

■ Changes in Home Rule Sales Tax in Normal

TO: All Retailers and Servicepersons Conducting Business in Normal

Effective January 1, 1996, Normal has increased the home rule sales tax rate.

It may be necessary to adjust your cash registers and any computer programs you use so that, beginning on January 1, you will be collecting and paying the correct amounts.

The home rule sales tax rate is part of the combined rate which is preprinted on your Form ST-1, Sales and Use Tax Return, and, for multiple-site filers, your Form ST-2, Multiple Site Form.

What's being taxed?

The home rule sales tax has the same base for **general merchandise** as the state sales tax you are already familiar with. (The base refers to those items that are taxed. Any item that is exempt from state sales tax will also be exempt from this home rule sales tax.)

You will report receipts from this general merchandise tax on Line 4a on Form ST-1. Your preprinted return will show the correct combined rate.

Food, drugs, and medical appliances are exempt from home rule sales tax. (The term "food" here refers to food not prepared for immediate consumption, such as most food purchased at a grocery store, excluding hot foods, alcoholic beverages, and soft drinks.)

What is the tax rate?

Normal has increased the home rule sales tax rate on general merchandise from 0.75 percent to **1 percent**.

This new rate will be reflected in Line 4a of Form ST-1 as a total general merchandise rate of **7.25 percent**.

What do I do when a customer pays me after January 1 for a purchase delivered earlier at a different rate?

If the original purchase was subject to a different tax rate from the rate in Line 4a of Form ST-1, you must report these receipts on Line 8a.


Does home rule sales tax apply to sales on Form ST-556, Sales Tax Transaction Return?

No. If you sell cars or other items that are required to be titled or registered by an agency of Illinois government, you should pay special attention. The home rule sales tax **does not** apply to these sales, and receipts from these sales will continue to be taxed at the current rate preprinted on your Form ST-556.

However, receipts from sales of general merchandise, such as the parts you sell over the counter and the parts you use during service of motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, trailers, and mobile homes, are subject to home rule sales tax rates, which are reflected in the rates preprinted on Forms ST-1 and ST-2.

Questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please call or write us. Our telephone numbers and address are printed at the bottom of this bulletin.

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INFORMATION...**

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1 800 544-5304 TDD-telecommunications device for the deaf

WRITE: Illinois Department of Revenue, 101 W. Jefferson St., P.O. Box 19044, Springfield, IL 62794-9044
