieved from the liability for sales tax by ss. 77.51 (4) (b) 4 and 77.52 (6), Stats., or from liability to collect and report use tax by s. 77.53 (4), Stats., insofar as the measure of the tax is represented by accounts found worthless and charged off for income tax purposes or, if the retailer is not required to file income tax returns, charged off in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, only a retailer who has previously paid sales or use tax to this state on the accounts may claim the bad debt deduction. The deduction shall be taken from the measure of tax in the period in which the account is found to be worthless. That period is defined as any time within the retailer's fiscal or calendar year in which the account is written off. However, if the taxpayer is out of business when the account becomes worthless, a bad debt deduction may be claimed on the last return filed by that business, or through a refund claim or amended return filed within the statutory time allowed. Notes, which later become worthless, received on the sale of tangible personal property shall be treated in the same manner as other worthless accounts.

(b) *Recovery of bad debts charged off.* If any accounts found worthless and charged off are thereafter in whole or in part collected by the retailer, the amount so collected shall be included in the first return filed after such collection and the amount of the tax thereon paid with the return.

(c) *Amount deductible.* 1. *Nontaxable receipts.* If an account found worthless and charged off is comprised in part of nontaxable receipts (such as interest, financing or insurance) and in part of taxable receipts upon which tax has been paid, a bad debt deduction may be claimed only for the unpaid amount upon which tax has been paid. In determining that amount, all payments and credits to the account shall be applied ratably against the various charges comprising the amount the purchaser contracted to pay.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

2. Expenses of collection. No deduction is allowable for expenses incurred by the retailer in attempting to collect any account receivable, or for that portion of a debt recovered that is retained by or paid to a third party as compensation for services rendered in collecting the account.

(d) *Special situations.* 1. A purchaser of receivables is not entitled to a bad debt deduction for such receivables which subsequently become worthless.

2. A retailer who sells its receivables and agrees to bear any bad debt loss on them is entitled to a bad debt deduction to the same extent as if the accounts were not sold. However, a bad debt deduction is not allowable when receivables are sold outright at a discount.

3. A contractor engaged in real property construction activities is not entitled to a bad debt deduction, even though the total amount due the contractor under a real property construction contract cannot be collected, as the contractor is the consumer, not the retailer, of the tangible personal property used to fulfill the construction contract.

4. A retailer permitted to report gross receipts on the cash receipts basis may not claim a bad debt deduction.

(e) *Repossessions.* When property on which a receivable exists is repossessed, a bad debt deduction is allowable only to the extent that the retailer sustains a net loss of gross receipts upon which tax was paid. A net loss occurs when the sum of the pro rata portion of all payments, credits and the wholesale value of the repossessed property, attributable to the cash sales price of the property, is less than the cash sales price upon which sales or use tax was paid.

(3) **TAX RATE CHANGE.** If a deduction for bad debts is being claimed in a period when the tax rate is different from the tax rate in effect when the sale or sales were reported on tax returns, an adjustment to the deduction shall be made to compensate for the tax rate differential.

Note: Example: If tax was reported on a \$1,000 sale when the tax rate was 4%, \$40 tax was reported. If a bad debt deduction is taken for the sale in a 5% tax rate period, only 80% of the \$1,000, or \$800, may be taken as a bad debt, resulting in a tax credit of \$40. Four percent divided by 5% equals 80%.

Note: The interpretations in Tax 11.30 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the 4% tax rate was increased to 5% on May 1, 1982.

An example of the computation of the net loss described in sub. (2) (e) follows: Assume at the time when the tax rate is 5% a motor home is purchased on January 1 of a year for a cash price of \$15,000 and sales tax of \$750. A down payment of \$2,150 is made at the date of purchase, leaving a balance to finance of \$13,600. The motor home is financed with the seller for a period of one year at the rate of 10% of the amount financed. After receiving periodic payments totalling \$6,800, the mobile home is repossessed. The wholesale value of the property is \$6,000 on the date of repossession due to rather extensive damage to the mobile home. The deductible bad debt loss upon repossession of the mobile home is computed as follows:

	Cash Sales Price	Sales Tax	Finance Charge	Total
1. Sales price and tax	\$15,000.00	\$750.00	-	\$15,750.00
2. Down payment allocation (1)	2,047.62	102.38	-	2,150.00
3. Balance to finance	\$12,952.38	\$647.62	-	\$13,600.00
4. Add: Finance charge			1,360.00	1,360.00
5. Contract balance	\$12,952.38	\$647.62	\$1,360.00	\$14,960.00
6. Payments on contract (2)	5,887.45	294.37	618.18	6,800.00

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax II

7. Contract balance - date of repossession	\$7,064.93	\$353.25	\$ 741.82	\$ 8,160.00
8. Wholesale value of repossession(2)	<u>5,194.81</u>	<u>259.74</u>	<u>545.45</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>
9. Deductible loss	<u>\$1,870.12</u>			\$ 1,870.12
10. Nondeductible loss		<u>\$ 93.51</u>	<u>\$ 196.37</u>	<u>289.88</u>
11. Total loss				<u>\$ 2,160.00</u>
12. Percentage of sales price and tax (Line 1)	95.2381%	4.7619%		100%
13. Percentage of contract balance (Line 5)	86.5801%	4.3290%	9.0909%	100%

(1) The down payment on line 2 is allocated between the total cash sales price of the motor home and the sales tax thereon on the basis of the percentage of each to their total. The percentages are shown on line 12.

(2) The payments on the contract on line 6 and the wholesale value on the date of repossession of the property repossessed on line 8 are allocated on the basis of the contract balances on line 5. The percentages thereof are shown on line 13.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (2) (a) and cr. (3), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.32 "Gross receipts" and "sales price". (ss. 77.51 (4) (a) (intro.) and 4, (b) 1 and (c) 2, and (15) (a) (intro.) and 4, (b) 1 and (c) 1, and 77.61 (3), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** The amount to which the sales and use tax rate is applied is "gross receipts" for sales tax and "sales price" for use tax. Both "gross receipts" and "sales price" mean the total amount of the sale, lease or rental from retail sales of tangible personal property or taxable services, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise.

(2) **HANDLING AND SERVICE CHARGES.** A retailer's gross receipts from charges for customer alterations, handling services, small orders, returned merchandise, restocking, split shipments and similar charges for services related to retail sales shall be included in gross receipts derived from the sale of taxable personal property or taxable services. However, cancelled order charges are not taxable if there is no transfer of merchandise to a customer.

(3) **CASH DISCOUNTS OR PRICE REBATES.** (a) Cash discounts allowed by a retailer directly to customers reduce the gross receipts subject to the tax. The customer must receive the discount for the retailer to exclude it from gross receipts. For example, a payment made to a nonprofit organization based on a percentage of the purchases made by the group's members is not a cash discount for sales and use tax purposes.

(b) A retail cooperative's rebates to members, which are made after the net profit is determined at the end of a year, are patronage dividends rather than cash discounts, and are not deductible from the cooperative's gross receipts.

(c) A manufacturer's cash rebate to a person who purchases tangible personal property or taxable service from a retailer is not a reduction in the retailer's gross receipts or sales price for the item.

(4) **SALES TAX COLLECTED FROM CUSTOMERS.** (a) Section 77.51 (4) (a) 4 provides in part that "if a retailer establishes to the satisfaction of the department that the sales tax . . . has been added to the total amount of the sales price and has not been absorbed by the retailer, the total amount of the sales price shall be deemed to be the amount received exclusive of the sales tax im-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

posed." Therefore, when the tax is collected from customers who are notified of that fact, the amount of the tax collected is not included in the base to which the tax applies.

Example: If taxable property is sold for \$100 and \$5 of tax is collected for a total of \$105, the tax payable by the retailer is determined by multiplying the tax rate times \$100.

(b) If a retailer cannot collect any tax because all sales are below the minimum price on which tax is collectible under the bracket system, no part of the retailer's gross receipts shall be treated as tax collected from customers.

Example: A vending machine operator whose only receipts are from sales of 5¢ items is unable to collect any sales tax from customers, and the tax applies to the total gross receipts.

(c) If a vending machine operator sells taxable property at a price such that a sales tax is collectible under the bracket system, part of the gross receipts from such sales shall be deemed to include sales tax if customers are advised that vending machine prices include sales tax.

(5) BRACKET SYSTEM. (a) The following bracket system shall be used by retailers in computing the amount of the state tax which may be collected from the retailer's customers.

<u>Amount of Taxable Sale</u>	<u>5% Tax Collectible</u>
\$.01 to \$.09	\$.00
.10 to .29	.01
.30 to .49	.02
.50 to .69	.03
.70 to .89	.04
.90 to 1.09	.05

On sales exceeding \$1.00, the state tax equals 5% of each full dollar plus the tax shown above for the applicable fractional part of a dollar.

(am) In counties having a county tax, the following bracket system is used.

<u>Amount of Taxable Sale</u>	<u>Combined State and County Tax of 5½%</u>
\$.01 - \$.09	0¢
.10 - .27	1¢
.28 - .45	2¢
.46 - .63	3¢
.64 - .81	4¢
.82 - .99	5¢
1.00 - 1.18	6¢
1.19 - 1.36	7¢
1.37 - 1.54	8¢
1.55 - 1.72	9¢
1.73 - 1.90	10¢
1.91 - 2.09	11¢

The state and county tax equals 11¢ for each \$2.00 of sales, plus the tax shown above for the fractional part of \$2. Example: For a sale of \$11.50, the 5½% tax is 63¢ (55¢ for \$10 sale plus 8¢ for \$1.50 sale).

Tax 11

(b) The bracket system method is designed so that the total amount of tax paid by customers approximates the tax payable by the retailer on the retailer's taxable gross receipts, if the retailer's sales fall equally throughout all the brackets. When more than one taxable item is sold in a single transaction, the tax shall be computed on the aggregate sales price of the taxable items sold.

(c) The gross sales tax payable by a retailer is the tax rate under s. 77.52 (1) or (2) times the retailer's taxable gross receipts, regardless of the amount of tax collected from customers.

(d) A retailer shall conspicuously post bracket system cards (showing the tax collectible on the dollar amount of a sales transaction, as set forth in par. (a)) to establish to the satisfaction of the department of revenue that the sales tax has been added to the sales price, unless a receipt is issued separately itemizing the tax.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969. The 4% tax rate was in effect from September 1, 1969 through April 30, 1982. Effective May 1, 1982 the tax rate is 5%. The bracket system used during the period the tax rate was 4% is as follows:

Amount of Taxable Sale	4% Tax Collectible
\$.01 to \$.12	\$.00
.13 to .37	.01
.38 to .62	.02
.63 to .87	.03
.88 to 1.12	.04

On sales exceeding \$1.00, the tax equals 4% of each full dollar plus the tax shown above for the applicable fractional part of a dollar.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (4) (a) and (b), (5) (b) and (c), r. and recr. (5) (a), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (3) (c), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; emerg. am. (5) (a), eff. 3-24-86; am. (5) (a) (am), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

Tax 11.38 Fabricating and processing. (ss. 77.51 (14) (f) and (h) and 77.52 (2) (a) 10 and 11, Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE FABRICATION.** Except for sales for resale described in s. 77.52 (13) to (15), Stats., types of fabrication charges which are taxable, regardless of whether the customer or fabricator furnishes the materials, include charges for the following:

(a) Printing and imprinting.

(b) Tailoring a suit.

(c) Fabricating steel which may involve cutting the steel to length and size, bending and drilling holes in the steel to the specifications of a particular construction job. The end result of the fabrication is a modification of a previously manufactured article.

(d) Making curtains, drapes, slip covers or other household furnishings.

(e) Making a fur coat from pelts, gloves or a jacket from a hide.

(f) Cutting lumber to specifications and producing cabinets, counter tops or other items from lumber for customers (often referred to as "milling").

(g) Bookbinding.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

- (h) Heat treating or plating.
- (i) Firing of ceramics or china.
- (j) Assembling kits to produce a completed article.
- (k) Production of a sound recording or a motion picture.
- (l) Threading pipe, or welding pipe.
- (n) Bending glass tubing into neon signs.
- (o) Laminating identification cards.

(2) **TAXABLE PROCESSING.** Except for sales for resale described in s. 77.52 (13) to (15), Stats., types of processing charges which are taxable, regardless of whether the customer or processor furnishes the materials, include charges for the following:

- (a) A caterer's preparation of food for consumption on or off the premises.
- (b) Dyeing or fireproofing fabric.
- (c) Cutting or crushing stones, gravel or other construction materials.
- (d) Retreading tires.
- (e) Drying, planing or ripping lumber.
- (f) Cleaning used oil.
- (g) Application of coating to pipe.

Note: Sales or use tax may not apply in many cases because the customer is a manufacturer or other business entitled to issue a valid resale certificate to the producer, fabricator or processor. Such customer purchases the service "for resale" without tax. This rule does not impose a tax in such cases.

Tax applies to charges for producing, fabricating or processing tangible personal property for a consideration for consumers, whether or not the consumers furnish, either directly or indirectly, the materials used in the producing, fabricating or processing operation. Producing, fabricating and processing include any operation which results in the creation or production of tangible personal property, or which is a step in a process or series of operations resulting in the creation or production of tangible personal property except sales for resale. Sales or use tax applies to the entire amount charged for such services, including the charge for materials on which the service is performed.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1976, No. 250, eff. 11-1-76.

Tax 11.39 Manufacturing. (s. 77.54 (2), (6) (a) and (6m), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITION.** Manufacturing means an operation complete in itself, or one of a series of operations, whereby, through the application of machines to tangible personal property by a process popularly regarded as manufacturing, a new article of tangible personal property with a different form, use and name is produced.

(2) **SCOPE OF MANUFACTURING.** (a) Manufacturing includes the assembly of finished units of tangible personal property and packaging when it is a part of an operation performed by the producer of the product or by another on his behalf and the package or container becomes a part of the tangible personal property as such unit is customarily offered for sale by

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

the manufacturer. It includes the conveyance of raw materials and supplies from plant inventory to the work point of the same plant, conveyance of work in progress directly from one manufacturing operation to another in the same plant, and conveyance of finished products to the point of first storage on the plant premises. It includes the testing or inspection throughout the production cycle.

(b) Manufacturing does not include storage, delivery to or from the plant, repairing or maintaining facilities or research and development.

(3) MANUFACTURERS. Manufacturers ordinarily include the following:

- (a) Asphalt plants.
- (b) Bakeries.
- (c) Battery makers.
- (d) Breweries and soda water bottling plants.
- (e) Candy factories.
- (f) Cement and concrete plants.
- (g) Chemical processing plants.
- (h) Concrete block and tile producers.
- (i) Creameries and instant milk producers.
- (j) Dairies and cheeseplants.
- (k) Electric generating companies.
- (l) Flour and feed mills, including mobile units.
- (m) Food processing plants (canning and freezing).
- (n) Foundries.
- (o) Glass making plants.
- (om) Heat treaters and metal platers performing these services on semi-finished products furnished by manufacturers.
- (p) Limestone calcination plants.
- (q) Machine and equipment producers.
- (r) Malting plants.
- (s) Meat packing and processing plants.
- (t) Motor vehicle and aircraft factories.
- (u) Oil refineries.
- (v) Paint factories.
- (w) Paper making plants.
- (x) Printers.
- (y) Sawmills.

- (z) Scrap processors.
- (za) Shoe and clothing factories.
- (zb) Smelting and steel mills.
- (zc) Tanneries.
- (zd) Tool and die making plants.
- (ze) Crushing, washing, grading and blending sand, rock, gravel and other minerals.

(zf) Ore dressing, including the mechanical preparation, by crushing and other processes, and the concentration, by flotation and other processes, of ore, and beneficiation, including but not limited to the preparation of ore for smelting.

(zg) Tire retreaders.

(4) NONMANUFACTURERS. Examples of nonmanufacturers are:

- (a) Automobile and auto parts rebuilders.
- (b) Contractors.
- (c) Butcher shops.
- (d) Dental labs.
- (e) Farmers.
- (f) Fish hatcheries.
- (g) Freezer and locker plants.
- (h) Highway truckers.
- (i) Hotels.
- (j) Junk and scrap dealers.
- (k) Key shops.
- (l) Laundries and dry cleaners.
- (m) Repairmen.
- (n) Restaurants.
- (o) Television and radio stations.
- (r) Persons engaged in:
 1. Corn shelling.
 2. Performing custom work to the individual order of household consumers.
 3. Experimental and development activities.
 4. Grain drying.
 5. Logging and forestry operations.

Tax 11

6. Mining.
7. Paper recycling.
8. Photography.
9. Popping corn.
11. The business of raising and breeding animals.
12. Real property construction activities.
13. Custom slaughtering of animals.
14. Vending machine operations.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.39 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (3) (j), (4) (c) and (r) 13., cr. (3) (om), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (1), (3) (f), cr. (3) (ze), (zf) and (zg), r. (4) (p), (q) and (r) 10., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (f), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.40 Exemption of machines and processing equipment. (s. 77.54 (6) (a) and (6m), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. (a) Section 77.54 (6) (a) exempts the gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use or other consumption of "Machines and specific processing equipment and repair parts or replacements thereof, exclusively and directly used by a manufacturer in manufacturing tangible personal property." Effective on December 1, 1981 and thereafter, "exclusively" as used in s. 77.54 (6) (a) and in this section means that the machines and specific processing equipment and repair parts or replacement thereof are used solely by a manufacturer in manufacturing tangible personal property to the exclusion of all other uses, except that the sales and use tax exemption will not be invalidated by an infrequent and sporadic use other than in manufacturing tangible personal property.

(b) Section 77.54 (6m), Stats., provides "For purposes of s. 77.54 (6) (a) 'manufacturing' is the production by machinery of a new article with a different form, use and name from existing materials by a process popularly regarded as manufacturing."

(c) In determining whether a particular machine or piece of processing equipment is included in this exemption, these 2 statutes must be considered together.

(2) CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTION AND EXAMPLES. This exemption shall apply if all the following conditions are met:

(a) Machines and processing equipment shall be used *by a manufacturer* in manufacturing tangible personal property. The exemption shall not apply to machines and processing equipment used in providing services or in other nonmanufacturing activities. For example, machines and equipment of a dry cleaner are not used by a manufacturer in manufacturing, because a dry cleaner provides a service and is neither a manufacturer nor produces tangible personal property.

(b) Machines and processing equipment shall be used exclusively in manufacturing. For example, a forklift truck used on a production line to move products from machine to machine and used regularly or fre-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

quently in a warehouse to move and stack finished products is not used exclusively in manufacturing.

(c) Machines and processing equipment shall be used *directly in manufacturing*. The exemption shall not apply if machines and processing equipment are not used directly in the step-by-step processes by which an end product results, even though such machine and equipment are indirectly related to the step-by-step processes. For example, machines and equipment are not used directly in manufacturing if used for sweeping a plant; disposing of scrap or waste; plant heating or air conditioning; communications, lighting, safety, fire protection or prevention; research; storage; delivery to or from a plant or repair or maintenance of machines, processing equipment or facilities. In addition, electric substations, tool storage facilities, water softening equipment, refrigerated storage facilities and catwalks that provide access to various parts of a building are not used directly in manufacturing. Machine foundations are real property improvements rather than personal property.

(3) OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE EXEMPTION. Other examples of application of the exemption are as follows:

(a) Small tools used exclusively and directly in the manufacturing process qualify as "processing equipment". Small tools include hand tools such as drills, saws, micrometers and hammers. However, if such items are used regularly, frequently or totally for machine repair or general maintenance, they are not exempt.

(b) The exemption applies if machines and processing equipment are used exclusively and directly by a manufacturer to produce other machines or processing equipment which, in turn, are used by such manufacturer to produce tangible personal property. For example, a lathe purchased by a manufacturer and used directly and exclusively to produce machines which are used on the manufacturer's production line is exempt. However, if the lathe is used partly for production of such machines and partly for repair purposes, it is not exempt.

(c) The exemption applies if machines and processing equipment are used exclusively and directly by a manufacturer to produce component parts of tangible personal property.

(d) The exemption does not apply to machines or processing equipment used in whole or in part by a manufacturer before the manufacturing process has begun or after it has been completed (e.g., machines or equipment used for storage, delivery to or from a plant, repair or maintenance of facilities, research, or crating or packaging for shipment).

(e) The exemption does not apply to tangible personal property, which is not machinery or equipment, but is used in a manufacturing plant. For example, sweeping compounds are factory supplies rather than processing equipment.

Note: For the sales and use tax status of wearing apparel, see Tax 11.41 (3) (a) 15. and (4) (h).

(4) REPAIR OF EXEMPT MACHINERY AND PROCESSING EQUIPMENT. The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use or other consumption of repair or replacement parts and from repair service for exempt machines and processing equipment are exempt. Examples of such parts include conveyor belts, grinding wheels, grinding balls, machine drills, au-

Tax 11

ger bits, milling cutters, emery wheels, jigs, saw blades, machine tool holders, reamers, dies, molds and patterns.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (4) (e), Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (1) (a), (2) (b), (3) (a) to (c), Register, November, 1981, No. 311, eff. 12-1-81.

Tax 11.41 Exemption of property consumed or destroyed in manufacturing. (s. 77.54 (2) and (6) (a), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. (a) Section 77.54 provides in part: "There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this subchapter: . . . (2) The gross receipts from sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property . . . which is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property in any form destined for sale, but this exemption shall not include fuel or electricity."

(b) As used in s. 77.54 (2), Stats., "manufacture" shall conform to the definition of "manufacturing" in s. 77.54 (6m), Stats.

(2) RELATIONSHIP OF S. 77.54 (2) AND (6) (a). In construing the exemption provided in s. 77.54 (2), it is necessary to refer to another exemption provided in s. 77.54 (6) (a). The latter section exempts gross receipts from the sale of certain machines, equipment and parts thereof used in manufacturing (this exemption is interpreted in rule Tax 11.40). Section 77.54 (2) and (6) (a) do not overlap and are mutually exclusive. Accordingly, machines, processing equipment and parts thereof must be within the exemption provided by s. 77.54 (6) (a) and if they are not, cannot be within the exemption provided by s. 77.54(2).

(3) EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN S. 77.54(2) EXEMPTION. (a) The following property is within the exemption provided by s. 77.54(2) if the property is consumed, destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property destined for sale:

1. Acids.
2. Bleaching agents.
3. Chemicals.
4. Cleaning compounds and solvents for maintaining manufacturing machinery whether used during the manufacturing process or while the machinery is idle. A food processor, who is required to maintain strict sanitation standards by a regulatory agency, may also purchase chemicals and cleaning agents used to clean the walls, ceilings, floors and drains of the rooms in which manufacturing takes place without tax.

Note: Refer to the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission decision of May 25, 1984, in *Oscar Mayer & Co., Inc. vs. Wisconsin Department of Revenue*.

5. Cutting and lubricating oils.
6. Filtering clay.
7. Fluxing material.
8. Foundry sand.
9. Greases.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

10. Lapping and grinding compounds.
11. Purification agents.
12. Sandpaper.
13. Shielding gases.
14. Wood used to smoke products.
15. Gloves and other wearing apparel used by employes on the production line to prevent contamination of the manufactured product.

(b) The exemption is not allowed when property is sold to and used by a person other than a manufacturer (e.g., by an automobile repair shop or other repair business). A purchaser also may not claim this exemption if the purchaser does not sell the item produced. For example, a modular home manufacturer-contractor is not entitled to the exemption when purchasing property consumed, destroyed or losing its identity in the manufacture of homes which it, as a contractor, will affix to real property, since the manufacturer-contractor is the consumer of all personal property used in such construction.

(4) **EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY NOT WITHIN S. 77.54(2) EXEMPTION.** The following property is not within the exemption provided by s. 77.54 (2), although such property may be exempt under s. 77.54 (6) (a) if the property is a part of a machine or processing equipment used exclusively and directly in manufacturing (as described in s. Tax 11.40):

- (a) Machine drills and auger bits.
- (b) Milling cutters
- (c) Grinding wheels.
- (d) Chucks, jigs and dies.
- (e) Saw blades.
- (f) Machine tool holders.
- (g) Hand tools, including files, wrenches, hammers, saws, screwdrivers, planes, punches, chisels and spray guns.
- (h) Wearing apparel for the comfort or welfare of the employe or for the protection of the employe's clothing, such as helmets, hard hats, work gloves, aprons, coveralls, pants, coats, and fur-lined boots and jackets.

(5) **FUEL AND ELECTRICITY.** Fuel and electricity are specifically excluded from the exemption provided by s. 77.54(2) even though such property may be consumed, destroyed or lose its identity in the manufacture of products destined for sale. Since "fuel" is not defined in s. 77.54(2), it shall be given its ordinary meaning. Dictionaries generally define fuel as a material used to produce heat or power by burning, or something that feeds a fire. Fuel includes:

- (a) Oxygen used to enrich the fuel mixture in an industrial furnace, or oxygen and acetylene used in a welding process.

Tax II

(b) Coal or coke used by a foundry, except the portion of the coke which actually becomes an ingredient or component part of any grey-iron produced.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; cr. (3) (a) 15, and am. (4) (h), Register, October, 1979, No. 286, eff. 11-1-79; am. (3) (a) 4., Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.45 Sales by pharmacies and drug stores. (s. 77.54 (14), (14g), (14m), (14s), (22) and (28), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SALES.** All sales of tangible personal property by a pharmacy or drug store shall be taxable under the general sales tax law unless exempted by a specific statute. The most common exemptions are described and enumerated in this section.

(2) **EXEMPT SALES: MEDICINES AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.** (a) Medicines shall be exempt from the tax if prescribed by a licensed physician, surgeon, podiatrist or dentist to a patient for treatment.

(b) "Medicines" prescribed by an appropriate health care provider enumerated in par. (a) which shall be exempt from the tax include:

1. Pills and capsules.
2. Powders.
3. Liquids.
4. Salves and ointments.
5. Insulin (furnished by a registered pharmacist).
6. Other preparations consumed orally, injected or applied.
7. Sutures.
8. Pacemakers.
9. Suppositories.
10. Bone pins.
11. Dyes.
12. Other articles permanently implanted in the human body which remain or dissolve in the body.
13. Medical oxygen.
14. Vitamins.
15. Vaccines.
16. Oral contraceptives.

(c) This exemption shall *not* include:

1. Auditory, prosthetic, ophthalmic or ocular devices or appliances.
2. Splints, bandages, pads, compresses, supports, dressings, instruments or equipment.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

3. Alcoholic beverages, soda water beverages or distilled water.

4. Cast materials.

(3) **EXEMPT SALES: MEDICAL APPLIANCES AND PROSTHETIC DEVICES.** The exemption for medical appliances and prosthetic devices under s. 77.54 (14s), (22) and (28), Stats., shall apply to sales of the following:

(a) Artificial devices individually designed, constructed or altered solely for the use of a particular crippled person which become a brace, support, supplement, correction or substitute for a bodily structure, including the extremities, of the individual.

(b) Trusses, supports, shoes, braces and elastic hose only when specially fitted or altered to fit a particular person. "Altered" includes the bending of metal stays but does not include adjusting straps or seams.

(c) Artificial limbs, artificial eyes, hearing aids and batteries, colostomy, ileostomy and urinary appliances, artificial breast forms, pace-makers, and other equipment worn as a correction or substitute for any functioning part of the body. This exemption shall not apply to wigs or hair pieces, to garments designed to restrict or enhance the body shape for cosmetic purposes, nor to breathing therapy units which are not "worn" by a person.

(d) Crutches and wheelchairs including motorized wheelchairs and scooters for use by persons who are ill or disabled, open and closed end walkers with or without casters and canes which provide walking support by making contact with the ground at more than one point.

(e) Apparatus or equipment for the injection of insulin and equipment used to administer oxygen for medical purposes if the patient has a prescription for oxygen written by a person authorized to prescribe oxygen. The exemption for oxygen equipment applies to oxygen carts acquired for use by patients with a prescription for oxygen.

(f) Parts for and services to the exempt items listed in this subsection.

(4) **MEDICARE CLAIMS.** The administrator of Medicare claims (such as Surgical Care-Blue Shield) is under contract to withdraw funds from the United States treasury to pay the providers of medical services or for medical supplies and equipment. If the provider of a taxable item bills such administrator directly, the sale shall be a tax exempt sale to the United States. If the provider of a taxable item bills an individual who then seeks reimbursement from Medicare, the sale shall not be an exempt sale to the United States.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.45 are effective under the general sales and use tax law, effective September 1, 1969, except: (a) Charges for oxygen equipment became exempt September 1, 1983 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 27; (b) Charges for motorized wheelchairs and scooters became exempt September 1, 1985 pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1976, No. 250, eff. 11-1-76; r. (2) (c) 5., am. (3) (intro.) and (e), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (3) (d), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.46 Summer camps. (s. 77.52 (1) and (2) (a) 1, Stats.) (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this rule:

(a) "Agency camps" means camps operated by corporations or associations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable or

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

educational purposes when no part of the net earnings inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual (e.g., the YMCA and Boy Scouts of America).

(b) "Private camps" means all other camps including those camps organized and operated with the expectation of profit, whether or not profit is actually realized.

(2) **TAXABLE RECEIPTS.** Receipts from the following are taxable:

(a) Meals or other tangible personal property sold by agency camps or private camps.

(b) Lodging provided by private camps for a continuous period of less than one month.

(3) **EXEMPT RECEIPTS.** Receipts from the following are exempt:

(a) All lodging provided by agency camps.

(b) Lodging provided by private camps for a continuous period of one month or more.

(c) Groceries sold to campers, such as for cookouts.

(4) **COMBINED CHARGE.** An allocation between taxable and exempt receipts must be made when a single (combined) charge is made for all the privileges extended by a camp. Adequate records must be kept and maintained to enable the proper allocation; otherwise, the total charge shall be taxable.

(a) If there is no separate charge for meals; gross receipts from the sale of meals may be determined by adding 10% (to cover overhead costs) to the cost of the food and labor for food preparation.

(b) If there is no separate charge for lodging; gross receipts from lodging furnished by private camps to any person residing for a continuous period of less than one month shall be presumed to be \$3 per person per night.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the amount shown in sub. (4) (b) became effective September 15, 1970. Prior to that date the tax was based on \$2 per person per night.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77.

Tax 11.47 Commercial photographers and photographic services. (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 7 and 77.54 (2), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS.** Taxable services and sales of tangible personal property of commercial photographers and others providing photographic services include gross receipts from:

(a) Taking, reproducing and selling photographs.

(b) Processing, developing, printing and enlarging film.

(c) Enlarging, retouching, tinting or coloring photographs.

(d) Processing exposed film into color transparencies, mounted or unmounted.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(e) Reproducing copies of documents, drawings, photographs, or prints by mechanical and chemical reproduction machines, blue printing and process camera equipment.

(f) Sales of photographs to students through schools, even though school personnel may participate by collecting payments from students.

(2) AMOUNTS INCLUDED IN GROSS RECEIPTS. (a) Gross receipts subject to the tax include charges for photographic materials, time and talent.

(b) Modeling fees, mileage charges, equipment rental and charges for props or similar items made by photographers shall not be deducted from gross receipts subject to the tax, whether or not these charges are separately itemized on the billing to a customer.

(3) PURCHASES BY PERSONS PROVIDING PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES. (a) Commercial photographers and others providing photographic services may purchase, without paying sales or use tax, any item which becomes a component part of an article destined for sale if a properly completed exemption certificate is given the seller. Such items include:

1. Mounts, frames and sensitized paper used in the finished photograph and transferred to the customer.

2. Film (i.e., colored transparencies and movie film) in which the negative and the positive are the same, and are permanently transferred to a customer as part of the taxable photographic service.

3. Containers, labels or other packaging and shipping materials used to transfer merchandise to customers.

(b) Photographers and others providing photographic services are required to pay tax when purchasing tangible personal property which is used, consumed or destroyed in providing photographic services. Such items include:

1. Chemicals.

2. Trays.

3. Film (other than noted in par. (a) 2).

4. Plates.

5. Proof paper.

6. Cameras.

7. Other photographic equipment.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77.

Tax 11.48 Landlords, hotels and motels. (ss. 77.51 (13) (n) and 77.52 (2) (a) 1 and 9 and (2m), Stats.) (1) LANDLORDS. (a) Landlords are the consumers of household furniture, furnishings, equipment, appliances or other items of tangible personal property purchased by them for use by their tenants in leased or rented living quarters. The sales or use tax applies to a landlord's purchases of all such items. The gross receipts from a

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

landlord's charges to the tenant for use of these items are not subject to the tax even though there may be a separate charge for them.

(b) The gross receipts from providing parking space for motor vehicles and aircraft and from providing docking and storage space for boats are taxable. If a separate charge is made for such parking, docking or storage space, the charge is taxable. However, if a separate charge is not made and the price of a rental unit includes a charge for a parking, docking or storage space, and if similar units are rented at a reduced price if the parking, docking or storage space is not utilized, the difference between the rental price of the 2 similar units is taxable as a charge for parking, docking or storage.

(2) **HOTELS AND MOTELS.** The furnishing of rooms or lodging to transients by hotelkeepers, motel operators and other persons furnishing accommodations to the public, regardless of whether membership is required for use of the accommodations, is a taxable service.

(a) "Transient" means any person residing for a continuous period of less than one month. A continuing monthly rental of a particular room or rooms by a business (such as a trucking company, railway or airline) to be used by its employes for layover is not taxable.

(b) The rental of space for meetings, conventions and similar activities is not taxable. However, the rental of hotel or motel rooms generally used as sleeping accommodations is taxable, regardless of the use to which the room is put. For example, the rental of a motel sleeping room by a salesman from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for use as a display room is taxable.

(c) Hotels, motels and inns are the consumers of all the items used to conduct their business, such as beds, bedding, equipment, advertising materials, supplies and items consumed by the occupants of a room. The tax applies to their purchases of all such items.

(3) **MOTELS LEASED TO OPERATORS.** (a) The owner of a motel often leases the complete unit, including real and personal property, to a second party who operates the motel. If the lease does not indicate the amount of the lease receipts derived from tangible personal property, as opposed to the realty and intangible property, the taxable receipts shall be determined by multiplying the total lease receipts of each reporting period by the ratio of the lessor's gross investment in tangible personal property to the lessor's total gross investment in all real and personal property on the effective date of the lease. This ratio shall apply as long as the lease agreement between the lessor and lessee remains unchanged. However, the original ratio and any change in the ratio resulting from changes in the lease, due to additions to or removal of real or personal property leased, are subject to review by the department of revenue for reasonableness.

(b) In computing the ratio in par. (a); tangible personal property includes property subject to the sales tax, such as furniture, furnishings equipment or trade fixtures in an office, kitchen, restaurant, lounge, rooms, patio and other indoor and outdoor areas; beds, bedding, linen and towels; vending machines; and maintenance equipment. For example, if the investment (valued at undepreciated original cost) on the effective date of a lease is \$100,000 for tangible personal property and

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

\$500,000 for all real and personal property, taxable lease receipts shall be determined by applying a ratio of 20% ($\$100,000 \div \$500,000$) to the gross lease receipts for each sales tax reporting period.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77.

Tax 11.49 Service stations and fuel oil dealers (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 10 and 77.54(3), (5), (9a), (11) and (30), Stats.) (1) TAXABLE SALES. Sales by service station operators and fuel oil dealers subject to the sales tax include the following:

(a) The sale of furnace or heating fuel to customers, other than for residential or farm use.

(b) The repair, service, cleaning, painting, towing, inspection and maintenance of motor vehicles, including the total amount charged for parts and labor.

(c) The towing of motor vehicles if the towing is related to the repair, service or maintenance of the vehicle. The following services are not considered taxable towing services:

1. Towing vehicles from "no parking" zones.
2. Towing a demolished vehicle to a junk yard.
3. House moving or relocating a mobile home.

(d) Retail sales of tangible personal property (e.g., motor oil, anti-freeze, motor vehicle parts and supplies, tobacco products, candy and soft drinks) by service stations except as provided in sub. (2).

(e) The gross receipts from operating car washes, whether automated or not.

(2) EXEMPT SALES. Sales by service station operators and fuel oil dealers not subject to the sales tax include the following:

(a) Sales of gasoline, general aviation fuel and special fuel including diesel and L.P. fuel, which are subject to the Wisconsin motor vehicle fuel taxes under ch. 78, Stats. The holder of a Wisconsin special fuel license may issue an exemption certificate, Form S-207, to purchase special fuel without sales tax. On special fuel which a licensee puts into highway motor vehicles, the licensee is required to pay the special fuel tax. If motor fuel or special fuel is purchased without tax under s. 77.54 (11), Stats., because it is subject to the excise tax imposed under ch. 78, Stats., and then the excise taxes are later refunded under s. 78.75, Stats., because the buyer does not use the fuel in operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways, the fuel is subject to the tax, unless otherwise exempt under ss. 77.54 (1), (3), (5), (6) (c), (9a), (12), (13), (30) (a) or other exemptions in subch. 3, ch. 77, Stats.

(b) Sales made directly to governmental units of this state, schools or any corporation, community chest fund, foundation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes. Sales to employees of these entities are not exempt, even though the entity may reimburse the employe for the expenditure.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(c) Sales of accessories, attachments, parts, supplies and highway fuel for common or contract carrier motor trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, buses, trailers and semi-trailers used exclusively in common or contract carriage, including the urban mass transportation of passengers as defined in s. 71.18 (2) (a), Stats. This exemption applies to purchases for school buses operated under contract with a public or private school to transport students. A station wagon or van which is not registered as a bus with the division of motor vehicles in the Wisconsin department of transportation does not qualify for this exemption.

(d) Sales to farmers of fuel, parts and repairs for tractors or farm machines used directly in farming, but this exemption does not apply if these items are used in motor vehicles for highway use.

(e) Sales of general aviation fuel to persons using aircraft as certified or licensed carriers of persons or property in interstate commerce are exempt under s. 77.54 (5) (a), Stats.

(f) Sales of coal, fuel oil, propane, steam and wood used for fuel sold for residential use. In this paragraph, "residential use" means use in a structure or portion of a structure which is a person's permanent residence as defined in s. Tax 11.57 (2) (1) 7 and 8.

(3) PURCHASES. (a) Service station operators who repair motor vehicles may purchase without tax ("for resale") repair parts and materials used in such work which are physically transferred to their customers (e.g., auto parts, chassis lubricants, wheel greases, car waxes, paints, paint hardeners, plastic body fillers and welding rods).

(b) A service station operator's purchases of equipment, tools, supplies and other property not transferred to customers as part of the performance of a taxable service are subject to the sales and use tax. Supplies such as sandpaper, masking paper, masking tape, buffing pads, paint and lacquer thinner, clean and glaze compound, paint remover, tack rags, steel wool, metal conditioner, lacquer removing solvent, rubbing compound, wax and grease remover, fluxing materials, disc adhesives and other items used or consumed in performing motor vehicle repair service are taxable.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.49 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) Sales of coal, fuel oil, propane, steam and wood used for fuel became exempt July 1, 1979 pursuant to Chapter 1, Laws of 1979; (b) Sales of jet fuel to persons who were not certified or licensed carriers were taxable prior to January 1, 1982; (c) If the excise tax on motor fuel or special fuel is refunded under s. 78.75, Stats., a tax is payable pursuant to 1985 Wis. Act 29, effective September 1, 1985.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (1) (a), cr. (2) (f), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (a) and (e), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (2) (a), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.50 Auctions. (ss. 77.51 (9) (e), (13) (b), (14) (intro.) and (a), Stats.) (1) **STATUTE.** Section 77.51 (13) (b), Stats., provides that every person engaged in the business of making sales at auction of tangible personal property owned by the person making the sale or others is a "retailer". The definition of "retail sale" contained in s. 77.51 (14) (a), Stats., includes any sale at an auction.

(2) **RETAILER.** If an auction company provides complete auction service, it is the retailer. If an auctioneer contracts with the owner of the auctioned property and arranges for clerking the auction, the auctioneer is the retailer. Auctioneers and auction companies who are retailers are Register, July, 1987, No. 379

responsible for reporting the sales tax on auction receipts even if the owner of the property has a Seller's Permit.

(3) **TAXABLE AUCTION RECEIPTS.** Taxable receipts from auctions include gross receipts from:

(a) Auction sales held regularly at an established place of business, such as an auction house or auction barn. The household goods exemption does not apply to such sales.

(b) Auctions held regularly on radio, television, or CATV. The household goods exemption does not apply to such auctions.

(c) Auctions sponsored on an annual or other regular basis by non-profit organizations or others. The household goods exemption does not apply to such auctions.

(d) Auction sales of heavy equipment and going-out-of-business auction sales of retail stores, motels, wholesalers, manufacturers, contractors and service enterprises. The household goods exemption does not apply to such sales.

(e) Auction sales of antiques and works of art except when sold with other household goods of which they were a part.

(f) Auction sales of professional or business inventories or equipment even though they may consist of household goods.

(g) Sheriffs' sales and other auction sales made pursuant to orders of a Wisconsin court.

(h) All other auction sales are not specifically exempt under the law.

(4) **EXEMPT AUCTION RECEIPTS.** Gross receipts from the following auction sales are exempt:

(a) Auction sales of personal farm property or household goods which are not held at regular intervals. Such auctions are generally held on the property owner's premises.

1. Household goods. "Household goods" includes tangible personal property which is associated with maintaining a household and is for family use. For example, household goods includes furniture necessary or ornamental to a house in furnishing or fitting it for use by members of the household. Thus, auction sales of goods removed from a family home (such as tables, chairs, lamps, appliances, beds, clocks, musical instruments, dressers, lawn and garden equipment, jugs and fruit jars) are not taxable. Items which are not considered "household goods" include:

a. Highway motor vehicles or trailers, snowmobiles, mini bikes, bicycles, aircraft, boats and other sporting goods.

b. Professional or business inventory equipment.

2. Personal farm property. "Personal farm property" includes tractors, implements of husbandry, machines, equipment or other tangible personal property used by a farmer to till the soil and raise crops. "Personal farm property" does not include riding horses or other recreational animals or equipment for them, highway vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, mini bikes and bicycles.

Tax 11

(b) Sales for resale or sales which are otherwise exempt. If such a sale is made at an auction, the person conducting the auction should obtain a properly completed resale or exemption certificate from the purchaser.

(c) Liquidation sales of an insolvent debtor's assets which are made pursuant to the order of a federal bankruptcy court.

(d) One-day auction sales by religious, charitable, educational or civic organizations and other nonprofit organizations which conduct a fund raising event, if:

1. The auctioneer is not the retailer, (because the auctioneer's services are donated); and

2. The organization is not engaged in a trade or business and not otherwise required to have a seller's permit; and

3. Gross receipts from the auction sale of tangible personal property and taxable services do not exceed \$2,500 during the year as provided in s. Tax 11.10 (3).

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.50 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the standard in sub. (4) (d) 3 was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500, effective January 1, 1985.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (e), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; am. (4) (d) 3, Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5-1-85.

Tax 11.51 Grocers' guidelist. (ss. 77.52 (1), 77.54 (15) and (20), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. All sales of tangible personal property are taxable except when a specific exemption applies. One of the exemptions is for "food, food products and beverages", which generally exempts all basic food items for human consumption necessary for the home preparation of meals. This exemption, however, does not include many items normally available in grocery and food stores, such as soda water beverages (including bases or concentrates to produce soft drinks and fruit drinks), beer, intoxicating liquors, candy, paper products and detergents. The following lists shall serve as a guide to grocers to determine the kinds of items that are taxable and exempt.

(2) GUIDELISTS. (a) *Taxable sales by grocers.* Gross receipts from the sale of the following are taxable:

Adhesive tape.	Beauty aids.	Cameras and supplies.
Albums.	Beer.	Cake decorations
Amonia.	Beer making supplies.	(non-edible).
Anti-acid products.	Binders (notebook).	Calcium tablets.
Anti-freeze.	Bird food and supplies.	Candied fruits.
Appliances.	Bleach.	Candy.
Ash trays.	Blueing.	Candy apples.
Aspirin.	Bobby pins and rollers.	Canning and freezer supplies.
Auto supplies.	Books.	Can openers.
Baby needs (except food).	Bowl cleaner.	Carbonated beverages.
Bags (all kinds).	Breath mints.	Cat food.
Bakeware.	Brooms.	Charcoal and starter.
Baskets.	Brushes.	Chewing gum.
Barbeque supplies.	Bubble bath.	
Batteries.		

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Cigarettes	Foot care products.	Manicure needs.
Cigarette lighter	Foil (aluminum and similar products).	Mason jars.
fluid, wicks, flints.	Frames.	Matches.
Cigars.	Fuel and lubricants.	Medicinal preparations.
Cleaning equipment and supplies.	Fudgesicles.	Milk of magnesia.
Cleansers.	Furniture polish.	Mineral tablets.
Clocks.	Games.	Nail polish and remover.
Clothes lines.	Garden needs.	Nails.
Clothespins.	Garbage bags and cans.	Napkins.
Clothing.	Gifts (non-food).	Notebooks.
Cocktail mixes.	Ginseng.	Nursery stock.
Cod liver oil.	Glassware.	Nuts (chocolate coated).
Cold remedies.	Gloves.	Pails.
Coloring extracts.	Glue.	Paint and paint supplies.
Combs and brushes.	Greeting cards.	Paper products (tissues, plates, cups, towels, napkins and writing paper).
Confections.	Grooming aids.	Peanuts (candy coated).
Cough drops.	Gum.	Pens and pencils.
Cracker jacks.	Hair care products.	Pepto bismol.
Crayons.	Hardware.	Periodicals.
Dental aids.	Heated foods and beverages (1).	Pet food and supplies.
Deodorants.	Health and beauty aids.	Plastic utensils.
Detergents.	Hosiery.	Polishes.
Dinnerware.	Household equipment and supplies.	Popcorn (raw or popped).
Disinfectants.	Ice (cube and block).	Popsicles.
Distilled spirits.	Ice cream bars.	Pots and pans.
Dixie cups.	Ice cream in cones.	Powder (face and body).
Dog food and supplies.	Internal remedies.	Raisins (candy coated).
Dolls.	Intoxicating liquor.	Razors and blades.
Drain cleaners.	Insect and pest control products.	Records.
Drug sundries.	Iron tablets.	Roloids.
Dry cleaners.	Jewelry.	Root beer and extracts.
Dye.	Kool aid and similar items.	Rotisseries.
Electrical supplies.	Kotex and similar items.	Rubber bands.
Eskimo pies.	Laundry products.	Salt (water softener).
Facial tissues.	Lawn furniture.	Sandwiches (hot or cold).
Farm and garden implements.	Life savers.	Sanitary goods.
Feminine hygiene needs.	Light bulbs and fuses.	School supplies.
Fermented malt beverages.	Lozenges.	Scissors.
Fertilizers.	Lunch boxes.	Sewing aids.
Fiddle faddle.	Lye.	Shampoo and rinse.
Film.	Lysol.	
First aid products.	Magazines.	
Fizzies.		
Flash bulbs.		
Flatware.		
Floor care products.		
Flowers and seeds.		
Food coloring.		

Tax 11

Shaving supplies.	Thermos bottles.	Watches.
Shelf coverings.	Thread.	Water (spring and distilled).
Shoe laces and polishes.	Tobacco products.	Water conditioners.
Soaps.	Toilet tissue.	Waxes.
Soda water beverages (2).	Tonics.	Wax paper.
Soft drinks (2).	Tools.	Wearing apparel.
Sponges.	Tooth brushes.	Wine making supplies.
Starch.	Toothpaste and powders.	Wrap (foil and waxed paper).
Stationery.	Toothpicks.	Writing supplies.
Steel wool.	Toys.	Yogurt bars, cones and sundaes.
Stockings.	Tums.	
Sun glasses.	Utensils.	
Sun tan lotion.	Vitamins.	
Tableware.	Wash cloths.	
Taffy apples.	Waste baskets.	Zippers.
Tape.		

(b) *Exempt sales by grocers.* Gross receipts from the sale of the following are exempt:

Apple cider, sweet.	Coffee and coffee substitutes.	Garlic.
Baby food.	Condiments.	Gelatin.
Bakery goods.	Cones, ice cream cups.	Gravy extracts and mixes.
Baking chocolate.	Cookies and crackers.	Grits.
Baking powder and soda.	Cooking oils.	Hash.
Barbeque sauces.	Cream.	Honey.
Berries.	Desserts and toppings.	Ice cream, pints or larger.
Biscuit mix.	Dietary foods (4).	Jams.
Boullion cubes.	Dinners, frozen.	Jellies.
Bread and rolls.	Doughnuts.	Jello.
Brownies.	Dressing.	Juices, pure fruit (3).
Butter.	Dried fruits.	Lobster.
Cake mixes and flour.	Dried milk products.	Luncheon meats.
Cakes, Hostess and similar items.	Eggs.	Macaroni.
Canned foods.	Federal food stamp receipts.	Malted milk powder.
Catsup.	Fish and fish products.	Maraschino cherries.
Cereal and cereal products.	Flavoring extracts.	Marshmallows.
Certo and other pectins.	Flour.	Mayonnaise.
Cheese.	Fritos.	Meal.
Chicken.	Frozen desserts.	Meat and meat products.
Chinese food.	Frozen fruit juices (3).	Meat extracts and tenderizers.
Chip dip.	Frozen fruits and vegetables.	Melons.
Chips, potato, corn and similar items.	Frozen pizza.	Meritene.
Chocolate, instant and baking.	Frozen TV dinners.	Milk and milk products.
Citrus fruits.	Fruit.	Mustard.
Cocoa.		

Newspapers.	Preserves.	Spaghetti products.
Noodles.	Pretzels.	Spices.
Nuts, except candy coated.	Puddings.	Spreads.
		Sugar.
Oil, cooking, salad.	Raisins.	Sweeteners.
Oleomargarine.	Ravioli.	Syrup.
Olives.	Relishes.	
	Rice.	Tea and ice tea.
Pancake mix.	Rolls and biscuits.	Turkey.
Peanuts, in shell or canned, salted or not.		
Peanut butter.	Saccharin.	Vanilla and vanilla extract.
Pepper.	Salad dressing.	Vegetable juices.
Pickles.	Salt and salt substitutes.	Vegetables.
Pie and pie fillings.	Salted nuts.	Vinegar.
Pie crust and mixes.	Sardines.	
Potato chips.	Seafoods.	Waffle mix.
Potato salad.	Seasonings.	
Poultry and poultry products.	Sherbet.	Yeast.
	Shortening.	Yogurt, other than par. (a) items.
	Soup.	

(c) *Explanations of some items noted above.* As indicated in (a) and (b) above:

1. "Heated food" means those products, items or components which have been prepared for sale in a heated condition and which are sold at any temperature higher than the air temperature of the room or place where they are sold.

2. Sales of soda water beverages, bases, concentrates and powders which may be reconstituted into soft drinks, and fruit juice drinks, punches and nectars which have additives known as extenders are taxable. Extenders commonly used are citric acid, peel oil and artificial color.

3. Sales of pure fruit juices as defined in ch. 97 (Stats. 1967) are not taxable. Fruit juices are the clean, unfermented liquid product obtained by the first pressing of fresh ripe fruits. The only permissible additives are sugar and one of the preservatives such as sodium benzoate, sorbic acid or sodium sorbate. Frozen concentrates conforming to the above description are also tax exempt.

4. "Dietary foods" include products intended to substitute in whole or in part for the ordinary diet such as Metrecal and meat base formula. It also includes those products which supplement the ordinary diet, such as Ovaltine, and compressed or concentrated foods taken in wafer form which can be identified as food because of higher concentrated food values of carbohydrates and proteins. For example, a protein concentrate used by persons engaged in athletic activities is an exempt food. Dietary foods do *not* include patent medicines, tonics, vitamins and medical-type preparations in liquid, powdered, granular, tablet, capsule, lozenge and pill form used for medicinal or remedial purposes. The sales of such items are taxable.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.51 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that sales of cigarettes became taxable on September 1, 1975 pursuant to Chapter 39, Laws of 1975 when an exemption in s. 77.54 (23), Stats.,

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

was eliminated, and magazines and periodicals sold over-the-counter became taxable on September 1, 1983 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 27, which amended s. 77.54 (15), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2) (b), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (2) (a) and (b), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.52 Coin-operated vending machines and amusement devices. (s. 77.52 (1), (1m) and (2) (a) 2, 6, 7, 10 and (2m), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITION.** In this rule, "operator" means:

(a) A person who owns property sold through a coin-operated vending machine or device, has the right of access to the machine or device for stocking or restocking or for removing the gross receipts, or who, in general, has control over the machine or device and its contents; or

(b) A person who is responsible for providing laundry, dry cleaning, photographic, photocopy or other taxable services through vending machines.

(2) **SELLER'S PERMITS.** (a) Operators of coin-operated vending machines or devices dispensing taxable tangible personal property or services shall obtain a seller's permit. One permit shall be sufficient for all the machines of each operator.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(b) A notice must be affixed to each coin-operated machine or device showing the operator's name, address and seller's permit number.

(3) **TAXABLE RECEIPTS.** Taxable receipts include gross receipts from:

(a) Coin-operated machines dispensing tangible personal property such as:

1. Chewing gum, candy, cigarettes, peanuts, popcorn, soft drinks, heated foods and beverages, sandwiches, ice cream confections, photographs, tobacco products, handkerchiefs, combs and hygienic products; and

2. Fruit, milk, bakery goods, eggs, salads, cookies, crackers and all other foods and beverages for on-premise consumption. The total gross receipts from sales of food and beverages through vending machines shall be presumed derived from on-premise consumption and therefore taxable, unless the operator has records showing the portion of gross receipts from sales made for off-premise consumption involving exempt food.

(b) The license to use or the rental of coin-operated machines which are personal property or which provide a taxable service, such as hair drying machines, shoe shine machines and bowling ball cleaning machines.

(c) Coin-operated amusement devices such as juke boxes, pinball machines, shuffleboards, pool tables, slot racing, mechanical rides and games, and penny arcades.

(4) **NONTAXABLE RECEIPTS.** Receipts from the following are not taxable (a) Laundry, dry cleaning and pressing machines when the service is performed by the customer through the use of coin-operated, self-service machines.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(b) Coin-operated storage lockers, pay toilets and scales.

(5) **REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING.** (a) The gross receipts of vending machine and amusement device operators are subject to the sales tax. Thus gross receipts include, for example, receipts from items selling for one, 5 and 10 cents and more. No deduction shall be permitted for the cost of the property sold, materials used, labor or service cost, or any other expense (including commissions paid to place machines in an establishment).

(b) Sales tax collected from customers may be deducted from gross receipts before computing the tax payable, if the tax is collected under the bracket system and customers are advised of the amount of sales tax they are paying by a sign posted on the machine. If no tax is collected under the bracket system, no deduction shall be allowed.

(c) Each operator shall maintain adequate and complete records including

1. The location of each machine;
2. The serial number of each machine;
3. Purchases and inventories of all merchandise sold through machines;
4. Receipts from sales of exempt merchandise; and
5. Purchase records of all machines and the cost of all supplies of which the machine operator is deemed to be the user or consumer (for example, a vending machine or juke box, including repairs and parts therefor and records used in the juke box).

(6) **SALE, LEASE OR RENTAL OF MACHINES.** (a) Receipts from the sale, lease, rental or license to use coin-operated machines and attachments, parts and supplies therefor are subject to the sales tax. Taxable receipts include sales to persons providing a service, such as laundry and dry cleaning service. If the machines, attachments, parts, or supplies are purchased for use in Wisconsin from an unregistered out-of-state supplier, the purchaser shall remit the use tax directly to the department.

(b) Machines purchased exclusively for rental to others may be purchased by the lessor without tax if the lessor gives a resale certificate to the lessor's supplier. If the lessor intends making any use of the machines other than rental, a resale certificate shall not be given. In either event, the lessor's rental receipts are taxable.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (a)1. and r. (4) (c), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84.

Tax 11.53 Temporary events. (ss. 77.52 (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (19), 77.58 and 77.61 (2), Stats.).

(1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) 1. "Concessionaire" includes any person conducting games at temporary events such as coin pitch, pop-in, ring toss, short range basketball, guess your weight, fish pond, and tip the bottle. Further examples

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

include persons selling snack foods and other tangible personal property from stands at temporary events such as ice cream, cotton candy, candy apples, sno cones, popcorn, frozen delight, jewelry, photos, hats, signs or kitchenware.

2. "Concessionaire" does not include:

- a. A person operating amusement rides, traveling vaudeville performances, menageries, or objects of curiosity shows.
- b. A person selling meals or beverages including lunches, sandwiches or beer.
- c. A person in subpar. a. or b. who also operates as a concessionaire.

(b) "Concessionaire permit" means a permit for a temporary event conducted by a concessionaire which is valid for only one temporary event for the duration of the event.

(c) "Mobile seller's permit" means a permit issued under s. 77.52 (7) and (19), Stats., which is valid at any temporary event conducted by the permittee within the state but which is valid at only one event at a time. Except for its use at more than one place of operations, all provisions of s. 77.52 (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12), Stats., apply to it.

(d) "Temporary event" means an activity at one place of operation for a brief duration where taxable sales are made. A place of operation includes a fair, carnival, circus, festival or portable roadside stand.

(e) "Temporary seller's permit" means a permit issued under s. 77.52 (7) and (19), Stats., which is valid at only one temporary event for the duration of the event.

(2) PERMITS FOR TEMPORARY EVENTS. (a) Each person who conducts business as a retailer at a temporary event shall hold one of the following:

1. Mobile seller's permit.
2. Temporary seller's permit.
3. Concessionaire permit.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(b) Any retailer, including a concessionaire, intending to conduct business at temporary events may apply for and hold a mobile seller's permit. Retailers who are not concessionaires may acquire either a mobile seller's permit or a temporary seller's permit for temporary events. Concessionaires who do not hold a mobile seller's permit shall acquire a concessionaire permit for a temporary event.

(c) A concessionaire who is not a resident of Wisconsin shall furnish the department with the name and address of his or her agent in this state upon whom may be served any process, notice or demand required or allowed by statutes to be served upon the applicant.

(3) SECURITY. Application for permits referred to in this section shall be on such forms as prescribed by the department. The applicant shall be subject to security requirements of s. 77.61 (2), Stats., except that for Register, July, 1987, No. 379

events of 7 consecutive days or less retailers holding concessionaire permits shall deposit security of \$10 per concession for each event beginning prior to January 1, 1982 and \$25 per concession for each event beginning on or after that date and deposits for events which exceed 7 consecutive days shall be \$10 per concession for each event beginning prior to January 1, 1982 and \$50 per concession for each event beginning on and after that date.

Note: The revision to this section is effective on February 1, 1982 and the increases in security deposits are effective on that date.

(4) RETURNS. (a) Sales and use tax returns due from persons holding permits referred to in this section shall be subject to the provisions of s. 77.58, Stats. The returns shall report the tax due for the period of time or event covered by the return and shall be due as follows:

1. Mobile seller's permittee: Quarterly, on the last day of the next month following a calendar quarter unless notified by the department to file on some other basis under s. 77.58 (1), (2) and (19), Stats., and shall include on such return gross receipts from all temporary events and other taxable transactions of the permittee during the quarter.

2. Temporary seller's permittee: Per event, within 10 days after the close of the event for which the permit was issued.

3. Concessionaire permittee: Annually, on or before January 31 of the next succeeding calendar year, and including on such return the gross receipts from all concessionaire events conducted by the permittee during the calendar year.

(b) Concessionaire and temporary seller permittees may claim the security deposited in cash for the event or events reported on as a credit against the tax due, unless the department notifies the permittee otherwise.

(5) VIOLATION. Under s. 77.52 (12), Stats., any person who operates without a permit is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall immediately cease selling when requested by a department representative.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, 1965, No. 114, eff. 7-1-65; am. Register, May, 1966, No. 125, eff. 6-1-66; am. (1), Register, June, 1975, No. 234, eff. 7-1-75; renum. from Tax 11.01, Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; r. and recr., Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82.

Tax 11.54 Temporary amusement, entertainment or recreational events or places (ss. 77.51 (13) (c), 77.52 (7), (19) and 77.61 (2), Stats.). (1) "Admission" for the purpose of this rule means the right or privilege to have access to or use of a place, facility or location in Wisconsin where amusement, entertainment or recreation is provided. The gross receipts from the sale of admissions are subject to sales tax.

(2) "Places of amusement, entertainment or recreation" for the purpose of this rule include, but are not limited to, auditoriums, race tracks, street fairs, rock festivals or other places where there is any show or exhibition for which any charge is made including, but not limited to, the sale of tickets, gate charges, seat charges, entrance fees and motor vehicle parking fees.

Tax 11

(3) Pursuant to s. 77.51 (10), Stats., and in this rule, "person" includes any natural person, firm, partnership, joint venture, joint stock company, association, public or private corporation, cooperative, estate, trust, receiver, executor, administrator, any other fiduciary, and any representative appointed by order of any court or otherwise acting on behalf of others.

(4) Entrepreneurs, promoters, sponsors or managers of an amusement, entertainment or recreational event shall be regarded as retailers for the purposes of s. 77.51 (13) (c), Stats., if said entrepreneurs, promoters, sponsors or managers have control and direction of the event including activities such as controlling the sale of admissions or admission tickets; controlling or regulating the admittance of all persons to the event or place; determining the nature of the amusement, entertainment or recreation to be offered; deciding the scale of prices to be charged for admission; receiving the proceeds from ticket sales, including amounts from ticket agents or brokers; and deciding, or having the right to decide, the disposition of the net profits, if any, realized from the event.

(5) As retailers, such entrepreneurs, promoters, sponsors or managers are persons liable for the sales tax and are required to hold a seller's permit for each place of operations pursuant to s. 77.52 (7), Stats., and may be required to post security as provided in s. 77.61 (2), Stats. Such retailers are required to have a seller's permit on the first date on which tickets or admission to an event to be conducted in this state are offered for sale.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(6) This rule does not apply to traveling attractions which perform in stadiums, theaters or other places where the permanent management of such stadium, theater or other location holds a valid seller's permit, controls the sale of tickets or admissions and assumes the liability for the payment of the sales tax. Further, it does not apply to churches or other nonprofit groups which operate within the occasional sale limitations of s. 77.51 (10) (c), Stats.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; renum. from Tax 11.02; Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78.

Tax 11.55 Agents, consignees, lienors and brokers. (s. 77.51 (1), (13) and (14g) (f), Stats.) (1) UNDISCLOSED PRINCIPAL. A person who has possession of personal property owned by an unknown or undisclosed principal and has the power to transfer title to that property to a third person, and who exercises that power, is a retailer whose gross receipts are subject to the tax.

(2) **DISCLOSED PRINCIPAL.** (a) Gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property made by a person with possession of the property, who is acting for a known or disclosed principal, are taxable to the principal if the principal is engaged in the full or part-time business of selling tangible personal property. If the principal fails to pay the tax, the agent may be liable for it.

(b) A principal shall be deemed disclosed to a purchaser only when the evidence shows that the identity of the principal is made known to the Register, July, 1987, No. 379

purchaser at the time of the sale, and when the name and address of the principal appear on the books and records of the agent.

(3) **ENFORCEMENT OF LIENS.** Pawnbrokers, storage persons and others selling tangible personal property to enforce a lien are retailers with respect to such sales, and tax applies to the gross receipts from such sales.

(4) **REPOSSESSIONS.** Repossessions of tangible personal property by a seller from a purchaser when the only consideration is cancellation of the purchaser's obligation to pay for the property is not a taxable transaction. However, sales at retail of repossessed property (e.g., by finance companies, insurance companies, banks and other financial institutions) are taxable sales.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law effective September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1978, No. 269, eff. 6-1-78.

Tax 11.56 Printing industry. (ss. 77.51 (8), (11) and (14) (h); 77.52 (1) and (2) (a) 11 and 77.54 (2), (2m) and (6) (a) and (b), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) The process of manufacturing printed matter by a manufacturer includes initial typesetting and composition, producing a paste-up, combining photographs with words, making page makeups and taking pictures of them, making proofs and paper for editing, producing negatives which go to the stripping department for assembly of the flat and taking a picture, either positive or negative, of a flat which after it is finally proofed is known as plate-ready film, and producing an image carrier which is installed on a printing press, or equivalent prepress technology employed to produce an image carrier, and the bindery/finishing stage.

(b) "Typesetting" includes converting images into standardized letter forms of a certain style which usually are hyphenated, justified and indented automatically by means of machinery and equipment. Typesetting machinery and equipment includes, fonts, video display terminals, tape and disc making equipment, computers and typesetters which are interconnected to operate essentially as one machine. A system shall be considered to operate essentially as one machine whether or not the tape or disc is automatically fed to the typesetter.

(c) "Manufacturer" includes a printer or other person who performs any one or more of the processes in manufacturing printed matter, provided that the printer or other person qualifies as being engaged in manufacturing under s. 77.54 (6m), Stats., whether or not the printed matter is sold.

(2) **PRINTERS' TAXABLE SALES.** Taxable receipts of printers include gross receipts from the following, unless otherwise exempt.

(a) Charges for printing, lithography, photolithography, rotogravure, gravure, letter press, silk screen printing, imprinting, multilithing, mimeographing, photostating, steel die engraving, and similar operations for consumers, whether or not the paper and other materials are furnished by the consumers. A printer's charge for printing on paper furnished by a customer to produce printed matter not to be sold is subject to the tax.

TAX 11

(b) Charges for services in connection with the sale of printed matter, such as overtime and set-up charges, die cutting, embossing, folding, and binding operations, and charges for painting signs, show cards and posters, whether the materials are furnished by the printer or by the customer.

(c) Charges for envelopes, but not for separately stated charges for postage in the sale of prestamped envelopes.

(3) **TAXABLE SALES BY OTHERS.** (a) Sales of tangible personal property by persons who are not printers, including so-called "trade shops" such as typesetters, image reproduction manufacturers, color separators and binder/finishers are taxable unless the sales qualify for exemption under s. 77.54 (2), (2m) or other statutes.

(b) 1. Section 77.54 (2) exempts the gross receipts from sales of ". . . tangible personal property becoming an ingredient or component part of an article of tangible personal property or which is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property in any form destined for sale . . ."

2. Section 77.54 (2m), Stats., exempts the gross receipts from sales of "tangible personal property or services that become an ingredient or component of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals or that are consumed or lose their identity in the manufacture of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals, whether or not the shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals are transferred without charge to the recipient. The exemption . . . does not apply to advertising supplements that are not newspapers."

(c) Tangible personal property includes type-matter, whether or not combined with artwork, such as typeset output, a paste-up, mechanical, assembly, camera-ready copy, flat or a photoreproduction (including film plates).

(4) **NONTAXABLE SALES.** Tax does not apply to charges, if stated separately on invoices and in the accounting records, for mailing services such as:

(a) Addressing printed matter by hand or mechanically for the purpose of mailing.

(b) Enclosing, sealing and preparing for mailing.

(c) Mailing letters or other printed matter.

(5) **EXEMPT PRINTING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.** Section 77.54 (6) (a), Stats., provides that: "Machinery and specific processing equipment and repair parts or replacements thereof, exclusively and directly used by a manufacturer in manufacturing tangible personal property" are exempt from the sales or use tax. This includes machinery and equipment and repair parts or replacements thereof used exclusively and directly by a manufacturer in the printing process to manufacture tangible personal property. Interpretations of this statute are contained in s. Tax 11.40.

(6) **PURCHASES FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING PRINTED MATTER FOR SALE.** (a) Persons engaged in manufacturing printed matter for sale may purchase the following items without tax under the statutes indicated:

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

1. Section 77.54 (2). Property becoming an ingredient or component part of an item destined for sale (e.g., paper stock or printing ink).

2. Section 77.54 (2). Property such as chemicals, emulsions, acids, raw film, lubricating oils, greases, nonoffset spray, finished art, color separations, plate-ready film, other positives and negatives, flats and similar items which are consumed, destroyed or lose their identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property to be sold. For example, a printer's purchases of positives and negatives which are used to produce catalogs and shoppers guides it sells to other persons.

3. Section 77.54 (6) (b). Containers and packaging and shipping materials for use in packing, packaging or shipping printed matter to their customers.

(b) The exemptions under s. 77.54 (2), Stats., described in par. (a) 1 and 2, apply to property purchased by a person who does not use the property other than to provide it to a manufacturer described in par. (a) for use by the manufacturer in manufacturing tangible personal property to be sold. The exemption under s. 77.54 (2) does not apply if the manufactured tangible personal property is not to be sold. Examples of nontaxable purchases include:

1. A paper manufacturer's purchases of negatives which it transfers to a printer, who uses the negatives to produce printing on the manufacturer's products which are to be sold.

2. An advertising agency's purchases of color separations which are furnished to a commercial printer who uses the color separations to produce advertising material the agency sells to a retailer.

3. A publisher's purchases of paper and ink which are furnished to a commercial printer to produce a publication to be sold.

(7) PURCHASES FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING PRINTED MATTER NOT FOR SALE. (a) An exemption applies for tangible personal property or services that become an ingredient or component of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals or that are consumed or lose their identity in the manufacture of shoppers guides, newspapers or periodicals, whether or not they are transferred without charge to a recipient.

Note: Examples of nontaxable purchases: 1. A shoppers guide publisher, who distributes the publication without charge, purchases paper and furnishes it to a printer who charges for the printing of the shoppers guide.

2. A shoppers guide publisher purchases paper it uses to print a shoppers guide which it distributes without charge to recipients.

(b) The tax applies to purchases of artwork, single color or multicolor separations, negatives, flats and similar items if such purchases are used in the manufacture of tangible personal property not to be sold, other than items exempt under (a).

Note: Example. A retailer purchases color separations which are used in its own printing plant to produce advertising material it distributes to its customers in Wisconsin.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.56 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that sales of typeset material shall first be considered sales of tangible personal property on April 1, 1983 and the exemption in subd. (3) (b) 2 for ingredients of publications was created by 1983 Wisconsin Act 27, effective July 2, 1983.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1983, No. 327, eff. 4-1-83; am. (3) (a), renum. (3) (b) to be (3) (b) 1., cr. (3) (b) 2., r. and recr. (7), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

Tax 11.57 Public utilities. (ss. 77.54 (3), (6) (a) and (c), (17) and (30), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SALES.** The gross receipts from the sale of the following tangible personal property and services provided by utilities are taxable:

(a) Utility services billed to household, industrial or commercial customers, with any adjustments for discounts taken by customers (e.g., early payment discount) in the utility's next reporting period.

(b) Excess use charges and minimum or idle service charges.

(c) The gross amounts received for contacts on poles and excess pole height contributions.

(d) Parking space rentals.

(e) Rentals of transformers located on a customer's property.

(f) Labor and materials to install or repair conversion burners.

(g) The rental of water heaters.

(h) Sales of scrap, gravel or timber sold for removal.

(i) Sales of tools, used equipment and other tangible personal property to employees.

(j) Pilot relights for furnaces ("no heat" calls), or replacing appliance fuses.

(k) Sale of a utility overhead transmission or distribution line in place, if installed under easement or license on land owned by others. (See rule Tax 11.86.)

(l) Charges to builders to put in "temporary services".

(2) **NONTAXABLE SALES.** Gross receipts from the following charges to customers are not subject to the tax:

(a) Connection or reconnection charges for natural gas, electricity and water.

(b) Utility services delivered to Indians living on a Indian reservation, or services delivered on the reservation to an Indian tribal governing board.

(c) Billings for repairs to persons who damaged utility property.

(d) Services coincidental with house moving.

(e) Pilot relight of yard gas lamp.

(f) Contributions in aid of construction (i.e., payments by a customer to have a line extended to the customer's property).

(g) The installation charge for a pole sold to customer, which is installed on land owned by the customer.

(h) "Wheeling" energy for another utility.

(i) Sales of gas or other fuel (electricity is not a fuel) to farmers if the fuel is used to heat farm buildings, including greenhouses.

(j) Labor charged a customer for the installation of a complete furnace or built-in appliance.

(k) Water delivered to customers through mains.

(l) 1. Coal, fuel oil, propane, steam and wood used for fuel, sold for residential use.

2. Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April for residential use.

3. Electricity sold during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April for use in farming, including but not limited to agriculture, dairy farming, floriculture and horticulture.

4. For purposes of the exemptions in subds. 2 and 3, s. 77.54 (30), Stats., provides that electricity or natural gas is considered sold at the time of billing. If the billing is by mail, the time of billing is the day on which the billing is mailed. In any event, each qualifying customer shall receive only 6 months of service exempt from taxation during the November through April period.

5. If fuel or electricity is sold to a person partly for an exempt use and partly for a use which is not exempt, no tax shall be collected by the seller on the portion of the gross receipts which is used for an exempt purpose, as specified on an exemption certificate provided by the purchaser to the seller, as described in subd. 6.

6. Where a building, which contains residential quarters and commercial operations, is heated by one central heating plant, it is necessary to determine the portion of the fuel purchased which qualifies for the "residential use" exemption. The percentage of residential use may be computed by dividing the number of square feet used for residential purposes, excluding common areas, by the total area heated, excluding common areas. If this does not produce a reasonable result, any other reasonable method of estimating may be used. The resulting percentage should be rounded to the nearest 10%.

7. In this paragraph, "residential use" means use in a structure or portion of a structure which is a person's permanent residence. Use in a residence includes heating or cooling the premises, heating water, operating fans or other motors, providing lighting and other ordinary uses by the purchaser in a residence. Residential use includes use in single-family homes, duplexes, townhouses, condominiums, mobile homes, rooming houses, apartment houses, and farm houses, if the structure is used as a person's permanent residence. Residential use includes use in apartment houses and farm houses even though they are on a commercial or rural meter, respectively.

8. "Non-residential use" is use other than "residential use" and includes any use in the conduct of a trade, business or profession, whether such trade, business or profession is carried on by the owner of the premises or some other person. It includes use in motor homes not used as a permanent residence, travel trailers, other recreational vehicles and transient accommodations. "Transient accommodations" include: hotels, motels, inns, travel homes, tourist houses, summer cottages, apartment hotels or resort lodges or cabins, and any accommodation which is rented for a continuous period of less than one month.

Tax 11

9. A "continuous" certification designation is provided on the exemption certificate, form S-016 or S-017, and, if claimed, the form remains in effect until replaced or revoked. A new certificate shall be filed if there is a change in the percentage of exempt use.

(3) **TAXABLE PURCHASES.** (a) Persons engaged in the business of providing electrical or gas public utility service are consumers of the tangible personal property or taxable services used to provide such services. The tax applies to the sales of such items to them, except where a specific exemption applies, such as the exemptions shown in sub. (4).

(b) Examples of gross receipts from the sale, lease or rental of items to a public utility which are subject to the tax are:

1. Transformers, substation equipment and other tangible personal property purchased by a utility and use to construct, improve or repair a transmission or distribution line.

2. A contractor's charges for the construction, improvement or repair of an overhead utility transmission or distribution line installed under easement or license on land owned by others. (See Rule Tax 11.86.)

3. Charges for coating pipe or creosoting poles.

4. Charges for X-rays of welding joints.

5. Gas or electricity purchased for resale but used by a utility, but not gas used as a fuel in producing electricity or steam.

6. Charges for aerial photographs and maps.

(4) **NONTAXABLE PURCHASES.** The following sales to public utilities are not subject to the tax:

(a) Fuel converted to electrical energy, gas or steam by utilities (s. 77.54 (6) (c), Stats.).

(b) A steam generator or other machines and equipment exclusively and directly used in manufacturing electricity or steam. The manufacturing process begins when the coal starts moving by conveyor directly to the boiler bunker, and it ends at the generator bus duct. An overhead crane used for the installation and repair of a turbine, and a fuel storage tank are not directly used in manufacturing.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.57 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except for sub. (1) (e) and (l) which became effective February 1, 1979 and sub. (4) (a) which provides an exemption for all fuel converted to electrical energy, gas or steam by utilities. Prior to October 1, 1981 only coal, oil, gas and nuclear fuels were exempt.

Subsection (2) (l) 9 refers to the following new forms: Form S-016, Certificate of Exemption for Fuel Oil, Propane, Coal, Steam and Wood Used for Fuel for Residential or Farm Use. Form S-017, Certificate of Exemption for Electricity and Natural Gas for Residential or Farm Use. These forms may be obtained at any Department of Revenue Office or by mail by writing to the department, P.O. Box 8902, Madison, WI 53708, or calling (608) 266-2776.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1979, No. 277, eff. 2-1-79; cr. (2) (l), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (a) and (4) (a), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83.

Tax 11.61 Veterinarians and their suppliers. (ss. 77.51 (13) (m) and (o) and 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats.) (1) **VETERINARIANS.** (a) Charges made by veterinarians which shall be exempt from the sales tax include charges for the following professional services for animals:

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

1. Medical services.
2. Hospitalization services.

(b) Charges made by veterinarians which shall be subject to the sales tax include charges for the following activities for animals:

1. Boarding.
2. Grooming.
3. Clipping.

(c) Sales of tangible personal property by veterinarians which shall be taxable include the following:

1. Leashes, collars and other pet equipment.
2. Pets.
3. Pet food.

(2) (a) Sales to veterinarians of medicines for animals and sales of other tangible personal property to be used or furnished by them in the performance of their professional services to animals shall be subject to the sales or use tax. Prior to June 24, 1974 sales to veterinarians of medicine for animals were taxable if the medicine was to be used or furnished by a veterinarian in the performance of services, but were exempt if they were purchased for resale independent of the performance of such service.

(b) If the tax on sales to veterinarians is not collected by a supplier (for example, because the supplier is located out-of-state and is not required to be registered with the department), the veterinarian shall be responsible for and shall report and pay a use tax on such purchases directly to the department.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1976, No. 248, eff. 9-1-76; am. (2) (a), Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78.

Tax 11.62 Barbers and beauty shop operators. (s. 77.51 (13) (i) and 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats.) (1) **NONTAXABLE SALES AND SERVICES.** (a) Barbers and beauty shop operators are engaged primarily in a service occupation and charges for services on human beings shall be exempt from the sales tax.

(b) Barbers and beauty shop operators shall *not* be required to register as retailers with the department if their gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property or taxable services are \$1,000 or less within a calendar year. Persons who are exempt as such occasional sellers shall pay sales or use tax to their suppliers on all purchases, including items that may be resold to customers. Persons who exceed the standard shall register with the department and obtain a seller's permit. Persons who register may purchase tangible personal property such as hair pieces for resale without paying tax by issuing to their supplier a properly completed resale certificate.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(2) **TAXABLE SALES AND SERVICES.** (a) Barbers and beauty shop operators are the consumers of the materials and supplies which are used in

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

performing their services and shall pay sales tax to their suppliers on such purchases.

(b) Over the counter sales by barbers or beauty shop operators of packaged cosmetics, hair tonics, lotions, wigs, falls, toupees or other merchandise and their charges for servicing wigs, hair pieces or other tangible personal property shall be subject to the sales tax. Unless a barber or beauty shop operator falls within the occasional sales standard set forth in sub. (1) (b), the person shall be responsible for collecting and remitting to the department the tax on all such sales or charges.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1976, No. 248, eff. 9-1-76; am. (1) (b), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85.

Tax 11.63 Radio and television stations. (ss. 77.51 (14), 77.52 (2) (a) 11 and 77.54 (23m), Stats.) (1) **NONTAXABLE SERVICES.** Gross receipts from the sale of the following services are not subject to the sales and use tax.

(a) Air time.

(b) Advertising.

(2) **TAXABLE SALES.** (a) Gross receipts from charges imposed by a radio or television station for art work, slides, films, tapes or other tangible personal property which such station prepares or produces for its advertisers or sponsors are subject to the sales and use tax. Such gross receipts are taxable even though a station may retain possession of the tangible personal property because "sale" is defined to include the transfer of not only title to and possession of tangible personal property, but also the transfer of enjoyment of tangible personal property. If an advertiser maintains any control over the tangible personal property prepared or produced such as the right to determine when the property will be used for advertising purposes, the advertiser is deemed to have received the enjoyment of the property.

(b) Gross receipts from a radio or television auction are subject to the sales and use tax.

(c) If a radio or television station advertises on behalf of out-of-state persons to sell merchandise (such as records or books), the station is the retailer of such merchandise and must pay sales tax on such sales if:

1. The advertising message does not clearly identify the out-of-state source of the merchandise; or
2. The merchandise orders are sent directly to the station which accounts for the gross receipts.

(3) **NONTAXABLE PURCHASES.** The gross receipts from the sale, lease or rental of motion picture films or tape, and advertising materials related thereto, to a motion picture theater or radio or television station are exempt from the sales and use tax under s. 77.54 (23m). Sales of sound tapes to radio stations are included in this exemption.

(4) **TAXABLE PURCHASES.** Radio and television stations are consumers of equipment, materials and supplies used to conduct their businesses
Register, July, 1987, No. 379

and shall pay sales or use tax on purchases of such tangible personal property except as provided in sub. (3).

(5) **BROADCASTING TOWERS.** Commercial broadcasting towers constituting the transmission antenna system of a radio or television station are deemed real estate improvements for sales and use tax purposes if installed on land owned by the station. Contractors engaged in construction of such broadcasting towers are the consumers of building materials used by them in constructing, altering or repairing such towers and must pay tax on the cost of such materials.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

Tax 11.64 Background music. (s. 77.51 (14) (intro) and (j), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** Persons in the business of providing background music commonly utilize one or both of the methods set forth below. The sales and use tax consequences depend upon the method used.

(2) **MUSIC PLAYED AT CENTRAL STUDIO.** The gross receipts from the furnishing of background music to business, industry and others from a central studio over telephone circuits or by FM radio are not subject to the sales or use tax. The persons who provide such service are the consumers of the tapes, tape players, transmitters and other tangible personal property used to provide the service, and their purchases of these items, as well as telephone services from the telephone company, are taxable. However, the gross receipts from equipment leased or rented to the customer as part of providing this service are taxable, and an exemption for resale may be claimed on the purchase of such leased or rented equipment, if the equipment is used exclusively for lease or rental.

(3) **MUSIC PLAYED BY CUSTOMER.** The gross receipts from the lease, rental, hire or license to use all tangible personal property comprising a background music system are taxable when the system is located on a customer's (e.g., lessee's or licensee's) premises and is operated by the customer. Any charge for installing the system is taxable. The sale of the tapes, equipment and other tangible personal property to the person providing the system (e.g., the lessor or licensor) is exempt as a sale for resale, since rental is the equivalent of a resale.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77.

Tax 11.65 Admissions. (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 2, 77.54 (10) and (35), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SALES.** (a) The sale of admissions to amusement, athletic, entertainment or recreational events or places and the furnishing for dues, fees or other considerations, the privilege of access to clubs or the privilege of having access to or the use of amusement, entertainment, athletic or recreational facilities are taxable. This includes admissions to movies, ballets, musical and dance performances, ball games, campgrounds, circuses, carnivals, plays, hockey games, ice shows, fairs, snowmobile and automobile races, and pleasure tours or cruises.

(b) The sales tax applies to the gross receipts of organizations which have as an objective the supplying of amusement, athletic, entertainment or recreational facilities to their members such as country clubs, golf clubs, athletic clubs, swimming clubs, yachting clubs, tennis clubs and flying clubs. The proceeds received from initiation fees, special as-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

assessments, dues, and stock sales of clubs supplying amusement, athletic, entertainment or recreational facilities to members are charges for the privilege of obtaining access to such clubs and are taxable receipts of the clubs.

(c) Admissions to customer participation events such as swimming, skiing, bowling, skating, bingo, golfing, curling, dancing, card playing, hayrides, hunting, fishing, and horseback or pony riding are taxable.

(d) The charge for the privilege of fishing in fish ponds is taxable, even if the charge is based in whole or in part on the pounds or size of fish caught. The charge for the privilege of hunting in shooting preserves, pheasant farms and fenced area bird and animal farms is also taxable, even if the charge is based in whole or in part on the number of game birds or animals taken.

(e) A person who provides boat, tackle, bait and guide service provides a combination of recreational items which is subject to the tax, but guide service alone is not taxable.

(f) The sales tax applies to the gross receipts from conducting bingo games. The tax is remitted to the bingo control board, rather than the department of revenue.

(g) The receipts from the sale or furnishing of access to campgrounds are taxable, whether the fees are collected on a daily, weekly, annual or other basis.

(h) The sale of admissions to pleasure tours and cruises, including a cruise originating in Wisconsin by boat on a body of water on the border of Wisconsin, is taxable regardless of whether a portion of the cruise takes place on out-of-state waters.

(2) NONTAXABLE SALES. The following are nontaxable admissions:

(a) The dues of civic, fraternal, religious, patriotic and lodge type organizations which are not organized for the purpose of furnishing amusement, athletic, entertainment or recreational facilities to their members.

(b) Admissions to museums of history, art or science, and to auto or trade shows, if professional entertainment is not provided at the show. Also, all admission fees to any museum operated by a nonprofit corporation under a lease agreement with the state historical society, such as the Circus World Museum.

(c) Admissions to antique shows unless the admission charge can be used as a credit against the price of merchandise purchased.

(d) Entry fees in contests if the primary motive of the majority of the persons entering the contest is "business" and not "recreation". Generally, entry fees are not taxable for:

1. Professional golfers entering a major tournament.
2. Professional riders entering a rodeo.
3. Professional stock car drivers entering an auto race.
4. Large snowmobile races where the entrants are primarily manufacturers' representatives.

(e) The gross receipts from the sales of tangible personal property, tickets or admissions by any baseball team affiliated with the Wisconsin department of American legion baseball.

(3) **PRIZE MONEY.** Bowling alley proprietors shall pay tax on all their regular bowling fees, including bowling tournament entrance fees. However, in the case of tournament entrance fees, the proprietor may subtract from its taxable gross receipts the amount advertised and set aside for prize money.

(4) **DONATIONS.** (a) Persons conducting recreational events occasionally assert that the receipts are not taxable because they are donations and not charges for admission. To qualify as a donation, a payment must be totally voluntary and no restriction whatsoever may be placed on the entrance of persons not making a donation. The facts surrounding the requests for the donation must be obvious that admittance is not restricted to those making a donation. A set amount for the donation (through newspaper publicity or signs at the entrance), a turnstile or restrictive device that must be passed through, or an attendant requesting a donation at the door shall be presumptive evidence that the charge is not a donation but that the payment is required.

(b) When a charge to a patron bears little or no relationship to the actual value received, such as \$100 per ticket for fund raising dinner dance, the tax may be based on reasonable value of the tangible personal property and taxable services received.

(5) **LOCATION OF EVENT.** The receipts from sales of tickets of admissions to places of amusement or athletic events which take place in Wisconsin are taxable, even though some of the tickets may be sold out-of-state. For example, all sales of university of Wisconsin football tickets for games played in Wisconsin are taxable. However, if the university of Wisconsin, as agent, sells tickets for the university of Michigan, the receipts are not subject to the Wisconsin sales tax.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.65 are effective under the general sales and use tax law, effective September 1, 1969, except: (a) Bingo receipts became taxable December 30, 1973 under Chap. 156, Laws of 1973; (b) Admission fees to any museum operated under a lease with the State Historical Society became exempt under s. 77.54 (10) on July 20, 1985 and gross receipts from American Legion baseball became exempt September 1, 1985, both pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29. The *Historic Sites Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Circus World Museum vs. Dept. of Revenue* Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission decision of January 21, 1986, held the Circus World Museum receipts are not taxable.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (1) (d), cr. (1) (g) and (h), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (2) (b), cr. (2) (e), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.66 Communication and CATV services. (ss. 77.51 (13) (p) and (14) (m), 77.52 (2) (a) 3, 4 and 12, (am) and 77.54 (24), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SERVICES.** Gross receipts from the sale or charge for the following services are taxable:

(a) Telegraph services.

(b) Telephone services of whatever nature including, in addition to services connected with voice communication, any services connected with the transmission of sound, vision, information, data or material other than by voice communication, and connection, move and change charges, except directory advertising service and coin-operated tele-

phone service. Interstate and international services are taxable if the service originates from and is charged to a telephone located in this state.

(c) Two-way voice communication services over telephone or radio (commonly referred to as mobile telephone service). Nonmechanical telephone answering services are not taxable.

(d) One-way paging service.

(e) Cable television system service, including installation charges.

(f) Transfers of services, commonly called "access services", to an interexchange carrier, including a reseller, which permit the origination or termination of telephone messages between a customer in this state and one or more points in another telephone exchange. Resellers may purchase without tax Measured Toll Service (MTS) and Wide Area Transport Service (WATS) services they purchase, repackage and resell to customers.

(2) PURCHASES BY PERSONS PROVIDING SERVICE. Persons engaged in the business of providing communications services are consumers, not retailers, of the tangible personal property used in providing such services. The tax applies to the sale of such property to them. However, s. 77.54 (24), Stats., exempts "apparatus, equipment and electrical instruments, other than station equipment, in central offices of telephone companies, used in transmitting traffic and operating signals". The Dane county circuit court's decision of May 22, 1981 in *Wisconsin Department of Revenue v. North-West Services Corporation and North-West Telephone Company* held that a telephone company may purchase without tax tangible personal property leased or rented to customers in conjunction with an activity open to competition with others who are not public utilities.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) Chapter 39, Laws of 1975, effective July 31, 1975, expanded the telephone services subject to the tax to include "telephone services of whatever nature"; (b) Chapter 39, Laws of 1975, also imposed the tax on cable television service, effective October 1, 1975; (c) Chapter 317, Laws of 1981, imposed the tax on interstate telegraph and telephone service, effective May 1, 1982, and (d) Access services provided to an interexchange carrier became taxable pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29, effective July 20, 1985.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (a), (b), (d) and (e), (2), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; cr. (1) (f), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.67 Service enterprises. (ss. 77.51 (4), (12), (13), (14) (intro.), (h) and (l), (15), (20) and (22) (a) and (b), 77.52 (1) and (2m) (a) and (b), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. When a transaction involves the transfer of tangible personal property along with the performance of a service, the true objective of the purchaser must be considered to determine whether such transaction is a sale of tangible personal property or the performance of a service with the transfer of property being merely incidental to the performance of the service. If the objective of the purchaser is to obtain the personal property, a taxable sale of that property is involved. However, if the objective of the purchaser is to obtain the service, a sale of a service is involved even though, as an incidence to the service, some tangible personal property may be transferred. Thus, a person performing business advisory, record keeping, payroll and tax services for small businesses is providing a service. Such person is the consumer, not the seller, of property such as forms and binders which furnishes without separate charge as an incidence to the service.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(2) RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES OF PERSONS PROVIDING SERVICES. (a) Since persons engaged in the business of furnishing services are consumers, not retailers, of the tangible personal property which they use incidentally in rendering their services, tax applies to the sale of such property to them. Examples are physicians, lawyers and accountants.

(b) A person who performs a nontaxable service in conjunction with the sale of tangible personal property is a retailer with respect to such sales, and the tax applies to the total gross receipts therefrom without any deduction for the work, labor, skill, time spent or other expense of producing the property.

(c) If there is a single charge for providing both taxable and nontaxable services, the entire charge is subject to the tax. However, if the charges for taxable and nontaxable services are separately stated on an invoice, the tax applies only to the charge attributable to the taxable services.

(3) SPECIAL SITUATIONS. (a) *Hospitals and clinics.* Hospitals and medical clinics generally provide nontaxable professional services. They are, therefore, the consumers of tangible personal property used in rendering such services. Hospitals and clinics which, in addition to rendering professional services, also sell tangible personal property are retailers which shall obtain a seller's permit and report the tax on such sales. For example, sales of non-prescription medicine by a hospital or clinic pharmacy are taxable.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(b) *Original manuscripts or musical arrangements.* The transfer to a publisher of an original manuscript or musical arrangement for publication is not a sale of tangible personal property and is not subject to the tax. However, the sale of copies of an author's or composer's work is a sale of tangible personal property and is taxable. The sale of manuscripts is taxable if the manuscript itself is of particular value as an item of tangible personal property and the purchaser is buying the property, not the service which went into it.

(c) *Artistic expressions.* Sales of works of art, such as paintings and sculptures, are taxable.

(d) *Interior decorator's fee.* 1. An interior decorator's fee is taxable when the decorator's services are part of a sale of tangible personal property. For example, a decorator's fee is taxable when it is added to the bill for tangible personal property on a cost-plus arrangement. Also, if a decorator bills a client only for the full list price of property sold and then receives the equivalent of a fee through the decorator's supplier in the form of a trade discount, the decorator shall pay a tax on the full amount billed the client without any deduction for services performed.

2. A decorator's fee is not taxable if the fee is solely for services rendered (such as designing a decorative scheme, advising clients or recommending colors, paints, wallpaper, fabrics, brands, or sources of supply) and there is no sale of tangible personal property involved with the transaction.

Tax 11

(e) *Research and development.* 1. The development of information pursuant to a research and development contract is a sale of a service which is not subject to the sales tax. Although the person performing the research and development may be under contract to provide such things as plans, designs and specifications, or to test and evaluate a proposed product, the primary objective of the customer is to obtain the results of the technical skill and the experimental and research work of the engineers and other technicians of the researcher.

2. In certain instances under a research and development contract, the information cannot be developed without the production of a prototype. In this situation, the researcher owes tax on the materials used to construct the prototype since it is used to compile the data, designs, drawings and whatever else is provided the customer. The measure of the tax is the cost of the materials going into the production for the prototype as well as all other materials consumed in performing the contract. The transfer of the prototype is incidental to the transfer of information, and for sales tax purposes is deemed not a sale of tangible personal property.

3. A research and development contract is distinguishable from a contract for the production of an item after the research and development has been completed. All charges to the researcher's customer relating to the production of such an item are for the sale of tangible personal property, not research and development services, and as such are subject to the tax.

(f) *Recording studios.* When a recording studio agrees to furnish or supply records, acetates or other tangible personal property which becomes the property of others, the tax applies to the total gross receipts resulting from the sale of such tangible personal property. Gross receipts shall not be reduced for labor or service costs, including charges for the use or rental of studio facilities, even though such costs may be itemized in billing the customer.

(g) *Architects.* Fees paid to architects to design buildings or structures are for services performed, and are not subject to the tax. If, however, an architect has blueprints made from original drawings, the sale of the blueprints is subject to the tax.

(h) *Drafting.* Charges made by a self-employed person for commercial drafting are subject to the tax when the charge is for detailed drawings based entirely on specifications and data supplied by customers (e.g., architects, engineers or business firms). These charges are taxable because the concepts, ideas, specifications or designs depicted in the drawings produced are the customer's and the person performing the drafting simply transfers the details supplied by the customer to paper thereby producing a drawing (tangible personal property) for use by the customer.

(i) *Enuresis alarms.* Charges for rental of bed-wetting alarm systems are taxable charges for the use of tangible personal property, not charges for personal services, whether or not the lessor analyzes information about the user and completes a report based on the information.

(j) *Detonating explosives.* Detonating explosives is a non-taxable service. A person who performs such service and furnishes the explosives used in conjunction with the service is the consumer of the explosives.

(l) *Taxidermists.* Taxidermists perform service on tangible personal property. Gross receipts from such service are subject to the tax.

(m) *Car washes.* The gross receipts of persons providing car wash service, including those providing coin-operated self-service car washes consisting of a pressurized spray of soap and water, are taxable. Such persons are the consumers of the tangible personal property they purchase, except for the wax transferred to a customer's vehicle. Thus, suppliers may accept a resale certificate for wax sold to car wash operators, but suppliers are liable for the tax on all other sales of supplies to such operators.

(n) *Soliciting advertising for telephone directories.* Persons who solicit advertising for telephone books and who, as an incident of such service, provide telephone books to telephone companies or their subscribers, are the consumers of and shall pay tax on all the telephone books they distribute in Wisconsin or have shipped into Wisconsin by an out-of-state supplier.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (3) (n), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; r. (3) (k) and am. (3) (n), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.68 Construction contractors (ss. 77.51 (2), (4), and (c) 4, (14) (intro.), (g) and (i), (15) and (c) 2, 77.52 (2) (a) 10 and (11); 77.71 (3) and 77.77 (3), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. (a) Construction contractors may be retailers with respect to some activities and consumers with respect to others. When a construction contractor acts as a retailer, the contractor shall obtain a seller's permit and pay the tax on gross receipts from retail sales of tangible personal property or taxable services. When the contractor acts as a consumer, the contractor shall pay the tax on its purchases of property consumed.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(b) Contractors are retailers of:

1. Property which retains its character as personal property after sale and installation. (See subs. (4) and (6).)

2. Labor or services furnished in installing tangible property which retains its character as personal property after installation. (See subs. (4) and (6).)

3. Labor and material furnished in the repair, service, alteration, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspection and maintenance of items of real property which retain their character as tangible personal property for repair purposes. (See sub. (10) for a description of such property.)

4. Tangible personal property sold.

(c) Contractors are consumers of tangible personal property they use when engaged in real property construction activities, such as altering, repairing or improving real property.

(2) REAL PROPERTY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS. (a) Generally, real property construction contractors are persons who perform real property construction activities and include persons engaged in such activities as building, electrical work, plumbing, heating, painting, steel work, ventilating, paper hanging, sheet metal work, bridge or road construction, well drilling, excavating, wrecking, house moving, landscaping, roofing, carpentry, masonry and cement work, plastering and tile and terrazzo work.

(b) A retailer may also be a real property contractor, such as a department store which sells and installs tangible personal property which becomes a part of real property after installation (e.g., a hot water heater or water softener sold and installed in a purchaser's residence).

(3) PURCHASES BY CONTRACTORS. (a) Under s. 77.51 (2), Stats., contractors who perform real property construction activities are the consumers of building materials which they use in altering, repairing or improving real property. Therefore, suppliers' sales of building materials to contractors who incorporate the materials into real property in performing construction activities are subject to the tax.

(b) Property which a construction contractor will resell as personal property may be purchased without tax for resale. Such property includes personal property furnished as part of a real property construction activity when the personal property retains its character as personal property after installation. (See subs. (4) and (6).)

(c) Machinery and equipment (such as road building equipment, tunnel shields, construction machines, cement mixers and trucks), tools (such as power saws and hand tools), and supplies (such as machine lubricating and fuel oils, form lumber and industrial gases) purchased by a construction contractor for the contractor's use are generally either consumed in the process of construction or are removed when the project is completed. The contractor is the consumer of such personal property and shall pay the tax on its purchases of such property.

(4) CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY AFTER INSTALLATION. (a) Contractors shall determine whether a particular contract or transaction results in an improvement to real property or in the sale and installation of personal property. In determining whether personal property becomes a part of real property, the following criteria shall be considered (See *Dept. of Revenue vs. A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc.* (1976), 72 Wis. 2d60):

1. Actual physical annexation to the real property.
2. Application or adaptation to the use or purpose to which the real property is devoted; and
3. An intention on the part of the person making the annexation to make a permanent accession to the real property.

(b) Certain types of property that have a variety of functions may be personal property in some instances and additions to real property in others. Examples are boilers, furnaces, stand-by generators, pumps, substations and transformers. When such property is installed primarily to provide service to a building or structure and is essential to the use of the building or structure, it is a real property improvement. However, when

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

similar property is installed in a manufacturing plant to perform a processing function, it may, as machinery, retain its status as personal property.

(5) **PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH BECOMES A PART OF REALTY.** A construction contractor is the consumer of personal property, such as building materials, which is incorporated into or becomes a part of real property, and sales of such personal property to a contractor are subject to the tax. Personal property which becomes a part of real property includes the following:

- (a) Boilers and furnaces for space heating.
- (b) Built-in household items such as kitchen cabinets, dishwashers, fans, garbage disposals and incinerators.
- (c) Cemetery monuments.
- (d) Buildings, and structural and other improvements to buildings, including awnings, canopies, carpeting, foundations for machinery, floors, including computer room floors, partitions and movable walls attached in any way to realty, general wiring and lighting facilities, roofs, stairways, stair lifts, sprinkler systems, storm doors and windows, door controls, air curtains, loading platforms, central air conditioning units, building elevators, sanitation and plumbing systems, and heating, cooling and ventilation systems.
- (e) Fixed (year-around) wharves and docks.
- (f) Improvements to land including retaining walls, roads, walks, bridges, fencing, railway switch tracks, ponds, dams, ditches, wells, underground irrigation systems, drainage, storm and sanitary sewers, and water supply lines for drinking water, sanitary purposes and fire protection.
- (g) Planted nursery stock.
- (h) Residential water heaters, water softeners, intercoms, incinerators and garage door opening equipment (except portable equipment).
- (i) Silos and grain elevators.
- (j) Swimming pools (wholly or partially underground).
- (k) Storage tanks constructed on the site.
- (l) Traffic signals, and street and parking lot lighting.
- (m) Truck platform scale foundations.
- (n) Walk-in cold storage units becoming a component part of a building.

(6) **PROPERTY PROVIDED UNDER A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WHICH REMAINS PERSONAL PROPERTY.** (a) Contractors shall obtain a seller's permit and report for taxation gross receipts from the sale and installation of personal property, furnished under a construction contract, which retains its character as personal property after installation. Examples of such property are:

Tax 11

1. Furniture, radio and television sets and antennas, washers and dryers, portable lamps, home freezers, portable appliances and window air conditioning units.

2. Communication equipment, including intercoms, pneumatic tube systems, and music and sound equipment in business, industrial or commercial buildings, schools and hospitals, but not in apartment buildings, convalescent homes or other residential buildings.

3. Casework, tables, counters, cabinets, lockers, sinks, athletic and gymnasium equipment, and related easily movable property attached to the structure in schools, laboratories and hospitals, but not in apartment buildings, convalescent homes or other residential buildings.

4. Machinery, equipment, tools, appliances, process piping and wiring used exclusively as such by manufacturers, industrial processors and others performing a processing function with the items.

5. Office, bank and savings and loan association furniture and equipment, including office machines, safe deposit boxes, drive-up and walk-up windows, night depository equipment, remote TV auto teller systems, camera security equipment and vault doors (vault doors were not considered personal property until August 1, 1975).

6. Personal property used to carry on a trade or business (e.g., fixtures and equipment installed in stores, taverns, night clubs, restaurants, ice arenas, bowling alleys, hotels and motels, barber and beauty shops, figure salons, theaters and gasoline service stations). Prior to August 1, 1975 service station equipment such as underground tanks, gasoline pumps and hoists installed in or securely attached to their owner's land was real property, but such property was personal property if the personal property and land were owned by different persons. After that date underground tanks are real property regardless of the ownership of the land to which they are attached.

7. Shades, curtains, drapes, venetian blinds and associated hardware.

8. Radio, television and cable television station equipment, but not broadcasting towers installed on their owner's land.

9. Mobile homes located in a mobile home park on land owned by a person other than the mobile home owner.

10. Advertising signs, except their underground concrete foundations. However, prior to August 1, 1975 advertising signs were real property if erected on and securely attached to the owner's land.

11. Buildings and standing timber sold for removal.

12. Utility transmission and distribution lines installed above ground on land owned by others as provided in s. Tax 11.86 (1), and oil and gas pipeline pumping station equipment.

13. Commercial and industrial incinerators which do not become an integral part of the building.

14. Seating in auditoriums and theaters, and theater stage lights and projection equipment.

(b) If a few items of tangible personal property (minor in cost in relation to the total amount of a contract) are sold as part of a contract which includes construction of a building or other structure and no separate charge is made for such personal property, the cost of such property to the construction contractor shall be used as the measure (e.g., gross receipts) subject to sales tax. If a separate charge is made for any such item, it is subject to the tax, but not less than on its cost. For example, a refrigerator or drapes may be included in the contract to construct a new house.

(7) PROPERTY PURCHASED BY A PERSON WHO PERFORMS BOTH CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING AND RETAIL SELLING, WHEN DESTINATION OF PROPERTY PURCHASED IS UNKNOWN AT TIME OF PURCHASE. Section 77.51 (2), Stats., provides in part that "A contractor engaged primarily in real property construction activities may use resale certificates only with respect to purchases of property which he has sound reason to believe he will sell to customers for whom he will not perform real property construction activities involving the use of such property." However, some construction contractors who also sell construction supplies at retail do not know when they purchase such supplies whether they will be consumed in construction contracts or resold to others. In such instances, a construction contractor may do one of the following at the time of making purchases:

(a) Give a resale certificate to suppliers and thereby purchase the property without tax. If the contractor later resells the property, the contractor shall report the sales and pay the tax on the sales price to customers. If the property is used in fulfillment of a construction contract, the contractor shall pay a use tax on its purchase price.

(b) Pay sales tax to suppliers on all property purchased. If such property is later consumed in fulfilling a construction contract, the tax obligation is taken care of. If the property is resold at retail, the contractor shall remit sales tax on such retail sales, but may take as a credit against the sales tax any tax paid to suppliers at purchase.

(8) PROPERTY PURCHASED TO FULFILL A CONTRACT WITH AN EXEMPT ENTITY. (a) The sales tax exemption provided to governmental units and other exempt entities (such as churches and nonprofit hospitals) does not apply to building materials purchased by a contractor for use under a construction contract to alter, repair or improve real property for the exempt entity. Gross receipts from sales of such building materials to a contractor are subject to the tax if the building materials become part of real property after construction or installation. For example, a contractor shall pay the tax to its supplier of tangible personal property purchased to construct a bridge, road or government building. A contractor also shall pay the tax on its purchases of pumps and other equipment for use at a municipal well or at a water or sewerage lift or pumping station, since such property becomes a part of realty after installation.

(b) A contractor may purchase without tax for resale tangible personal property which retains its character as personal property after installation (as described in sub. (6)), even though the resale of such property by the contractor is exempt when the property is sold to a governmental unit or other exempt entity having a Wisconsin certificate of exempt status. Such property includes furniture; processing machinery or equipment used in a municipal sewerage or water treatment plant; classroom laboratory sinks, tables and other equipment; and seating for an auditor-

rium. This exemption does not apply to property which becomes a part of real property as described in sub. (5) and par. (a).

(9) USE OF PROPERTY PURCHASED OUTSIDE WISCONSIN. (a) If a construction contractor, when the contractor acts as a consumer, purchases property outside this state for use in Wisconsin, the contractor shall pay the Wisconsin use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c), but may claim a credit against this use tax for any sales or use tax paid in the state where the purchase was made.

(b) If Wisconsin has jurisdiction over the out-of-state supplier, the supplier shall collect the use tax and remit it to the department. If the supplier fails to do so, the contractor shall report and pay the tax to Wisconsin.

(10) CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR SERVICES. (a) A contractor who performs real property construction activities shall not add tax to any charge for labor or material, since gross receipts from such activities are not taxable. The tax which a contractor pays on its purchases of materials consumed in real property construction increases its cost of such materials, thereby becoming a cost of doing business.

(b) A contractor's charges for the repair, service, alteration, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspection and maintenance of all tangible personal property are taxable. Solely for the purpose of imposing the tax on such service, numerous items that in other circumstances and for other purposes are deemed part of real property are deemed to retain their character as tangible personal property. Accordingly, any construction contractor who is engaged in the repair, service, alteration, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspection and maintenance of any items listed in par. (c) or other items of tangible personal property shall register as a retailer and pay the tax on gross receipts from the performance of such services.

(c) Section 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats., provides in part that ". . . the following items shall be deemed to have retained their character as tangible personal property, regardless of the extent to which any such item is fastened to, connected with or built into real property: furnaces, boilers, stoves, ovens, including associated hoods and exhaust systems, heaters, air conditioners, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, coolers, freezers, water pumps, water heaters, water conditioners and softeners, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers, garbage disposal units, radios and radio antennas, incinerators, television receivers and antennas, record players, tape players, juke boxes, vacuum cleaners, furniture and furnishings, carpeting and rugs, bathroom fixtures, sinks, awnings, blinds, gas and electric logs, heat lamps, electronic dust collectors, grills and rotisseries, bar equipment, intercoms, recreational, sporting, gymnasium and athletic goods and equipment including by way of illustration, but not of limitation, bowling alleys, golf practice equipment, pool tables, punching bags, ski tows and swimming pools; office, restaurant and tavern type equipment including by way of illustration, but not of limitation, lamps, chandeliers, and fans, venetian blinds, canvas awnings, office and business machines, ice and milk dispensers, beverage-making equipment, vending machines, soda fountains, steam warmers and tables, compressors, condensing units and evaporative condensers, pneumatic conveying systems; laundry, dry cleaning, and pressing machines, power tools, burglar alarm and fire alarm fixtures, electric clocks and electric signs."

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(d) Charges for tangible personal property (such as a repair part) incorporated into property listed in par. (c) being repaired are taxable. Because the item repaired is deemed personal property, any tangible personal property incorporated into it is deemed purchased by the contractor for resale and therefore may be purchased without tax. For example, if a contractor is engaged to repair a refrigerator (whether free-standing personal property or built-in so as to be a part of real property) in a home, the repair service and any charge for parts are taxable.

(11) REPAIR SERVICES CONTRASTED WITH REPLACEMENT SERVICES. Section 77.51 (4) (c) 4, Stats., provides that taxable gross receipts do not include the price received for labor or services used in installing property which constitutes a capital improvement of real property. On the other hand, s. 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats., provides that the price received for labor or services in repairing, servicing, altering, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspection and maintenance of tangible personal property is taxable and many specifically named items retain their character as personal property regardless of the extent to which fastened to, connected with or built into real property. Among such items are furnaces and boilers used for space heating. In view of these statutes, charges for services and repair parts for *repair* of tangible personal property covered by both statutes (such as a furnace boiler) are taxable, but charges for services in totally *replacing* such property are not taxable. In the no-tax situation, the replacement personal property is taxable when sold to the contractor installing it, but the contractor's charge for the replacement service is not taxable.

(12) COUNTY TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS. (a) Section 77.71 (3), Stats., imposes an excise tax upon a contractor engaged in construction activities, which includes constructing, altering, repairing or improving real property within a county which has adopted the county tax. The tax is measured by the sales price of the tangible personal property used in constructing, altering, repairing or improving real property which becomes a component part of real property in that county, unless the contractor has paid the county tax of a county in this state on that property.

(b) Building materials which become a component part of real property are used and consumed at the job site.

(c) In providing repair services to real property subject to taxation under s. 77.52 (2) (a) 10, Stats., a contractor may purchase without county tax for resale the building materials used in providing such taxable services, and the county excise tax imposed under s. 77.71 (3) does not apply to such purchases.

(d) Section 77.77 (3), Stats., provides that the sales tax under s. 77.71 (1), Stats., and the excise tax under s. 77.71 (3), Stats., on the sale of building materials to contractors engaged in the business of constructing, altering, repairing or improving real estate for others is not imposed, if the materials are affixed and made a structural part of real estate and the amount payable to the contractor is fixed without regard to the costs incurred in performing a written contract that was irrevocably entered into prior to the effective date of the county ordinance, or that resulted from the acceptance of a formal written bid accompanied by a bond or other performance guaranty that was irrevocably submitted before that date.

Tax 11

(e) The excise tax under s. 77.71 (3), Stats., on building materials used in real property construction activities is not imposed if the contractor purchased the building materials before the effective date of the county tax of that county or has paid the sales tax of another county in this state in purchasing the building materials.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 275, eff. 12-1-78; am. (5) (d), (6) (a)2. and 12., (10) (b), Register, December, 1983, No. 336, eff. 1-1-84; reprinted to correct error in (10) (b), Register, January, 1984, No. 337; emerg. cr. (12), eff. 3-24-86; cr. (12), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; am. (9) (a), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.69 Financial institutions. (s. 77.51 (14) (k)) (1) EXEMPT SALES. Financial institutions are primarily engaged in providing nontaxable services. Such services include charges to customers for cashier's checks, money orders, traveler's checks, checking accounts and the use of safe deposit boxes.

(2) **TAXABLE SALES.** A financial institution shall obtain a seller's permit and regularly file sales and use tax returns if it has taxable gross receipts. Taxable gross receipts include sales of the following:

- (a) Coin savings banks.
- (b) Commemorative medals.
- (c) Collectors' coins or currency sold above face value.
- (d) Gold and silver bullion.
- (e) Repossessed merchandise.
- (f) Meals and beverages in the institution's cafeteria.
- (g) Charges for providing parking space for motor vehicles.

(h) Personalized imprinted checks, except where the financial institution has paid the tax on its purchases of such checks from a retailer and the financial institution resells the checks to customers at the same price or a price lower than its purchase price.

Note: Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(3) **PURCHASES.** (a) A financial institution's purchases subject to sales or use tax include office furniture and equipment (such as desks, chairs, couches, writing tables and office machines), safe deposit boxes, drive-up and walk-up windows, night depository equipment, vault doors, remote TV auto teller systems and camera security equipment.

(b) Any tangible personal property purchased by a financial institution to be given away or sold at cost or less than cost to a customer, whether or not based upon the amount of a deposit, is taxable at the time it is purchased. This property includes calendars, playing cards, plat books, maps and any other items transferred to customers to promote business. Checking account and savings account forms provided customers free of charge are also subject to the tax. When such items are sold by a financial institution at a price in excess of cost, the financial institution is a retailer and shall report the sales tax on such sales. The financial Register, July, 1987, No. 379

institution may purchase such property without tax by giving its supplier a properly completed resale certificate when acting as a retailer.

(c) If a financial institution is not required to have a seller's permit and has a use tax obligation because purchases are made without tax, it shall apply for a consumers' use tax registration and report the tax on such purchases.

(4) **DEFINITION.** In this rule "financial institution" includes a bank, savings and loan association and credit union.

(5) **SPECIAL PROVISIONS.** (a) Sales to state chartered credit unions, and to federal and state chartered banks and savings and loan associations are taxable.

(b) The use tax may not be imposed directly on a federal credit union due to federal restrictions.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (5) (a), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83.

Tax 11.70 Advertising agencies. (s. 77.51 (14) (intro.) and (h), 77.52 (1) and (2), Stats.) (1) **NONTAXABLE SERVICES.** Charges by advertising agencies are not subject to sales and use tax if they are for services that are not a part of the sale of tangible personal property, or that do not represent labor or service costs in the production of tangible personal property. Examples of such nontaxable services include:

- (a) Writing original manuscripts or news releases.
- (b) Writing copy to be used in media advertising.
- (c) Consultation, market research and compiling statistical or other information.
- (d) Recommendations for advertising themes or merchandising plans.
- (e) Obtaining media space and time.
- (f) Providing preliminary art (i.e., roughs, visualizations, sketches, layouts and comprehensives) prepared solely for presenting an idea to a client or prospective client. Thus, when a job involves production of sketches, but never results in the production of finished art or other tangible personal property by the advertising agency, the charges for preliminary art work are not taxable; however, if finished art or other tangible personal property is produced by the advertising agency as the result of the preliminary art work, all the charges for preliminary art are taxable because they are for the production of tangible personal property.

(2) **TAXABLE SALES.** (a) Tax applies to an agency's gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property located or used in Wisconsin whether the transfer is to the advertiser or to a third party at the direction of or on behalf of the advertiser. This applies to advertiser clients located both inside and outside Wisconsin. The sale of tangible personal property normally occurs when the advertising agency bills the client for the property and the client realizes the economic benefits of the property's use, even though the property may not be physically transferred to the client. For example, an agency's billing to a client for finished art transferred to another Wisconsin business is taxable.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(b) Tax applies to an advertising agency's total retail sales price of tangible personal property, without any deduction for any cost element which becomes a part of the sales price. Such elements include preliminary art work, consultation, research, copy, supervision, model fees, rentals, photostats, typesetting, postage, express, telephone, travel, agency service fees, or any other labor or service cost incurred in the production of that property. No deduction may be taken even though such costs may be separately itemized in a billing to a client.

(c) Tax applies to in-progress billings for production work which ultimately results in the production of finished art work or other tangible personal property.

(d) The total sales price of the following items or services are subject to the tax:

1. Retail sales of signs, circulars, business cards, stationary showcards, banners, posters, bulletins, direct mail advertising, catalogs, brochures, commercials, tapes or other items of tangible personal property.

2. Charges for photographic services or photostats.

3. Charges for producing, fabricating, processing, printing or imprinting tangible personal property for consumers for a consideration, even though the consumers may furnish the materials used in the producing, fabricating, processing, printing or imprinting of the tangible personal property.

4. Charges for "finished art". "Finished art" means the final art used for actual reproduction by photomechanical or other processes, or for display purposes and includes drawings, paintings, designs, photographs, lettering, paste-ups, mechanicals or assemblies, charts, graphs, and illustrative material not reproduced. The tax applies to sales of finished art whether it is used to produce a taxable item or an exempt item (e.g., periodical), or is used to provide an advertising service by placing advertising in an advertising media (such as newspapers, magazines, other publications and radio or television stations).

(3) FEES ADDED TO BILLINGS. When an amount billed as an agency "fee", "retainer", "service charge", or "commission" represents services rendered which are a part of the sale of tangible personal property, the amount is taxable. If it clearly represents a charge or a part of a charge for any nontaxable service rather than for the sale of tangible personal property, it is not taxable. A fee representing both taxable and nontaxable items is taxable in accordance with the ratio between the charges.

(4) PURCHASES BY AGENCIES. (a) An advertising agency is the seller of, and may purchase without tax for resale, any item that it resells before use, or that becomes physically an ingredient or component part of tangible personal property which it produces and sells.

(b) An advertising agency is the consumer of all tangible personal property not purchased for resale or not becoming physically an ingredient or component part of tangible personal property sold by such agency.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

Tax 11.71 Computer industry. (ss. 77.51 (14) (h) and (j), and 77.52 (1) and (2) (a) 10, Stats.) (1) DEFINITION OF TERMS. In this section:

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(a) "Application" means the specific job performance by an automatic data processing installation.

(b) "Automatic data processing equipment" includes computers used for data processing purposes and their peripheral equipment as well as punched card tabulating machines. It does not include tape-controlled automatic drilling, milling or other manufacturing machinery or equipment.

(c) "Basic operational programs", commonly referred to as "systems software", means the programs that perform overall control and direction of the computer system and permit it to do the functions basic to the operation of a computer, and permit it to execute the instructions contained in utility software and applications software programs. Basic operational programs are considered an integral part of the computer hardware when these internal codes are not accessible to or modifiable by the user.

(d) "Coding" means the list, in computer code, of the successive computer instructions for successive computer operations for solving a specific problem.

(e) "Custom programs" mean utility and application software which accommodate the special processing needs of the customer. The determination of whether a program is a custom program shall be based upon all the facts and circumstances, including the following:

1. The extent to which the vendor or independent consultant engages in significant presale consultation and analysis of the user's requirements and system.

2. Whether the program is loaded into the customer's computer by the vendor and the extent to which the installed program must be tested against the program's specifications.

3. The extent to which the use of the software requires substantial training of the customer's personnel and substantial written documentation.

4. The extent to which the enhancement and maintenance support by the vendor is needed for continued usefulness.

5. There is a rebuttable presumption that any program with a cost of \$10,000 or less is not a custom program.

6. Custom programs do not include basic operational programs.

7. If an existing program is selected for modification, there must be a significant modification of that program by the vendor so that it may be used in the customer's specific hardware and software environment.

(f) "Data processing" means the recording and handling of information by means of mechanical or electronic equipment, commonly referred to as automatic data processing.

(g) "Enhancement" means modifications, upgrades, improvements or changes to existing programs by persons other than the purchaser of the program.

Tax 11

(h) "Input" means the information or data transferred, or to be transferred, from external storage media including punched cards, punched paper tape and magnetic media into the internal storage of the computer.

(i) "Keypunching" means recording information in cards, paper tapes, or magnetic tapes, disc or drum by punching holes or otherwise entering information in the cards, tapes, discs or drums, or recording data on any media to represent letters, digits and special characters. Keypunching includes the necessary preliminary encoding or marking of the source documents.

(j) "Keystroke verifying" means the use of a machine known as a punched card verifier or tape transcriber, which has a keyboard, to ensure that information has been punched in a card or transcribed on a tape during the keypunching operation has been punched properly.

(k) "Prewritten programs", often referred to as "canned programs", means programs prepared, held or existing for general use normally for more than one customer, including programs developed for in-house use or custom program use which are subsequently held or offered for sale or lease.

(l) "Processing a client's data" means the developing of original information from raw data furnished by a client. Automatic data processing operations which develop original information include summarizing, computing, extracting, sorting, sequencing, or the updating of a continuous file of information maintained for a client by a service bureau.

(m) "Program" means the complete plan for the solution of a problem, i.e., the complete sequence of automatic data processing equipment instructions necessary to solve a specific problem. It includes both systems and application programs and subdivisions, such as assemblers, compilers, routines, generators, and utility programs. For purposes of this section a program is either a prewritten or custom program.

(n) "Program maintenance", in addition to other maintenance services, includes telephone support services to discuss and solve problems.

(o) "Reformatting of data" means the rearranging of data by mechanical or electronic equipment.

(p) "Service bureau" means a business rendering automatic data processing services.

(q) "Source document" means a document from which basic data are extracted, such as sales invoice.

(2) TAXABLE RECEIPTS. The following transactions involving automatic data processing equipment, programs, output and services are taxable:

(a) The retail sale, lease or rental of new or used automatic data processing equipment and charges for the installation, service and maintenance of this equipment.

1. In this subsection, lease includes a contract by which a lessee, for a consideration, obtains the full or partial use of equipment if the lessee's employees are located on the premises where the equipment is located or operate the equipment. A lease does not include obtaining remote access

to equipment by telephone or other means when that person's employes are not located on the premises where the equipment is located and they do not operate the equipment or control its operations.

2. Subleasing receipts are taxable without any deduction or credit for sales or use tax paid by the original lessee to the lessor if the original lessee uses the equipment in addition to subleasing it. If the original lessee uses the equipment solely for lease or rental to others, the lessor's charge to the original lessee is exempt as a purchase for resale.

(b) The retail sale, lease, rental or license to use prewritten programs and basic operational programs, including the maintenance and enhancement of those programs, whether transferred in a machine readable form such as cards, tapes or discs, or transferred in any other manner to the lessee or purchaser such as by telecommunications, or written instructions on coding sheets. The tax applies to the total charge for these programs, including:

1. The consideration received for the temporary transfer of possession of a prewritten or basic operational program for the purpose of direct use or to be recorded by the customer.

2. The consideration received for a program in the form of license fees or royalty payments, present or future, whether for a minimum use or for extended periods.

3. The consideration received for designing, producing, implementing, testing or installing the program.

(c) The sale of training materials, such as books and manuals furnished to trainees for a specific charge. However, training services are not taxable.

(d) The charge for additional copies of records, reports or tabulations, including copies produced by means of photocopying, multi-lithing or by other means. "Additional copies" means all the copies in excess of copies produced on multipart carbon paper simultaneous with the production of the original and on the same printer, whether the copies are prepared by rerunning the same program, by using multiple simultaneous printers, by looping a program so that a program is run continuously, by using different programs to produce the same output product, or by other means.

(e) The sale of mailing lists as set forth in s. Tax 11.82, including listings in the form of mailing labels produced as result of a computer run. However, the tax does not apply to the charge for addressing material to be mailed with names and addresses furnished by a customer, or maintained by a service bureau for the customer, by the use of automatic data processing equipment.

(3) NONTAXABLE COMPUTER AND DATA PROCESSING SERVICES. The gross receipts from the following computer or data processing services are not taxable:

(a) Processing a client's data.

Note: 1) A contract to process a client's data by the use of a computer program or through an electrical accounting machine programmed by a wired plugboard will usually include receiving the client's source documents, recording data in machine readable form such as in punch cards or on magnetic media, making corrections, rearranging or creating new informa-

Tax 11

tion as the result of the processing and then providing tabulated listings or recording output on other media. This service is not taxable, even though the total charge is broken down into specific charges for each step.

2) If a client furnishes data and computer programs for processing the data and the processing is under the direction and control of the person providing the service, the processing service is not taxable, even though charges for the service may be based on computer time. The true object of this arrangement is considered to be a service, even though some tangible personal property may be incidentally transferred to the client.

(b) Providing custom programs.

(c) Providing program technical support, error correction services and maintenance and enhancement to custom programs.

(d) Providing time-sharing services which permit persons at different locations to access the same computer through remote access by telephone lines, microwave or other means. Nontaxable time-sharing exists when a person or that person's employes, who have access to the equipment, are not located on the premises where the equipment is located and do not operate the equipment or control its operation.

(e) Miscellaneous services which are not part of the sale of a taxable program including:

1. Designing and implementing computer systems including determining equipment and personnel required and how they will be utilized.

2. Designing storage and data retrieval systems including determining what data communications and high-speed input-output terminals are required.

3. Consulting services including study of all or part of a data processing system.

4. Feasibility studies including studies to determine what benefits would be derived if procedures were automated.

5. Evaluation of bids including studies to determine which proposal for computer equipment would be most beneficial.

(f) Key punching and keystroke verifying services, including:

1. Key punching only, key punching and keystroke verification, or key punching and providing a proof list or verification data or both. Charges for these services are not taxable, whether the cards or tapes are furnished by the customer or by a service bureau.

2. Recording data from source documents directly on magnetic tape, off-line. This operation may include keystroke verifying or proof listing of data or both and is comparable to the punch card operation.

3. Imprinting characters on a document to be used as the input medium in an optical character recognition system, whether paper tape or other media are used in the operation.

4. Reformatting of data.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.71 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 unless otherwise noted in the rule. However, computer and data processing services were taxable under s. 77.52 (2) (a) 13, Stats., Laws of 1977, from August 1, 1977 through June 30, 1978.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

In *Janesville Data Center, Inc. v. Department of Revenue* (1978), 84 Wis. 2d 341, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that the transfer of customer data onto tangible personal property and the verification of customer data is not subject to the sales and use tax as a transfer of tangible personal property or a taxable service.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86.

Tax 11.72 Laundries, dry cleaners, and linen and clothing suppliers. (ss. 77.51 (13) (e) and (f) and (14) (i) and 77.52 (2) (a) 6 and (2m) (a), Stats.)

(1) **LAUNDRIES AND DRY CLEANERS.** The gross receipts from selling, performing or furnishing laundry, dry cleaning, pressing and dyeing services are taxable, except when the services are performed on raw materials or goods in process destined for sale, or when the services are performed by the customer through the use of coin-operated, self-service machines.

(2) **LINEN AND CLOTHING SUPPLIERS.** The gross receipts of lessors from leasing or renting clothing (e.g., uniforms) towels, linens, diapers or similar items to commercial establishments or household users under agreements which provide for furnishing items and cleaning the items when they become soiled are subject to the tax. However, the items furnished to customers under such agreements may be purchased by the lessor without paying sales or use tax.

(3) **PURCHASES.** (a) Laundries, dry cleaners and linen or clothing suppliers are the consumers of and must pay tax on their purchases of all items transferred to customers incidentally in providing laundry and dry cleaning services, including solvents, soaps, detergents, spotting compounds, water repellents, disinfectants, fabric softeners, starch, dyes, mat compounds, fire repellent compounds and marking tags they use for identification purposes. They also must pay tax on their purchases of items transferred to customers with clean linen or clothes, such as hangers, handkerchiefs, bags, boxes, shirt boards, shoulder guards, twisters and pins. The tax applies to the gross receipts on the sale of these items to such purchasers.

(b) The tax applies to gross receipts from sales, leases or rentals of machinery and equipment to persons engaged in performing or furnishing laundry, dry cleaning, pressing and dyeing services, and to persons leasing or renting linens, towels and clothing to industrial, commercial or household users.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.72 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1963, except that pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 27, effective September 1, 1983, laundries and dry cleaners became the consumers of, and must pay tax on the purchases of, hangers, handkerchiefs, bags, boxes, shirt boards, shoulder guards, twisters and pins.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1979, No. 288, eff. 1-1-80; am. (3) (a) and r. (3) (c), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.78 Stamps, coins and bullion. (s. 77.51 (20), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SALES.** Retail sales of the following tangible personal property are subject to the sales and use tax:

- (a) Cancelled United States and foreign postage stamps.
- (b) Uncancelled United States postage stamps when sold or traded as collectors' items above their face value.
- (c) Uncancelled foreign postage stamps.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(d) Postage charges which are billed by the seller to the purchaser in connection with the sale and delivery of tangible personal property if the sale of the property is subject to the tax.

(e) Foreign coins and paper currency when sold or traded as collectors' items.

(f) United States coins and paper currency when sold or traded as collectors' items above their face value.

(g) Silver bullion and gold bullion which is physically located in Wisconsin is subject to the sales tax whether the sales contract is entered into or outside of Wisconsin. Such bullion purchased and delivered to the purchaser outside Wisconsin is subject to the use tax when brought into the state.

(h) Commemorative medals.

(2) **NONTAXABLE SALES.** Retail sales of the following tangible personal property are not subject to the sales and use tax:

(a) United States postage stamps, coins and paper currency sold at face value.

(b) The portion of the selling price attributable to postage in the sale of prestamped envelopes if the nontaxable postage is separately itemized to the customer.

(c) Sales of bullion to persons in Wisconsin when the purchaser takes a document of ownership covering bullion remaining outside the state.

(d) Foreign coins and paper currency in current circulation, when sold at face value and when acquired as a medium of exchange.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1977, No. 253, eff. 2-1-77.

Tax 11.79 Leases of highway vehicles and equipment. (ss. 77.51 (13) (k) and (14) (intro.) and (j), and 77.58 (6), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL RULE.** Gross receipts from the lease or rental of motor vehicles and mobile equipment used on a highway are subject to the sales and use tax.

(2) **DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS RECEIPTS.** If the lease or rental agreement is for a long term, in determining a lessor's taxable gross receipts under sub. (1), the cost of the following items may be deducted if they meet the conditions in sub. (3):

(a) Motor fuel.

(b) Vehicle license fees.

(c) Federal highway use taxes.

(d) Public liability insurance furnished by the lessor solely for the protection of the lessee but not including collision and comprehensive coverage.

(3) **CONDITIONS FOR DEDUCTIONS.** The items listed in sub. (2) may be deducted if:

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

- (a) The charge is reasonable.
- (b) The charge is separately stated in the lease agreement, billing or invoice.
- (c) The lessor is willing and able to lease the motor vehicle or mobile equipment without providing the items listed in sub. (2).
- (d) The deduction is limited to the lessor's cost of the items furnished with the leased equipment.

(4) **NONDEDUCTIBLE ITEMS.** In determining a lessor's taxable gross receipts under sub. (1), the cost of the following may not be deducted:

- (a) Amounts spent for the lessor's own protection or for the protection of leased property, including collision or other insurance protection.
- (b) Maintenance or repair charges incurred by the lessor.
- (c) Interest and other financing costs incurred by the lessor.
- (d) Dispatch service.

(5) **MULTISTATE USE.** (a) Gross receipts from leases or rentals of motor vehicles and mobile equipment used on a highway are taxable if the vehicles and equipment are garaged in Wisconsin, even if the lease or rental agreement was executed in another state or if, at the contract's expiration, the vehicles or equipment must be returned to the lessor in another state.

(b) "Drive it yourself" motor vehicles or mobile equipment which are used for one-way trips and leased for less than one month are deemed garaged in the state in which they come into the lessee's possession.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1977, No. 253, eff. 2-1-77; cr. (4) (d), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.80 Sales of ice. (ss. 77.52 (1) and 77.53 (1), Stats.) (1) Ice is tangible personal property, the retail sale of which is subject to sales tax, unless sold in an exempt transaction supported by a properly executed exemption certificate. Ice is sold at retail when it is sold for use or consumption but not for resale. For example, ice used for refrigeration purposes is consumed in the process of refrigeration; whereas, ice used in drinks is purchased for resale by the seller of the drink.

(2) Examples of taxable sales of ice (including dry ice) are:

- (a) Sales through vending machines.
- (b) Sales to restaurants, taverns, grocery stores and meat markets when the ice is consumed in cooling bottled drinks or preserving foods.
- (c) Sales to railroads or commercial fishermen for use in refrigerating railway cars or vessels.

(3) Examples of nontaxable sales of ice are:

- (a) Sales to restaurants, taverns and soda fountains to be used exclusively in drinks (exempt as sales for resale).

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

(b) Sales to manufacturers, producers or food processors for use inside the shipping cases of merchandise being transferred to a customer (exempt as "shipping material" under s. 77.54 (6) (b), Stats.).

(c) Ice sold to manufacturers which is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property in any form destined for sale.

(4) (a) If ice is sold to a person who will use it both for a taxable purpose (ex., refrigeration) and nontaxable purpose (ex., for resale), the total charge shall be divided between taxable and nontaxable use. The tax is then payable on the ice to be used in a taxable manner. If no division is made, the tax applies to the total sale.

(b) Ice purchased without payment of the tax and subsequently used in a taxable manner is subject to the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c).

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77; am. (4) (b), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.81 Industrial gases, welding rods and fluxing materials. (s. 77.54 (2), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL STATEMENT.** The tax status of retail sales of industrial gases, welding rods and fluxing materials depends upon the use of the property by the purchaser. Section 77.54 (2), Stats., exempts from the sales tax "The gross receipts from sales of and the storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property becoming an ingredient or component part of an article of tangible personal property or which is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property in any form destined for sale, but this exemption shall not include fuel or electricity." Therefore, the sale of industrial gases, welding rods or fluxing materials shall be:

(a) Exempt if they become ingredients or components of tangible personal property destined for sale; or

(b) Exempt if they are consumed, destroyed or lose their identity in the manufacture of tangible personal property destined for sale, except the sale of gas is taxable if the gas is used as a fuel. Fuel is a material used to produce heat or power by burning, or is something that feeds a fire; or

(c) Taxable if they are sold to a person who consumes them in a non-manufacturing activity.

(2) **INDUSTRIAL GASES.** Common types of industrial gases are argon, helium, hydrogen, nitrogen, acetylene, carbon dioxide and oxygen.

(a) Sales of industrial gases which are exempt because they become an ingredient or component of tangible personal property destined for sale by the purchaser include:

1. Carbon dioxide used to produce dry ice or carbonated soft drinks.

2. Gases such as neon, helium or argon used as a filler in the production of light bulbs and tubes.

3. Hydrogen used in hydrogenating vegetable oils.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

4. Acetylene used as a base in the manufacture of synthetic materials.
5. Oxygen used in the chemical industry for oxidation processes, when not used as a fuel to produce heat.

(b) Taxable sales of gases used by a manufacturer as fuel include:

1. Oxygen used in industrial furnaces.
2. Acetylene or other gases used in torches in the manufacture of tangible personal property.

(c) Taxable sales of gases to nonmanufacturers, whether or not used by the purchaser as fuel, include:

1. Acetylene or other gases used by automobile body shops or by other repair establishments.
2. Gases used in mining or quarrying.
3. Nitrogen used by telephone companies in underground cables.

(3) **WELDING RODS** (stick electrode or filler rods). Since welding rods (stick electrode or filler rods) are physically transferred and become a part of an item produced or repaired, their sale is exempt if used by the purchaser in producing tangible personal property destined for sale or in repairing tangible personal property for a consideration. The sale of welding rods to manufacturers who use them in repairing their machinery used directly and exclusively in manufacturing is exempt. However, the sale of such rods to construction contractors for use in fulfilling real property construction contracts is taxable.

(4) **FLUXING MATERIALS**. Fluxing materials sold to a manufacturer for use in manufacturing tangible personal property destined for sale are exempt because they are consumed in the manufacturing process. When fluxing materials are sold for use by a manufacturer to repair its own production machinery or equipment (a nonmanufacturing activity) they are taxable. Fluxing materials sold to a repair shop or to a real property construction contractor or to any other nonmanufacturer are taxable.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77.

Tax 11.82 Mailing lists and mailing services. (ss. 77.51 (20), 77.52 (1), 77.53 (1) and 77.54 (2), Stats.) (1) **MAILING LISTS.** (a) In this subsection, "mailing list" means a written or printed list, series, set, group or aggregation of names or addresses or both or other information concerning persons which is used in circulating material by mail. A mailing list may be in the form of a manuscript list, directory, Cheshire tape, Dick tape, magnetic tape, gummed labels, index cards or other similar means of identification.

(b) A mailing list is tangible personal property, except for written or typed lists of names and addresses, and the sales and use tax shall apply to the gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use or other consumption of mailing lists in the form of tangible personal property, including the rental of or the granting of a license to use such lists. Examples of taxable mailing lists include, but are not limited to magnetic tapes

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

and mailing lists which are physically attached to the envelopes, such as Cheshire tapes, gummed labels and heat transfers.

(c) Persons in the business of providing mailing lists are the consumers of the tangible personal property they purchase and use in producing such lists. However, any tangible personal property becoming a component part of mailing lists when such mailing lists are physically transferred to a customer by either sale, rental or license may be purchased for resale and without tax if the purchaser gives the seller a properly completed resale certificate.

(2) MAILING SERVICES. (a) In this subsection, "addressing" means the preparation of property to be mailed by writing, typewriting, printing, imprinting or affixing addresses or names and addresses to such property. Addressing includes the preparation of Cheshire tapes, Dick tapes, cards, gummed labels or similar items which are to be affixed to, or enclosed in, property to be mailed for the purpose of serving as addresses for such property. However, addressing does not include such tapes, cards or labels when they are used for some other purpose, such as reproduction or reference.

(b) The tax shall not apply to charges for services rendered in preparing material for mailing (including addressing, enclosing, sealing, metering, affixing stamps, sorting, tying and sacking in compliance with postal rules and regulations) if such charges are stated separately on invoices and in accounting records. Gross receipts from charges for envelopes are taxable, but not separately stated charges for postage in the sale of prestamped envelopes.

(c) Persons in the business of providing mailing services are consumers of the tangible personal property they purchase and use in performing such services. Consequently, they must pay the tax when purchasing such property.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

Note: The amendment to sub. (1) (b) effective January 1, 1979, codifies the department of revenue's policy and conforms the rule to the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision in *Fingerhut Products Company et al. vs. Commissioner of Revenue*, Docket No. 96-906, September 27, 1977, that typed lists of names and addresses are not tangible personal property subject to the sales and use tax, but are rather nontaxable transfers of information.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (1) (b), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

Tax 11.83 Motor vehicles. (ss. 77.51 (13) (am) and (14) (j), 77.52 (1) and (15), 77.53 (1), (16) and (18), 77.54 (5) (d) and (7), 77.56 (2) and 77.61 (1), Stats.) (1) DEFINITION. In this rule, "motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle (e.g., automobile, truck, truck-tractor and motorcycle) designed for and capable of transporting persons or property on a highway. In this rule, "motor vehicle" does not include a self-propelled vehicle which is not designed or used primarily for transportation of persons or property, and is only incidentally operated on a public highway, such as a farm tractor, snowmobile, fork lift truck, and road machinery as defined in s. 340.01 (52), Stats. "Motor vehicle" does not include a vehicle which is not self-propelled such as a trailer or semitrailer.

(2) RETAILERS' TAXABLE GROSS RECEIPTS. A retailer's taxable gross receipts include: (a) Gross receipts from the sale of a motor vehicle minus Register, July, 1987, No. 379

any trade-in allowance, if the sale and trade-in are one transaction. A separate or independent sale of a motor vehicle by either the buyer or seller of another motor vehicle is not a trade-in, even if the proceeds from the sale are immediately applied by the seller to a purchase of another motor vehicle. A dealer does not realize taxable receipts from a transaction in which one motor vehicle is traded for another of lesser value (a "trade-down").

(b) Gross receipts from charges for delivery, handling, preparation and any warranty.

(c) Gross receipts from equipment and accessories sold with a motor vehicle.

(d) Gross receipts from charges for all parts and labor for repair, service and maintenance performed on a motor vehicle, including charges for installation of accessories or attachments (e.g., a radio or air conditioner).

(3) OCCASIONAL SALE OR PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES FROM NON-DEALERS. (a) The occasional sale of a motor vehicle is taxable, unless the transfer is to the spouse, parent or child of the transferor; and the motor vehicle has been previously registered in this state in the name of the transferor; and the transferor is not a motor vehicle dealer. A son-in-law or daughter-in-law is not allowed this exemption.

(b) The purchaser of a motor vehicle from a non-dealer shall pay the tax due to the department of transportation before the vehicle is registered for use in this state.

(c) A Wisconsin resident purchasing a motor vehicle in a foreign country, or for delivery in a foreign country, shall pay the Wisconsin use tax when the resident registers the vehicle in Wisconsin for use in Wisconsin, subsequent to use in the foreign country. The tax is measured by the full "sales price" of the vehicle.

(d) When one co-owner transfers an interest in a motor vehicle to the other co-owner, tax shall apply on the transfer of such interest. The measure of the tax shall be the cash or its equivalent paid for the equity transferred plus the selling co-owner's share of the liabilities assumed by the buying co-owner.

(4) PURCHASES BY NONRESIDENTS. (a) The gross receipts from the sales of motor vehicles or truck bodies to nonresidents of this state (including members of the armed forces) who will not use such vehicles or trucks (for which the truck bodies were made) in this state other than in their removal from this state are exempt. However, the separate sale of a "slide-in" camper to a nonresident is taxable if delivery is in Wisconsin.

(b) Gross receipts from the repair by a Wisconsin retailer of a nonresident's motor vehicle is subject to the tax.

(c) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or mobile home purchased by a nonresident of Wisconsin 90 days or more before bringing the unit into this state, in connection with a change of residence to this state by the individual, is not subject to the Wisconsin use tax.

(d) Except as provided in par. (c), nonresidents, including armed forces personnel stationed outside this state pursuant to military orders,

who purchase motor vehicles outside this state, shall pay the Wisconsin use tax at the time the vehicle is registered with the Wisconsin department of transportation. However, a tax credit may be claimed as described in sub. (5).

(5) **TAX CREDIT FOR VEHICLE PURCHASED OUTSIDE WISCONSIN.** A motor vehicle purchased outside this state and registered in this state generally is subject to the Wisconsin use tax, except as noted in sub. (4) (c). However, if the purchase was subject to a sales or use tax by the state or the District of Columbia in which the purchase was made, sales tax paid the other state or the District of Columbia shall be applied as a credit against and deducted from the Wisconsin use tax. This credit shall not apply to taxes paid to another country, to municipalities in other states or to motor vehicle registration fees.

(6) **TRANSFER BY INHERITANCE, GIFT OR PRIZE.** (a) The distribution of a motor vehicle to the heir(s) of an estate is not a taxable transfer subject to the Wisconsin sales or use tax. However, the sale of a motor vehicle by a personal representative of an estate is subject to the tax, and the purchaser is required to pay the tax to the department of transportation at time of registration.

(b) A motor vehicle transferred as a gift or as a prize in a contest or drawing is exempt when registered with the department of transportation by the recipient or prize winner. However, the sale of the vehicle to the donor of the gift or prize is taxable.

(7) **VEHICLES USED BY LICENSED WISCONSIN RETAIL MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.** (a) If salespersons use a licensed Wisconsin retail motor vehicle dealer's motor vehicles for purposes in addition to retention, demonstration or display, the dealer may charge the salesperson a reasonable amount for such use, and such charge is subject to the tax. In lieu of making such charge or reporting the tax on the cost of the vehicle, the dealer may report tax on the following basis:

1. In the case of motor vehicles licensed in the name of the retail dealer, the measure of the tax reported on the dealer's monthly sales and use tax return shall be \$45.00 until December 31, 1985, \$57.00 from January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1986, \$69.00 per month from January 1, 1987 through December 31, 1987 and \$83.00 per month January 1, 1988 and thereafter.

2. In the case of motor vehicles being operated with retail dealer plates, the measure of the tax reported on the dealer's monthly sales and use tax return shall be \$12.00 per month until December 31, 1985, \$15.00 per month from January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1986, \$18.00 per month from January 1, 1987 through December 31, 1987 and \$22.00 per month January 1, 1988 and thereafter.

(b) Retail dealers shall not report on the basis prescribed in par. (a) for service vehicles such as wreckers or pick-up trucks, or autos used by customers when their car is being repaired. Wholesalers, distributors, brokers or manufacturers may not report on this basis.

(8) **SALES BY DEALERS TO THEIR SALESPERSONS.** When a licensed Wisconsin motor vehicle dealer sells a motor vehicle to one of the dealer's salespersons, the transaction is subject to the sales tax.

(9) **HEAVY EQUIPMENT DEALERS.** Heavy equipment dealers who are not registered with the Wisconsin department of transportation as motor vehicle dealers because their sales are too few in number to require registration shall not charge the sales tax on their sales of motor vehicles. The tax shall be collected from the purchaser at the time the unit is registered with the state. Such heavy equipment dealers may purchase motor vehicles for resale without tax.

(10) **MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR PARTS AND SUPPLIES.** (a) Motor vehicle dealers with body shops and any other person engaged in motor vehicle repair may purchase for resale without tax tangible personal property which is physically transferred to the customer's vehicle and which leaves the repair facility with the repaired vehicle. Such property includes paints, paint hardeners, plastic fillers, welding rods and auto parts.

(b) Tangible personal property not physically transferred to a customer's motor vehicle are subject to tax. Such property includes tools, equipment and supplies used or consumed in performing motor vehicle repair service. Examples of taxable supplies include: sandpaper, masking paper and tape, buffing pads, paint and lacquer thinner, clean and glaze compound, disc pads, paint remover, paint masks, tack rags, steel wool, industrial gases, metal conditioner, brushes, lacquer removing solvent, rubbing compound, wax and grease remover, fluxing materials, disc adhesive and all other items not physically transferred to the customer's vehicle.

(c) A supplier cannot accept a resale certificate in good faith on items which are not physically transferred to the purchaser's customer, *except* when the purchaser:

1. Inventories such property;
2. Certifies that the purchaser sells significant amounts of the property over-the-counter to walk-in trade; and
3. The purchaser specifies on the resale certificate each type of item the purchaser sells over-the-counter.

(11) **EXEMPTION FOR MIXING AND PROCESSING UNITS.** Sales, leases and rentals of mobile units used for mixing and processing and the motor vehicle or trailer on which the unit is mounted, including accessories, attachments, parts, supplies and materials for those vehicles, trailers and units are exempt from the sales and use tax.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.83 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) the 5% use tax payable by motor vehicle dealers using regular license plates in sub. (7) (a) 1 was \$1.00 per month through December 31, 1972, \$1.35 per month until June 30, 1981, \$2.25 per month until December 31, 1985 and thereafter as shown in the rule; (b) the 5% use tax payable in sub. (7) (a) 2 by motor vehicle dealers using dealer plates was 25¢ per month through December 31, 1972, 35¢ per month until June 30, 1981, \$.60 per month until December 31, 1985 and thereafter as shown in the rule; (c) an exemption was added to s. 77.54 (5) (d), Stats., by 1985 Wisconsin Act 29, effective July 20, 1985, for mobile mixing and processing units as shown in sub. (11).

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (7) (a) and (8), Register, May, 1981, No. 307, eff. 6-1-81; am. (4) (c), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (7) (a) 1. and 2., Register, February, 1986, No. 362, eff. 3-1-86; emerg. am. (7) (a) 1. and 2., eff. 3-24-86; am. (7) (a) 1. and 2., Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86; cr. (11), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

Tax 11

Tax 11.84 Aircraft. (ss. 77.52 (2) (a) 9, 77.54 (5) (a) and (7) and 77.61 (1), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** (a) The sales and use tax applies to the gross receipts from the sale, lease or rental of aircraft and from the sale of accessories, components, attachments, parts, supplies and materials for aircraft.

(b) An occasional sale of aircraft in Wisconsin is taxable unless all three of the following conditions exist:

1. The transfer is to the spouse, parent or child of the transferor;
2. The aircraft was previously registered in Wisconsin in the transferor's name; and
3. The transferor does not hold and is not required to hold a Wisconsin seller's permit.

(c) Section 77.61 (1) (a), Stats., provides that no aircraft shall be registered in this state unless the registrant presents proof that the sales or use tax has been paid. If the aircraft is purchased from a person other than a Wisconsin aircraft dealer, the purchaser shall pay the tax at the time the aircraft is registered with the Wisconsin department of transportation, division of aeronautics. The tax applies to aircraft registered or customarily hangared or both in this state, even though such aircraft also may be used out-of-state.

(2) **TAXABLE SALES.** (a) *Aircraft, supplies and repairs.* Gross receipts from the following shall be taxable:

1. The sale, lease or rental of aircraft.
2. The sale and delivery in Wisconsin of oil, equipment, parts and supplies for operation of aircraft, regardless of where the aircraft is flown or used. Sales of general aviation fuel subject to taxation under ch. 78, Stats., are exempt from the sales and use tax.
3. Charges for air frame and engine inspection, maintenance and repair.

(b) *Parking.* 1. Section 77.52 (2) (a) 9, Stats., imposes the tax on "Parking or providing parking space for motor vehicles and aircraft for a consideration . . ." "Parking" includes occupying space in a hangar when an aircraft is available for use without requiring a substantial expenditure of time or effort to make it operational. For example, an aircraft kept in a hangar and available for normal use is parked, but an aircraft kept in a hangar with its wings off is stored rather than parked.

2. Indoor parking, such as single or multiple "T" hangar parking, and outdoor (tie down) parking are taxable.

(c) *Other taxable receipts.* The gross receipts from charges for aerial photographs and maps, and from charges for sightseeing flights and for carrying a skydiver are taxable.

(3) **EXEMPT SALES OF AIRCRAFT.** Section 77.54 (5) (a), Stats., provides that the tax shall not apply to gross receipts from aircraft, including accessories, attachments, parts and fuel therefor, sold to persons using the aircraft as certified or licensed carriers of persons or property in interstate or foreign commerce under authority of the laws of the United States. Register, July, 1987, No. 379

States or any foreign government, or to aircraft sold to a nonresident of this state who will not use the aircraft in this state other than to remove it from Wisconsin. Scheduled air carriers and commuter carriers with air carrier operating certificates shall qualify for this exemption. This exemption does not apply to persons with air worthiness certificates which indicate certain safety standards have been met, if they do not otherwise qualify.

(4) **NONTAXABLE SERVICES.** Gross receipts from the following services or fees shall not be taxable:

(a) Transporting customers or property for hire when the customer only designates the time of departure and destination while the owner retains control over the aircraft in all other respects.

(b) Flight instruction when the fees for such instruction are separately stated from the charge for the rental of the aircraft.

(c) Advertising promotions such as sky writing and banner towing, except when the aircraft is leased to a person who provides a pilot.

(d) Emergency rescue service, forest fire spotting and pipeline inspection service, except where the aircraft is leased to a company which provides its own pilot.

(e) Crop dusting, spraying, fertilizing and seeding a farmer's crops. A person in the business of crop dusting, spraying, fertilizing and seeding for farmers may purchase weed killers, fertilizer and seed without tax for resale, if these items are used in conjunction with but not incidental to providing the service.

(f) Landing fees.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.84 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that an exemption for general aviation fuel was inserted in s. 77.54 (11) by Chapter 20, Laws of 1981, effective January 1, 1982. Prior to January 1, 1982 sales of aircraft jet fuel, including the state and federal fuel taxes in the price of such fuel, were subject to the tax.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12-1-77; am. (2) (b) 1. and 2., Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (a) 2. and (3), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (4) (e), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.85 Boats, vessels and barges. (ss. 77.51 (7) (am), 77.52 (2) (a) 9 and 10, 77.53 (17), (17m), and (18), 77.54 (7) and (13) and 77.61 (1), Stats.) (1) **TAXABLE SALES.** Taxable gross receipts involving boats include the following:

(a) Gross receipts from the sale, lease or rental of boats and boat accessories, and of attachments, parts, supplies and materials therefor.

(b) Charges for services involved in installing an item on a boat for a consumer.

(c) Charges for repair, service, alteration, fitting, cleaning, painting, coating, towing, inspecting and maintaining boats and their accessories or component parts. Services purchased outside Wisconsin, which would be taxable if purchased in Wisconsin, with respect to property later used in Wisconsin, are subject to use tax.

(d) Charges for docking and storing boats. The tax applies to boat storage in public storage warehouses.

(e) The use tax does not apply to household goods for personal use purchased outside Wisconsin 90 days or more before being brought into this state by a person becoming domiciled in this state. A boat is not household goods for this exemption.

(2) EXEMPT SALES. (a) A boat not required to be registered in Wisconsin with the Wisconsin department of natural resources or documented under the laws of the United States may be sold at retail as an exempt occasional sale if the transferor is not engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property or taxable services.

(b) Sales of boats to the spouse, parent or child of the transferor shall be exempt if the boat was previously registered with the Wisconsin department of natural resources or documented under the laws of the United States in the transferor's name and if the transferor does not hold and is not required to hold a seller's permit.

(c) Commercial vessels and barges of 50-ton burden and over primarily engaged in interstate or foreign commerce or commercial fishing shall be exempt from the tax. Accessories, attachments, parts and fuel for such vessels and barges are also exempt.

(d) A boat purchased outside Wisconsin by a nonresident and used by the nonresident while temporarily in Wisconsin shall be exempt from the tax if the boat is not used in Wisconsin in the conduct of a trade, occupation, business or profession or in the performance of personal services for wages or fees.

(e) A boat purchased by a governmental unit and by certain nonprofit organizations shall be exempt from the tax, regardless of the boat's size or kind (see s. 77.54 (9) (a) and s. 77.55 (1)).

(f) Section 77.53 (17m), Stats., exempts: "A boat purchased in a state contiguous to this state by a person domiciled in that state if the boat is berthed in this state's boundary waters adjacent to the state of the domicile of the purchaser, if the transaction was an exempt occasional sale under the laws of the state in which the purchase was made, if the boat is not located in this state more than 60 consecutive days other than while it is in storage and if this state is not the state of principal use."

(3) PAYMENT OF TAX. (a) No boat shall be registered in this state unless the registrant presents proof that the sales or use tax has been paid or that the transaction was exempt. If the boat is purchased from a person other than a person with a seller's permit, the purchaser shall pay the tax at the time the boat is registered with the Department of Natural Resources, Boat Registration Section, P.O. Box 7236, Madison, Wisconsin 53707.

(b) A boat purchased outside Wisconsin which is required to be registered under Wisconsin law is subject to the Wisconsin use tax, regardless of the state of domicile of the person bringing the boat into Wisconsin or the use of the boat in Wisconsin.

(c) A credit is permitted against the Wisconsin use tax for the sales or use tax imposed by and paid to the state in which the boat was purchased.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.85 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except: (a) Boats documented under laws of the United Register, July, 1987, No. 379

States did not qualify for the occasional sale exemption pursuant to Chap. 1, Laws of 1979, effective February 28, 1979; (b) Charges by governmental units for docking and storing boats became taxable pursuant to Chap. 221, Laws of 1979, effective June 1, 1980; (c) Boats of non-residents kept in waters contiguous to the nonresidents' state of domicile as described in sub. (2) (f) became exempt from the use tax pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29, effective September 1, 1985.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (d), (2) (a) and (b), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (a), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; cr. (2) (f), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.86 Utility transmission and distribution lines. ss. 77.51 (20), 77.52 (2) (a) 10, 11 and 20, 86.16 and 182.017, Stats.) (1) **PERSONAL PROPERTY.** "Tangible personal property", as defined in s. 77.51 (20), Stats., includes overhead telephone and telegraph lines, electrical, water and gas transmission and distribution lines, and the poles, transformers, towers (but not foundations), pipes, conduits, sleeves or other overhead property by which such lines are supported or in which they are contained or connected, if erected or installed under easement or license (including authorizations under ss. 86.16 and 182.017, Stats.) on land owned by a person other than the utility (such lines and facilities located above ground level being herein collectively referred to as "overhead utility facilities"). The term "tangible personal property", as defined in s. 77.51 (20), Stats., does not include underground telephone and telegraph lines, electrical, water and gas transmission and distribution lines, and the foundations, pipes, conduits, sleeves or other underground property by which such lines are supported or in which they are contained or connected (such lines and facilities being herein sometimes collectively referred to as "underground utility facilities").

(2) **REAL PROPERTY.** (a) The lines, poles, foundations, towers, gravel and any buildings of a substation located on a utility's own land are part of the realty. However, transformers, circuit breakers and other equipment installed to control the flow of electricity remain personal property after installation.

(b) Concrete foundations (including anchors), crushed rock and backfill whether or not on land owned by the utility, are deemed part of the realty, and materials used in construction or forming the same are taxable when purchased by the contractor.

(3) **TAXABLE AND NONTAXABLE TRANSACTIONS.** (a) Gross receipts from the installation, sale, lease, rental, repair, service or maintenance of overhead utility facilities which are personal property as described in subs. (1) and (2) are subject to the sales and use tax. For example, the gross receipts of a contractor from the construction and installation of an overhead utility facility, or a portion thereof, and from a sale "in place" of such a facility, if installed under easement on land owned by a person other than the utility, are taxable. Materials used in the construction or installation of such property may be purchased without tax for resale. Gross receipts from the installation, sale, lease, rental, repair, service or maintenance and removal of underground utility facilities are not subject to the sales and use tax; however, the materials used in the construction or installation of such underground facilities cannot be purchased for resale and are subject to tax at the time of purchase unless otherwise exempt.

(b) A contractor performing a "lump sum contract" for the construction of an overhead utility facility, which is personal property as de-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

scribed in subs. (1) and (2), may not reduce gross receipts by the amount of related expenses, such as payments for crop damage, site preparation, restoration work, tree trimming, line clearing, relocating existing lines, engineering and design work, surveying, purchasing a right-of-way and unloading and hauling materials. These payments are costs of performing the contract and do not affect the amount of taxable gross receipts.

(c) When a contractor enters into an agreement to construct or repair an overhead utility facility, which is personal property as described in subs. (1) and (2), the total charge for such construction or repair is taxable even though a portion of the total charge consists of hourly charges for the use of equipment.

(d) When equipment for the construction or repair of a utility line is rented to a utility, the rental charge is taxable. If an operator is included with such equipment and it is customary or mandatory that the utility accept the operator with the equipment, the entire charge for the equipment and operator is taxable. A rental agreement exists only if the utility employs the crew other than the equipment operator and provides on-the-job supervision; otherwise, the entire charge for the repair, service, maintenance or installation of the utility line is subject to the tax if so indicated in par. (c).

(4) **NONTAXABLE SERVICES.** (a) Gross receipts from a separate contract for tree trimming and line clearing in connection with the construction of a new utility line is not considered a cost of constructing the line for sales tax purposes. Charges for tree trimming and line clearing in the construction or maintenance of a line in a rural undeveloped area are not taxable. However, charges for right-of-way tree trimming, line clearing or restoration work may be taxable landscaping services as described in sub. (5).

(b) A separate charge for removing an existing utility line is not taxable.

(5) **LANDSCAPING SERVICES.** Gross receipts from landscaping services are taxable when performed in lawn and garden areas. This includes lawn, shrub and tree services performed in developed areas found in residential, business, commercial and industrial locations, cemeteries, golf courses, athletic fields, stadiums, parking lots and other developed areas.

Note: Examples: 1. Trimming trees on a utility's right-of-way.

2. Restoration work performed when a utility extends its service or repairs or replaces existing lines.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.86 are effective on and after September 1, 1970, except that landscaping services describe in sub. (5) became taxable pursuant to Chapter 317, Laws of 1981, effective May 1, 1982.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1978, No. 276, eff. 12-1-78; am. (4) (a) and cr. (5), Register, September, 1984, No. 346, eff. 10-1-84.

Tax 11.87 Meals, food, food products and beverages. (ss. 77.51 (4) (c) 2, (14) (b) and (f), (15) (c) 1 and 77.54 (20), Stats.) (1) **DEFINITIONS.** In this rule:

(a) "Exempt food" means food, food products and beverages not subject to the sales and use tax.

(b) "Hospital" has the meaning in s. 50.33 (2), Stats.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(c) "Nursing home" has the meaning in s. 50.01 (3), Stats.

(d) "Retirement home" means a nonprofit residential facility, which as its primary function provides personal care above the level of room and board to retired persons, where 3 or more unrelated adults or their spouses have their principal residence and where support services, including meals from a common kitchen, are available to residents.

(e) "Personal care" means assistance with the activities of daily living, including eating, dressing, bathing and ambulation.

(f) "Sanatorium" means an institution for the recuperation and treatment of the victims of physical or mental disorders.

(g) "Taxable food" means food, food products and beverages subject to the sales and use tax.

(2) TAXABLE SALES. (a) *General.* Generally, the gross receipts from sales of food or beverages shall be taxable when sold by restaurants, cafeterias, lunch counters, coffee shops, snack bars, eating houses, hotels, motels, lodging houses, sororities, fraternities, drug stores, diners, taverns, vending machines, drive-ins, mobile sales units, clubs and similar businesses, organizations or establishments.

(b) *Sales by generally exempt seller.* Certain foods that have been prepared by a seller by cooking, baking or other methods shall be taxable food even though the seller is principally engaged in the sale of exempt food. For example, when a supermarket sells chickens roasted on a rotisserie, the roasted chickens are taxable food because heated food (or heated beverages) are taxable. Heated food or beverages mean those products, items or components which have been prepared for sale in a heated condition and which are sold at any temperature which is higher than the air temperature of the room or place where they are sold.

(c) *Food components of meals.* Food items which comprise or are components of a meal (for example, a basket of chicken with cole slaw and french fries) shall be taxable food when sold on a "take out" or "to go" basis and are packaged or wrapped and removed from the premises for consumption elsewhere.

(d) *Caterers.* Meals, food, food products and beverages sold by caterers shall be taxable.

1. "Caterer" means a person engaged in the business of preparing meals, food and drinks, and serving these items on premises designated by a purchaser. When an agreement with a caterer provides that the caterer shall prepare and serve food either for a stated price per meal, for a lump sum, or for a price per plate, the consideration paid shall constitute the sale of taxable food. Any rental charges made by a caterer for items such as tableware, tablecloths or other tangible personal property, whether or not separately stated on the bill, shall be includable in the consideration paid and shall be taxable.

2. Charges made by a caterer for preparing and serving meals or drinks to social clubs, service clubs, fraternal organizations or other nonexempt purchasers shall constitute exempt sales for resale *only* if the purchasers are regularly engaged as retailers of meals, hold a seller's permit and give resale or exemption certificates to the caterer.

3. The tax shall apply to items purchased by caterers, including dishes, silverware, linen napkins, tablecloths, punch fountains, coffee silver service and glassware, which are used by caterers to serve food or beverages to their customers, or used in conjunction with providing catering service. However, the following items may be purchased without tax for resale, if used exclusively for rental purposes by a caterer and if customers pay specific taxable rental charges for such use: tents, public address systems, portable dance floors, portable bars, chairs and tables. Disposable items transferred to customers for a valuable consideration, including paper and plastic cups and plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins, straws, placemats and toothpicks also may be purchased without tax for resale.

(e) *Vending machine sales.* A vending machine operator has a "premise" as defined in s. 77.54 (20) (c) 6, Stats. The operator's total gross receipts shall be presumed derived from on-premise consumption unless records show which portion of the sales were made for off-premise consumption and involve food which could be treated as exempt food.

(f) *Cover and minimum charges.* Cover charges or minimum charges, whether listed separately on a bill or collected as an admission fee or fixed charge, which entitle the patron to receive entertainment or to dance as well as to receive food, meals or drinks, shall be taxable. If food, meals or drinks are furnished, prepared or served at locations other than the place of business of the seller or in a room other than a regular dining room and an extra charge is made for such service, the entire amount shall be taxable.

(g) *Tips.* 1. A tip which is given directly to an employe in cash or which is added by a customer to a bill which amount is then turned over in full to the employe, shall be exempt from the sales tax, if the amount of such tip is wholly in the discretion or judgment of the customer and the customer does not make the payment pursuant to an arrangement made with the seller.

2. A flat amount or flat percentage, whether designated as a tip or as a service charge, that is added to the price of a meal under a requirement of the seller or an arrangement made with the seller is a part of the selling price of such meals and shall be subject to the tax, regardless of whether the amount or flat percentage may be subsequently paid over in whole or in part by the seller to employes.

(h) *Huber law meals.* Meals sold to "Huber Law" prisoners by a sheriff or a governmental unit shall be subject to the tax.

(i) *Meals to employes.* Sales of meals to employes by an employer for a specific charge shall be taxable.

1. A specific charge shall be deemed made for meals if any one of the following conditions is met:

a. The employe pays cash for meals consumed.

b. An actual, specific charge for meals is deducted from an employe's wages.

c. An employe receives meals in lieu of cash to bring the employe's compensation up to the legal minimum wage.

d. An employe has the option to receive cash for meals not consumed.

2. In the absence of any of the conditions in subd. 1 a specific charge shall not be deemed made when:

a. A value is assigned to meals only as a means of reporting the fair market value of an employe's meals for FICA, social security, or union contract purposes.

b. An employe who does not consume available meals has no recourse against the employer for additional cash wages.

(j) *Transportation companies.* The sale of meals and liquor by transportation companies (e.g., airlines or railways) to a customer while operating in or over Wisconsin for a specific charge shall be taxable. Such meals and beverages may be purchased by the transportation companies without tax for resale. However, if the sales price of the meal or beverage shall not be separately stated to the customer, the tax shall apply to purchases of such meals and beverages by transportation companies.

(k) *Organizations and their members.* 1. When members of an exempt or nonexempt organization meet at a hotel, restaurant or other place of business where food or drinks are sold and the members pay for such items, the place of business shall be considered selling directly to the members and not to the organization. The sales shall, therefore, be subject to the tax, even if the organization shall collect from the members and pay the seller, and retain a portion of the collections for its own purposes. In such situations, the organization shall be deemed acting for its members' convenience and not purchasing and reselling meals.

2. However, when an exempt religious, charitable or educational organization shall pay for food and beverages out of its own funds, and shall provide such items to members or others without charge, the sale of such items by a retailer to the organization shall not be subject to the tax. If such exempt organizations hold a Certificate of Exempt Status issued by the department, they shall give the retailer their certificate number to claim the exemption.

(3) **EXEMPT SALES.** The following meals shall be exempt:

(a) *Health care facilities.* Meals, food, food products, or beverages sold by hospitals, sanitoriums, nursing homes, retirement homes or day care centers registered under ch. 48, Stats. However, if an affiliated organization sells such items, the exemption shall not apply. For example, if the ladies' auxiliary of a hospital operates a coffee shop on the hospital premises, although the ladies' auxiliary is a nonprofit organization, the food and drinks sold at such coffee shop are taxable.

(b) *"Meals on wheels".* Meals, food, food products or beverages sold to the elderly or handicapped by persons providing "mobile meals on wheels".

(c) *Dormitory contracts.* Meals, food, food products or beverages furnished under any contract or agreement by a public or private institution of higher education.

(d) *Groceries.* Sales of the basic food items for human consumption purchased for the home preparation of meals. This includes sales of pre-packaged ice cream, ice milk or sherbet in pint, quart, gallon or larger

Tax 11

sizes, whether prepackaged by the vendor or a supplier. Sales of smaller sized containers of these products are taxable. Sales of ice cream, ice milk, sherbet or yogurt as cones, sundaes, sodas, shakes and frozen chocolate bars made from these products are taxable.

(4) **SPECIAL SITUATIONS.** (a) *Specialty items.* A seller engaged principally in the sale of taxable food may also be engaged in the sale of exempt food. For example, a restaurant which specializes in serving pancakes may also sell containers of its specially prepared syrup to take home. Sales of this syrup are not taxable.

(b) *Fund-raising events.* When a charge to a customer bears little or no relationship to the actual value of meals, food, food products and beverages received, such as \$100 per ticket for a fund raising dinner dance, the tax shall be based on the reasonable value of the tangible personal property and taxable services received by the customer.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 except that sales of meals by retirement homes became exempt on April 25, 1978, pursuant to Chap. 250, Laws of 1977.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1978, No. 267, eff. 4-1-78; renum. (1) (b) to be (1) (g), cr. (1) (b) to (f), am. (3) (a), (b) and (c), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; am. (2) (d) 3., (g) and (i), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (3) (d), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; correction in (1) (b) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7, Stats.

Tax 11.88 Mobile homes. (ss. 77.51 (2), (4) (b) 6, (13) (am) and (15) (b) 5, 77.52 (2) (a) 1, 77.53 (17), 77.54 (7), (31) and (36), 77.61 (1) (a) and (c), 218.10 (3), (7) and (9) and 340.01 (29), Stats.) (1) **MOBILE HOME AS PERSONAL PROPERTY VS. REALTY IMPROVEMENT.** A mobile home is personal property if it is located in a mobile home park or other place where the land on which the mobile home is located is not owned by the mobile home owner. A mobile home is a realty improvement if it is permanently affixed to land owned by the owner of the mobile home. It is permanently affixed to the land for sales tax purposes if the mobile home sits on a foundation and is connected to utilities. "On a foundation" means it is off the wheels and sitting on some other support.

(2) **SALES OF MOBILE HOMES WHICH ARE REALTY IMPROVEMENTS.** (a) The sale of a mobile home and the land to which it is permanently affixed is the sale of a realty improvement not subject to the tax. The sale of a mobile home which is a realty improvement on the land of the seller, and which is acquired by the purchaser for removal from the seller's land for permanent attachment to the purchaser's land, is the sale of realty.

(b) If the seller of a mobile home as part of the sales transaction agrees to permanently affix the home on a foundation on land owned by the purchaser, the seller is a contractor-consumer engaged in improving realty. Sales of mobile homes to such a contractor-consumer are subject to the tax, but the gross receipts from the subsequent sale by the contractor-consumer to the purchaser of the mobile home are not taxable.

(3) **SALES AND RENTALS OF MOBILE HOMES WHICH ARE PERSONAL PROPERTY.** (a) Under s. 77.54 (31), Stats., the total gross receipts from the sale of a used mobile home, which is a primary housing unit, are exempt from the sales and use tax.

(b) Under s. 77.51 (4) (b) 6 and (15) (b) 5, Stats., 35% of the total gross receipts from the sale of a new mobile home which is a primary

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

housing unit is exempt from the tax. No credit is allowed for trade-in allowances on the purchase of a new mobile home.

(c) Under s. 77.54 (36), Stats., the rental of a mobile home, as defined in s. 66.058 (1) (e), Stats., used for lodging for a continuous period of one month or more is exempt from the sales and use tax, whether the mobile home is classified as real or personal property.

(d) Under s. 77.54 (7), Stats., mobile homes transferred to the spouse, parent or child of the transferor are exempt occasional sales if the mobile home has been previously registered or titled in this state in the name of the transferor and the transferor is not engaged in the business of selling homes.

(4) PAYMENT OF TAX. (a) No mobile home may be registered in this state unless the registrant presents proof that the sales or use tax has been paid or that the registrant's acquisition of the mobile home was exempt from the tax. If the mobile home is purchased from a person other than a Wisconsin mobile home dealer and is subject to the tax, the purchaser shall pay the tax at the time the mobile home is registered with the department of transportation, division of motor vehicles.

(b) A mobile home purchased outside Wisconsin which is required to be registered under Wisconsin law is subject to the Wisconsin use tax. However, a credit is permitted against the Wisconsin use tax for any sales or use tax paid to the state in which the mobile home was purchased.

(5) CONSIGNMENT SALES. When a mobile home dealer has possession of a mobile home owned by another person (the principal), the dealer is the retailer responsible for reporting tax on the transaction if the dealer makes the sale without disclosing the identity of the principal to the purchaser (see s. Tax 11.55). If the principal is disclosed to the purchaser on the invoice or in the sales contract, the principal is the seller of the mobile home and the tax on the transaction shall be paid under sub. (4) (a), provided the mobile home dealer does not take title to the mobile home. If the dealer does take title, the dealer is the seller.

(6) DEFINITION. In this section:

(a) "Mobile home dealer" has the meaning defined in s. 218.10 (3), Stats.

(b) "New mobile home" has the meaning defined in s. 218.10 (7), Stats.

(c) "Primary housing unit" has the meaning defined in s. 340.01 (29), Stats.

(d) "Retailer" is a person who has a seller's permit issued under s. 77.52 (9), Stats.

(e) "Used mobile home" has the meaning defined in s. 218.10 (9), Stats.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.88 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 except as follows: (a) Nonretailer sales of mobile homes were not taxable prior to August 1, 1977, (b) Nonretailer sales of mobile homes became taxable on August 1, 1977 pursuant to Chapter 29, Laws of 1977, (c) Nonretailer sales of mobile homes exceeding 45 feet in length became exempt on July 1, 1978 pursuant to Chapter 418, Laws of 1977, (d) The rental of a mobile home which is personal property used for lodging for

Tax 11

a continuous period of one month or more became exempt on July 1, 1984 pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 341 and was clarified by 1985 Wisconsin Act 149, effective April 1, 1986. (e) The total gross receipts from the sale of a used mobile home became exempt, effective January 1, 1987, pursuant to 1983 Wisconsin Act 29. (f) Thirty-five percent of the gross receipts from the sale of a new mobile home became exempt effective January 1, 1987, pursuant to 1985 Wisconsin Act 29.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1980, No. 300, eff. 1-1-81; r. and recr. (3) and (6), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.91 Successor's liability. (s. 77.52 (18), Stats.) (1) **DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSOR.** (a) A purchaser or assignee of the business or stock of goods of any retailer liable for sales or use tax shall be personally liable for the payment of such sales or use tax if the purchaser or assignee fails to withhold a sufficient amount of the purchase price to cover the taxes due.

(b) If a corporation shall be created and shall acquire the assets of a sole proprietor in consideration for the corporation's capital stock, the corporation is liable for the sales tax of the sole proprietorship.

(c) A surviving joint tenant shall not have successor's liability for delinquent sales or use tax where the business or inventory passes by law to the remaining joint tenant.

(d) A financial institution or mortgagee who forecloses on a loan to a retailer owing delinquent sales or use tax shall not incur successor's liability.

(e) If a retail business or stocks of goods shall pass from A to B to C, and B's successor's liability shall be unpaid, such liability shall not pass to C. The new successor, C, shall be liable only for B's unpaid sales and use tax.

(f) Successor's liability is not incurred in a sale by a trustee in bankruptcy, in a transfer by gift or inheritance, in a sheriff's sale, or in a sale by a personal representative or special administrator.

(g) If a financial institution or other creditor actually operates a business which has been voluntarily surrendered by a delinquent debtor in full or partial liquidation of a debt, the creditor is a successor. The creditor is not a successor if it acquires possession of a business voluntarily surrendered if it never operates the business and if its sole purpose is to sell the business in its entirety at whatever price it can obtain to recover its investment.

(2) **EXTENT OF LIABILITY.** (a) If there shall be no purchase price, there shall be no successor's liability.

(b) A successor shall be liable to the extent of the purchase price. The purchase price shall include:

1. Consideration paid for tangible property and for intangibles such as leases, licenses and good will.
2. Debts assumed by the purchaser, or canceled by a creditor.

(c) A successor shall be liable only for the amount of the tax liability, not for penalties and interest. Although based on the predecessor's tax, the successor's liability shall not bear interest.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(d) A successor's liability shall be limited to amounts owed by the predecessor which were incurred at the location purchased. If the seller operated at more than one location while incurring a total liability for all locations, its liability incurred at the location sold shall be determined and shall represent the amount for which the successor may be held liable.

(e) Successor's liability is determined by law and shall not be altered by agreements or contracts between a buyer and seller.

(3) PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASER. (a) A purchaser shall withhold a sufficient amount from the purchase price to cover any possible sales or use tax liability.

(b) The purchaser shall submit a written request to the department for a clearance certificate. The letter requesting the certificate shall include the real name, business name and seller's permit number (if known) of the prior operator. The department shall have sales tax returns for all periods during which the predecessor operated before it can issue the certificate.

(c) By statute, the department has 60 days from the date it receives the request or from the date the former owner makes its records available, whichever is later, but no later than 90 days after it receives the request, to ascertain the amount of sales tax liability, if any. The department shall within these periods, issue either:

1. A clearance certificate; or

2. A notice of sales tax liability to purchaser and successor in business, which shall state the amount of tax due before a clearance certificate can be issued and which shall be served and handled as a deficiency determination under s. 77.59, Stats.

(d) The department's failure to mail the notice of liability within the 90 day period shall release the purchaser from any further obligation.

(4) DEPARTMENT'S COLLECTION PROCEDURES. (a) The department shall first direct collection against the predecessor.

(b) Action against the successor shall not be commenced prior to an action against a predecessor unless it appears that a delay would jeopardize collection of the amount due.

(c) A demand for a successor to pay a predecessor's tax liability shall be subject to the right of appeal.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on or after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1976, No. 250, eff. 11-1-76; am. (1) (d) and (2) (b) 2., cr. (1) (f) and (g), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

Tax 11.92 Records and record keeping. (ss. 77.52 (13), 77.60 (8), 77.61 (4) (a) and (9), 77.75, Stats.) (1) GENERAL. All persons selling, leasing or renting tangible personal property or taxable services and every person storing, using or otherwise consuming in this state tangible personal property or taxable services shall keep adequate and complete records so that they may prepare complete and accurate tax returns. These records shall include the normal books of account ordinarily maintained by a

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

prudent business person, together with all supporting information such as beginning and ending inventories, records of purchases and sales, cancelled checks, bills, receipts, invoices (which shall contain a posting reference), cash register tapes, credit memoranda (which shall carry a reference to the document evidencing the original transaction) or other documents of original entry which are the basis for the entries in the books of account, and schedules used in connection with the preparation of tax returns. Such records shall show:

(a) The gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property or taxable services, or rentals or leases of tangible personal property (including any services that are a part of the sale or lease) made within Wisconsin irrespective of whether the seller or lessor regards the receipts as taxable or nontaxable.

(b) The basis for all deductions claimed in filing returns, including resale and exemption certificates obtained from customers. Exempt sales to governmental units and public schools need not be supported by exemption certificates, if the supplier retains a copy of the exempt entity's purchase order. Sales to organizations holding a certificate of exempt status (e.g., religious or charitable organizations) can be shown to be exempt by recording the exemption certificate number on the seller's copy of the bill of sale. All other exempt sales must be supported by an exemption certificate signed by the purchaser and retained by the seller, unless the merchandise sold is specifically exempted by statute regardless of use (such as groceries). Documents necessary to support claimed exemptions from tax liability, such as bills of lading and purchase orders, must be maintained in a manner in which they readily can be related to the transactions for which exemption is sought.

(c) Total purchase price of all tangible personal property or taxable services purchased for sale or consumption or lease in this state.

(d) Every person subject to the county sales and use tax shall keep a record of sales the person completes in each county enacting an ordinance under s. 77.70, Stats., imposing a county tax, separately from sales made elsewhere in the state. Every person shall also keep a record of the sales price of items on which the person is subject to county use or excise tax in each enacting county.

(2) MICROFILM RECORDS. Microfilm (including microfiche) reproductions of general books of account (such as cash books, journals, voucher registers and ledgers) and supporting records of detail shall be acceptable if the following conditions are met:

(a) Appropriate facilities are provided for preservation of the films for periods required.

(b) Microfilm rolls are indexed, cross referenced, labeled to show beginning and ending numbers or beginning and ending alphabetical listing of documents included and are systematically filed.

(c) Transcriptions are provided for any information contained on microfilm which may be required for purposes of verification of tax liability.

(d) Proper facilities are provided for the ready inspection and location of the particular records, including adequate projectors for viewing and copying the records.

(3) **RECORDS PREPARED BY AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING (ADP) SYSTEMS.** An automatic data processing (ADP) tax accounting system shall have the capability of producing visible and legible records which will provide the necessary information for verification of the taxpayer's tax liability.

(a) *Recorded or reconstructible data.* ADP records shall provide an opportunity to trace any transaction back to the original source or forward to a final total. If detailed printouts are not made of transactions at the time they are processed, then the system must have the ability to readily reconstruct these transactions.

(b) *General and subsidiary books of account.* A general ledger, with source references, shall be written out to coincide with financial reports for tax reporting periods. Where subsidiary ledgers are used to support the general ledger accounts, the subsidiary ledgers shall also be written out periodically.

(c) *Audit trail and supporting documents.* The audit trail shall be designed so that the details underlying the summary accounting data may be identified and made available to the department upon request. The record keeping system should be so designed that supporting documents (such as sales invoices, purchase invoices, exemption certificates, credit memoranda) shall be readily available.

(d) *Program documentation.* A written description of the ADP portion of the accounting system shall be available. Important changes, together with their effective dates, shall be noted in order to preserve an accurate chronological record. The statements and illustrations as to the scope of operations shall be sufficiently detailed to indicate:

1. The application being performed.
2. The procedures employed in each application.
3. The controls used to ensure accurate and reliable processing.

(4) **RECORDS RETENTION.** The records shall be preserved and retained for the 4-year period open to audit under s. 77.59 (3), Stats. If any agreement is entered into to extend the 4-year audit period, the records shall be preserved for that extended period. If a notice of tax determination has been issued to the taxpayer by the department and if the taxpayer files a petition for redetermination, the records for the period covered by the notice of the tax determination shall be preserved and retained until such tax redetermination has been finally resolved.

(5) **EXAMINATION OF RECORDS.** All records described in this section shall be made available for examination by the department at its request.

(6) **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS.** In the absence of suitable and adequate records, the department may determine the amount of tax due by using any information available, whether obtained from the taxpayer's records or from any other source. Failure to maintain and keep complete

Tax 11

and accurate records may result in penalties or other appropriate action provided by law.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general and use tax law on or after September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1977, No. 259, eff. 8-1-77; emerg. cr. (1) (d), eff. 3-24-86; cr. (1) (d), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

Tax 11.925 Sales and use tax security deposits. (s. 77.61 (2), Stats.) (1) **GENERAL.** Under s. 77.61 (2), the department may require any person liable to it for sales and use taxes to place with it, before or after a permit is issued, such security as the department determines. The amount of security shall not exceed \$5,000. If any person fails or refuses to place such security, the department may refuse to issue a permit or revoke the permit.

(2) **FACTORS FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION.** (a) In determining whether or not security will be required and the amount of security to be required, the department may consider all relevant factors including the person's:

1 Evidence of adequate financial responsibility. Such evidence may include a person's assets and liabilities, liquidity of assets, estimated expenditures and potential sales tax liability.

2 Prior record of filing tax returns and paying taxes of any kind with the department.

3 Type of business (e.g., a temporary or seasonal business having no fixed location which is frequently moved from city to city may be a greater security risk than one operating continually at a fixed location).

4 Type of entity (e.g., a sole proprietor or partner having nonbusiness financial resources may be a better risk than a corporation having limited assets).

(b) Although the individual factors listed in sub. (2) (a) may be considered in determining security requirements, each case shall be determined on its merits as evaluated by the department of revenue. Protection of the sales and use tax revenues shall be the major consideration in determining security requirements. However, due consideration shall be given to reasonable evidence that security is not necessary.

(c) In instances in which the department determines that a security deposit in excess of \$50.00 is required, notification of this requirement shall include a written statement clearly describing the reasons for the requirement and a description or calculation showing how the amount of the security requirement was determined.

(3) **TYPES OF SECURITY.** Acceptable types of security include, but are not limited to:

(a) *Non interest-bearing.* 1. Cash, certified check or money order.

2. Surety bonds issued by authorized underwriters.

3. Personal guarantee of a third party, if approved by the department.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(b) *Interest-bearing.* 1. Time certificates of deposit issued by financial institutions and made payable to the department. Interest earned on such certificates shall be paid to the depositor.

2. Fully paid investment certificates issued by savings and loan associations made payable to the depositor. A Security Assignment, Form S-127, shall be completed if this type of security is selected. (Note: Form S-127 may be obtained at any Department of Revenue office or by writing to: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8902, Madison, Wisconsin 53708).

3. Bearer bonds issued by the U.S. government, any unit of Wisconsin municipal government or by Wisconsin schools. The depositor should clip 2 full years' coupons before depositing this type of security.

(4) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT. (a) If a security deposit is required, the amount generally shall be equal to the depositor's average quarterly Wisconsin sales and use tax liability increased to the next highest even \$100 amount. The average quarterly sales and use tax liability shall be based on whichever of the following the department considers most appropriate in the circumstances:

1. The depositor's previous sales and use tax liability at the location specified on the permit.

2. The predecessor's sales and use tax liability at the location specified on the permit,

3. The estimated tax liability shown on the application for permit.

4. Other factors, such as the department's estimate of estimated tax liability based on its experience with other similar activities.

(b) If at the time of the security review the retailer has an outstanding sales and use tax delinquency, the delinquent amount shall be added to the average quarterly sales and use tax liability.

(5) RETURN OF DEPOSIT. (a) Section 77.61 (2), Stats., provides: ". . . Any security deposited under this subsection shall be returned to the taxpayer if the taxpayer has, for 24 consecutive months, complied with all the requirements of this subchapter."

(b) The 24 month compliance requirement described in par. (a) shall begin on the day the deposit is received by the department.

(c) Within 30 days after the conclusion of the 24 month period described in par. (a) the department shall review the taxpayer's compliance record. If the taxpayer has complied with ch. 77, subch. III the department shall within 60 days after the expiration of the 24 month period certify the deposit for refund.

(d) Compliance with subch. III means that:

1. Sales and use tax returns were timely filed.

2. All payments were made when due.

3. No delinquencies of sales or use tax, interest or other charges existed.

Tax 11

4. No penalties due to negligence or fraud were assessed for filing periods within the 24 month compliance period.

5. No assessment of additional tax, interest or other charges for filing periods within the 24 month compliance period is unpaid at the end of the 24 month compliance period.

e. If a taxpayer does not meet the compliance requirements set forth in par. (d), the deposit shall be retained by the department until the taxpayer is in compliance for 24 consecutive months from the date of the latest non-compliance.

Note: Except as noted below, the interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969.

Subsection (5) relating to return of deposit is effective on March 13, 1980, the effective date of chapter 125, Laws of 1979.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1981, No. 307, eff. 8-1-81.

Tax 11.93 Annual filing of sales tax returns. (s. 77.58 (5), Stats.) (1) A retailer holding a regular seller's permit who during the previous calendar or fiscal year had a sales and use tax liability not exceeding \$300 will be notified by the department of the option of filing one sales and use tax return for the following year or of continuing to file returns on a quarterly basis. Retailers who elect filing one return a year shall notify the department of that election.

(2) Returns and payments of retailers reporting on an annual basis shall be due and payable on the last day of the month following the close of their calendar or fiscal year.

(3) A retailer who files on an annual basis shall not be required to file a sales and use tax "annual information return" if:

(a) Deductions and exemptions are itemized on the sales tax return filed for the year, and

(b) Gross receipts reported for income tax and sales tax purposes are the same amount.

(4) The annual information return filing requirements do not apply to the 1981 tax year and thereafter.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969 except that the \$300 standard applies to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 1979. Prior to the date a \$100 standard applied. The "annual information return" was eliminated for 1981 and subsequent years pursuant to Chapter 221, Laws of 1979.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; cr. (4), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83.

Tax 11.94 Wisconsin sales and taxable transportation charges. (ss. 77.51 (14) (intro.) and (d) and (14r), and 77.52 (1), Stats.) (1) "WISCONSIN SALE," (a) A Wisconsin sale takes place at the time and place possession of tangible personal property transfers from the seller or its agent to the purchaser or its agent pursuant to s. 77.51 (14r), Stats.

(b) When a Wisconsin seller transfers possession to a purchaser at the seller's Wisconsin place of business and the purchaser either removes the property itself or hires a contract carrier to remove the property, possession transfers to the purchaser in Wisconsin and there has been a Wisconsin sale. Register, July, 1987, No. 379

sin sale. Conversely, when a Wisconsin seller ships or delivers property from the seller's Wisconsin place of business to an out-of-state location, possession is transferred outside Wisconsin and the sale is *not* a Wisconsin sale. In the latter situation, the result is the same if property is delivered using the seller's vehicle and employees or by a contract carrier engaged by the seller.

(c) When property is transferred from a seller to a purchaser via a common carrier or by the United States postal service, the property shall be deemed in the possession of the purchaser when it is turned over to the purchaser or its agent by the common carrier or postal service at the destination regardless of the f.o.b. point and regardless of the method by which the freight or postage is paid.

(d) Gifts purchased in Wisconsin by residents or nonresidents and shipped out-of-state by the seller at the direction of the purchaser shall not be subject to the sales or use tax if the purchaser does not take physical possession of the gift at the time of sale. However, if the purchaser takes possession of the gift at the time of the sale, the sale is taxable.

(e) Section 77.51 (14) (d), Stats., applies to a situation where tangible personal property is delivered to a purchaser in this state by an owner or former owner of the property holding or required to hold a Wisconsin sales or use tax permit or where a Wisconsin office of the owner or former owner of the property aids in making the delivery. Therefore, if a manufacturer ships or turns over such property to a purchaser in Wisconsin based on an order received from an unregistered out-of-state seller, who had received the original order from the Wisconsin purchaser, the manufacturer shall report the Wisconsin tax measured by the retail selling price. However, a manufacturer may drop ship an item to a purchaser in Wisconsin without the tax being applicable, if the purchaser is entitled to purchase the property without tax and gives the manufacturer a properly completed exemption certificate.

(2) TAXABLE TRANSPORTATION CHARGES. (a) When a seller charges a purchaser for the delivery of taxable tangible personal property, the seller's total charge, including any transportation charge, shall be subject to the sales or use tax. It is immaterial whether delivery is made by the seller's vehicle, a common or contract carrier, or the United States postal service.

Note: Example. When the seller charges the purchaser for delivery of the taxable tangible personal property the correct computation of tax is as follows:

Selling price of merchandise	\$100.00
Delivery charge	<u>10.00</u>
Subtotal	\$110.00
Tax at 5% (\$110 × 5%)	<u>5.50</u>
Total	\$115.50

(b) If a shipment includes both taxable and nontaxable property, the seller shall determine and set forth on the invoice the portion of the delivery charge reasonably allocable to the taxable property. The portion allocated to nontaxable property is not taxable. If no such allocation is made, the total delivery charge shall be taxable.

(c) A Wisconsin purchaser who purchases taxable goods without tax for use in Wisconsin is subject to the use tax or sales tax pursuant to s. Tax 11.14 (2) (c) based on the "sales price" of the goods to the purchaser.

The "sales price" shall include transportation charges paid by the Wisconsin purchaser to the seller for shipment of the goods to the purchaser.

(d) When taxable tangible personal property is sold for a "delivered price", tax applies to the charge for transporting the property to the purchaser even though the purchaser may directly pay the transportation charges. Property is sold for a "delivered price" when the price agreed upon includes all costs or charges for transporting the property directly to the purchaser, and under circumstances such that if there is an increase or decrease in the cost of transportation, it is borne by the seller. For example, if the "delivered price" of a carload of lumber is \$6,000 (including transportation) and the purchaser pays the transportation charges directly to the common carrier and deducts the payment from the amount due the seller, the transportation charges are borne by the seller and are included in the seller's measure of the tax.

Note: The interpretations in the rule are effective under the general sales and use tax law effective September 1, 1969.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1978, No. 265, eff. 2-1-78; am. (1) (e), r. (2) (b), renum. (2) (c), (d) and (e) to be (2) (b), (c) and (d), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; am. (2) (c), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.95 Retailer's discount. (s. 77.61 (4) (b), 77.76 (3) and 77.785 (2), Stats.) (1) For timely reporting state and county sales or use tax collected on their retail sales, retailers may deduct 2% of the first \$10,000 sales and use tax payable during the retailer's tax year, 1% of the second \$10,000 of tax payable and .5% of the sales and use tax payable in excess of \$20,000 each year. Section 77.785 (2), Stats., requires dealers to collect and remit the county tax to the state agency which registers or titles a boat, all-terrain vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, aircraft, motor vehicle, mobile home not exceeding 45 feet in length or snowmobile, and the dealer is entitled to the retailer's discount on these county taxes paid timely.

(2) The retailer's discount is allowed if the taxes are paid on or before the due date of the return, or on or before the expiration of any extension period if one has been granted. The discount is not allowed if the payment is delinquent. It is also not allowed on deficiency determinations, amended returns filed after the due date or consumer's use tax imposed pursuant to s. 77.53 (2), Stats.

Note: The interpretations of s. 77.61 (4) (b) and (c), Stats., in s. Tax 11.95 are effective for a retailer's taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 1983 pursuant to Chapter 20, Laws of 1981. Effective January 1, 1972 until the effective date of Chapter 20, Laws of 1981 retailers could deduct 1% of the tax payable for each reporting period if the payment was not delinquent. Prior to January 1, 1972 the discount was 2%. Prior to April 1, 1976 persons with a Wisconsin seller's permit were allowed the discount on consumer's use tax paid timely; after that date the discount does not apply.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1978, No. 266, eff. 3-1-78; r. and recr., Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10-1-84; emerg. am. (1), eff. 3-24-86; am. (1) Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

Tax 11.96 Interest rates. (ss. 77.58 (7) and 77.60 (1) and (2), Stats.) (1) **INTEREST ON UNPAID TAXES WHICH ARE NOT DELINQUENT.** Unpaid sales or use taxes which are not delinquent but which are assessed by the department on or after August 1, 1981 shall bear interest computed at the rate of 12% per year from the due date of the taxes to the date paid or delinquent.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(a) For taxes due on or after November 1, 1975 and assessed by the department before August 1, 1981, interest shall be computed at the rate of 9% per year from the due date of the taxes to the date paid or delinquent.

(b) For taxes due prior to November 1, 1975, interest shall be computed at the rate of 6% per year from the due date of the taxes to October 31, 1975, and at the rate of 9% per year from November 1, 1975 to the date paid or delinquent.

(2) INTEREST ON REFUNDS. Any refund of sales or use taxes shall include interest as follows:

(a) If the tax being refunded is from a return which has a filing due date on or after November 1, 1975, interest shall be computed at the rate of 9% per year from the due date of the return to the date on which the refund is certified on the refund rolls.

(b) If the tax being refunded is from a return which has a filing due date prior to November 1, 1975, interest shall be computed at the rate of 6% per year from the due date of the return to October 31, 1975, and at the rate of 9% per year from November 1, 1975 to the date on which the refund is certified on the refund rolls.

(3) DELINQUENT TAXES. Delinquent sales or use taxes shall include interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from the date on which the tax became delinquent until the taxes are paid.

(4) EXTENSION PERIODS. If an extension of time is granted for filing a sales or use tax return, any taxes owing with the return are subject to interest during the extension period at the rate of 12% per year. However, if the return is not filed or the taxpayer files but fails to pay the tax by the end of the extension period, the taxes owing become delinquent and shall be subject to delinquent interest under sub. (3) from the end of the extension period until paid.

Note: 1. For unpaid non-delinquent sales or use taxes due prior to November 1, 1975, interest was computed at the rate of 6% per year from the due date of the taxes to October 31, 1975, and at the rate of 9% per year from November 1, 1975 to the date paid or delinquent.

2. For unpaid non-delinquent sales or use taxes due on or after November 1, 1975 and assessed by the department of revenue before August 1, 1981, interest was computed at the rate of 9% per year from the due date of the taxes to the date paid or delinquent.

3. Sales or use taxes which were delinquent before November 1, 1975 were subject to delinquent interest at the rate of 1% per month from the date the tax became delinquent to October 31, 1975 and at 1.5% per month from November 1, 1975 until paid.

4. Refunds bear interest from the due date of the return to the date certified on the refund roll, effective September 1, 1983. Prior to that date interest was computed on refunds from the due date of the return to the first day of the month following the month in which the taxes were refunded.

History: Cr. Register, January, 1979, No. 277, eff. 2-1-79; r. and recr. (1) and (3), am. (4), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (1) (a), (2) (a) and (b), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

Tax 11.97 "Engaged in business" in Wisconsin (ss. 77.51 (13) (c) and (k) and (13g), (14) (j); 77.53 (3), (5), (7), (9) and (9m), Stats.) (1) GENERAL. (a) Out-of-state retailers are required to register and collect a state's use tax if the retailer is subject to the state's jurisdiction. The United States supreme court has resolved certain jurisdictional questions by interpreting the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amend-

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

ment to the U.S. Constitution. Over the last 30 years the court has said due process requires that there be some definite link, some minimum connection between the state and the person, property or transaction it seeks to tax. If this minimum connection, often called "nexus", is established; the out-of-state seller is required to register and collect the state's use tax.

(b) Some United State supreme court decisions concerning nexus include:

Nelson vs. Sears Roebuck & Co., 312 U.S. 359 (1941)

Nelson vs. Montgomery Ward & Co., 312 U.S. 373 (1941)

General Trading Co. vs. State Tax Commission of the State of Iowa, 322 U.S. 335 (1944)

Miller Bros. Co. vs. Maryland, 347 U.S. 340 (1954)

Scripto, Inc. vs. Carson, 362 U.S. 207 (1960)

National Bellas Hess, Inc. vs. Illinois Department of Revenue, 386 U.S. 753 (1967)

National Geographic Society vs. California Board of Equalization, 430 U.S. 551 (1977)

(2) STATUTES. (a) Section 77.51 (13) (k), Stats., defines "retailer" to include any person deriving rentals from a lease of tangible personal property situated in this state, and s. 77.51 (14) (j), Stats., defines a lease as a continuing sale.

(b) Section 77.51 (13g), Stats., provides as follows:

"Retailer engaged in business in this state', unless otherwise limited by federal statute, for purposes of the use tax, means any of the following:

(a) Any retailer owning any real property in this state or leasing or renting out any tangible personal property located in this state or maintaining, occupying or using, permanently or temporarily, directly or indirectly, or through a subsidiary or agent, by whatever name called, an office, place of distribution, sales or sample room or place, warehouse or storage place or other place of business in this state.

(b) Any retailer having any representative, agent, salesperson, canvasser or solicitor operating in this state under the authority of the retailer or its subsidiary for the purpose of selling, delivering or the taking of orders for any tangible personal property or taxable services."

(c) Under s. 77.53 (5), Stats., the tax required to be collected by a use tax registrant is a debt owed by the registrant to this state, and s. 77.53 (7), Stats., provides the tax is to be stated separately from the list price of the goods sold.

(3) ACTIVITIES WHICH IN THEMSELVES CREATE WISCONSIN "NEXUS". Unless otherwise limited by federal statute, a retailer engaged in business in this state who must register includes the following:

(a) Any retailer owning any real property in this state.

(b) Any retailer leasing or renting out any tangible personal property located in this state.

(c) Any retailer maintaining, occupying or using, permanently or temporarily, directly or indirectly, or through a subsidiary, agent or other

person, an office, place of distribution, sales or sample room or place, warehouse or storage place or other place of business in this state.

(d) Any retailer having any representative, agent, salesperson, canvasser or solicitor operating in this state under the authority of the retailer or its subsidiary for the purpose of selling, delivering or taking orders for any tangible personal property.

(e) Any person servicing, repairing or installing its products in this state.

(f) Any person delivering goods into this state in company operated vehicles.

(g) Any person performing construction activities in this state.

(4) ACTIVITIES WHICH IN THEMSELVES DO NOT CREATE "NEXUS". Activities which, in themselves, do not create nexus in this state, include:

(a) Advertising in newspapers published in or outside this state.

(b) Sending catalogues into this state from an out-of-state location if subsequent orders are shipped either by mail or common carrier to Wisconsin consumers.

(c) Receiving mail or telephone orders outside this state from consumers located in Wisconsin if such orders are shipped either by mail or common carrier into Wisconsin.

(d) Making cash or credit sales over-the-counter at an out-of-state location to Wisconsin consumers, when the goods are shipped by mail or common carrier by the retailer into this state, or when possession of the goods is taken at the out-of-state location by the consumer.

(5) REGISTRATION. (a) Every out-of-state retailer engaged in business in this state and not required to hold a seller's permit who makes sales for storage, use or other consumption in this state shall apply for a use tax registration certificate. The registration form, entitled "Application for Permit" (Form A-101), may be obtained from any department office. There is no fee for registration. Retailers engaged in business in Wisconsin for use tax purposes are not necessarily engaged in business in Wisconsin for franchise/income tax purposes.

(b) Retailers who are not engaged in business in Wisconsin, but who elect to collect use tax for the convenience of their Wisconsin customers may register and pay taxes directly to this department. Holders of such permits shall collect the use tax from Wisconsin customers, give receipts therefor and pay the use tax in the same manner as retailers engaged in business in this state.

(c) Refer to s. Tax 11.002 for a description of permit requirements, how to apply for a permit, and the 15-day time period within which the department of revenue is required to act on permit applications.

(6) ACTIVITIES WHICH IN THEMSELVES DO AND DO NOT CREATE "NEXUS" FOR COUNTY SALES TAX PURPOSES. The activities described in sub. (3) which create "nexus" for state sales tax purposes also create "nexus" for county sales tax purposes if the activities take place in a

county which has adopted the tax. The activities in sub. (4) which do not create "nexus" for state sales tax purposes also do not create "nexus" for county sales tax purposes, even if the activities take place in a county which has adopted the tax.

Note: The interpretations in this rule are effective under the general sales tax law on and after September 1, 1989.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1978, No. 271, eff. 8-1-78; am. (2) (b) and (c), Register, January, 1983, No. 325, eff. 2-1-83; cr. (5) (c), Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; emerg. am. (6), eff. 3-24-86; cr. (6), Register, October, 1986, No. 370, eff. 11-1-86.

Tax 11.98 Reduction of delinquent interest rate under s. 77.62 (1), Stats. (ss. 71.13 (1) (b), 77.60 (2) and 77.62 (1), Stats.) (1) PROCEDURES. The secretary may reduce the delinquent interest rate from 18% to 12% per year effective for all determinations, assessments or other actions for additional tax made by the department on or after August 1, 1981 when the secretary determines the reduction fair and equitable, if the person from whom delinquent taxes are owing:

(a) Requests the reduction in writing, addressed to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Delinquent Tax Collection System, P.O. Box 8901, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(b) Clearly indicates why it is fair and equitable for the rate of interest to be reduced. Information regarding one or more of the factors under sub. (2) may be indicated.

(c) Is current in all return and report filings and tax payments for all matters other than the delinquencies for which interest reduction is being sought.

(d) Pays the sales and use taxes, reduced amount of interest and any penalties associated with them within 30 days of receiving notice from the department of the reduction.

(2) **FACTORS FOR SECRETARY'S CONSIDERATION.** In determining whether an interest rate reduction is fair and equitable, the secretary may consider the following factors:

(a) The taxpayer's prior record of reporting and payment to the department.

(b) The taxpayer's financial condition.

(c) If the taxpayer is a natural person, any circumstances which may have prevented payment such as death, imprisonment, hospitalization or other institutionalization.

(d) Any unusual circumstances which may have caused the taxpayer to incur the delinquency or prevent its payment.

(e) Any other factor which the secretary believes pertinent.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(3) **DETERMINATION NOT APPEALABLE.** The secretary's determination under this rule is not appealable.

Note: The interpretations in s. Tax 11.98 are effective under the general sales and use tax law on and after September 1, 1969, except that the secretary could reduce the delinquent interest rate from 18% to 9% for determinations made prior to August 1, 1981.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1979, No. 278, eff. 3-1-79; am. (1) (intro.), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83.