
State of South Carolina
Department of Revenue
301 Gervais Street, P. O. Box 125, Columbia, South Carolina 29214
Website Address: <http://www.sctax.org>

SC INFORMATION LETTER #08-11

SUBJECT: Sales Tax Holiday - 2008

DATE: June 26, 2008

SUPERSEDES: All previous advisory opinions and any oral directives in conflict herewith.

AUTHORITY: S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2000; Supp. 2007)
SC Revenue Procedure #05-2

SCOPE: An Information Letter is a written statement issued to the public to announce general information useful in complying with the laws administered by the Department. An Information Letter has no precedential value.

Code Section 12-36-2120(57) provides for an annual sales tax holiday for sales taking place during 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ending at midnight on the following Sunday. Accordingly, the 2008 sales tax holiday weekend will begin Friday, August 1, 2008 at 12:01 a.m. and end Sunday, August 3, 2008 at midnight.

During this time, the 6% state sales and use tax, and any applicable local sales and use tax, will not be imposed on clothing, clothing accessories (*e.g.*, hats, scarves, hosiery, and handbags), footwear, school supplies (*e.g.*, pens, pencils, paper, binders, notebooks, books, bookbags, lunchboxes, and calculators), computers, printers and printer supplies, computer software, and bath wash clothes, blankets, bed spreads, bed linens, sheet sets, comforter sets, bath towels, shower curtains, bath rugs and mats, pillows, and pillow cases. The sales tax holiday, however, does not apply to sales of jewelry, cosmetics, eyewear, wallets, watches, furniture, rental of clothing or footwear, items for use in a business, or items placed on layaway or similar deferred payment and delivery plans.

The Department has published two advisory opinions concerning the sales tax holiday; each is available on our website at www.sctax.org. These documents are:

1. SC Revenue Ruling #05-9 – a detailed list of examples of exempt items during the sales tax holiday and a list of examples of nonexempt items.
2. SC Revenue Ruling #05-10 – a “question and answer” document addressing frequently asked sales tax holiday questions.

Note: The General Assembly established the following two additional sales tax holidays during the 2008 legislative session:

(1) Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday: This two-day sales tax holiday applies to purchases of handguns, rifles and shotguns and will take place every year on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year the Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday will take place on November 28th and 29th of 2008. Information concerning the Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday will be published later this year.

(2) Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday: This month-long sales tax holiday applies to purchases of certain energy efficient dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, refrigerators, doors, and windows purchased for noncommercial home or personal use and that have a sales price of \$2,500.00 or less per product. This exemption does not apply to purchases of energy efficient products purchased for trade, business, or resale. The Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday will take place every October beginning in 2009, provided revenue growth forecasts for state government meet or exceed certain levels. Information concerning the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday will be published at a later date.

While the Department will be publishing information concerning these two new sales tax holidays at a later date, interested persons may review the legislation enacting these sales and use tax exemptions (Senate Bill 1143 of 2008) at the General Assembly website at <http://www.scstatehouse.net/index.html>.