

WSR 11-20-070
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

[Filed October 3, 2011, 12:00 p.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information:

- WAC 458-18-220 Refunds—Rate of interest, which provides the rate of interest that applies to tax refunds made pursuant to RCW 84.69.101 through 84.69.090 in accordance with RCW 84.69.100, and also to judgments entered in favor of the plaintiff pursuant to RCW 84.68.030.
- WAC 458-30-262 Agricultural land valuation—Interest rate—Property tax component, which provides the interest rate and the property tax component used to value farm and agricultural lands classified under chapter 84.34 RCW (open space program).
- WAC 458-30-590 Rate of inflation—Publication—Interest rate—Calculation, which provides the rate of inflation used to calculate interest on deferred special benefit assessments when farm and agricultural or timber land is removed or withdrawn from classification under chapter 84.34 RCW (open space program).

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Marilou Rickert, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47453, Olympia, WA 98504-7453, e-mail MarilouR@DOR.WA.GOV, AND RECEIVED BY December 5, 2011.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department proposes to amend:

- WAC 458-18-220 to provide the rate of interest for treasury bill auction year 2011, which is to be used when refunding property taxes paid in 2012, as required by RCW 84.69.100.
- WAC 458-30-262 to provide the interest rate and property tax component to be used when valuing classified farm and agricultural land during the 2012 assessment year, as required by RCW 84.34.065.
- WAC 458-30-590 to provide the rate of inflation used in calculating interest for deferred special benefit assessments of land removed or withdrawn during 2012, as required by RCW 84.34.310.

Copies of draft rules are available for viewing and printing on our web site at <http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindALawOrRule/RuleMaking/agenda.aspx>.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: The department is required by statute to annually adopt these rules to provide the information identified above.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 84.34.360, 84.34.065, 84.34.141, and 84.69.100.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 84.34.055, 84.34.065, 84.34.141, 84.34.310, 84.34.360, 84.68.030, and 84.69.100.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Marilou Rickert, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1582; Implementation and Enforcement: Kathy Beith, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #200, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1403.

October 3, 2011
 Alan R. Lynn
 Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-02-017, filed 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11)

WAC 458-18-220 Refunds—Rate of interest. The following rates of interest shall apply on refunds of taxes made pursuant to RCW 84.69.010 through 84.69.090 in accordance with RCW 84.69.100. The following rates shall also apply to judgments entered in favor of the plaintiff pursuant to RCW 84.68.030. The interest rate is derived from the equivalent coupon issue yield of the average bill rate for twenty-six week treasury bills as determined at the first bill market auction conducted after June 30th of the calendar year preceding the date the taxes were paid. The rate thus determined shall be applied to the amount of the judgment or the amount of the refund, until paid:

Year tax paid	Auction Year	Rate
1984	1983	9.29%
1985	1984	11.27%
1986	1985	7.36%
1987	1986	6.11%
1988	1987	5.95%
1989	1988	7.04%
1990	1989	8.05%
1991	1990	8.01%
1992	1991	5.98%
1993	1992	3.42%
1994	1993	3.19%
1995	1994	4.92%
1996	1995	5.71%
1997	1996	5.22%
1998	1997	5.14%
1999	1998	5.06%
2000	1999	4.96%

Year tax paid	Auction Year	Rate
2001	2000	5.98%
2002	2001	3.50%
2003	2002	1.73%
2004	2003	0.95%
2005	2004	1.73%
2006	2005	3.33%
2007	2006	5.09%
2008	2007	4.81%
2009	2008	2.14%
2010	2009	0.29%
2011	2010	0.21%
<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>0.08%</u>

COUNTY	PERCENT	COUNTY	PERCENT
Grays Harbor	((1.06)) <u>1.07</u>	Thurston	((1.05)) <u>1.16</u>
Island	((0.73)) <u>0.79</u>	Wahkiakum	((0.78)) <u>0.84</u>
Jefferson	((0.79)) <u>0.86</u>	Walla Walla	((1.27)) <u>1.26</u>
King	((1.01)) <u>1.08</u>	Whatcom	((0.94)) <u>1.03</u>
Kitsap	((1.01)) <u>1.07</u>	Whitman	((1.29)) <u>1.30</u>
Kittitas	((0.71)) <u>0.78</u>	Yakima	1.16
Klickitat	((0.85)) <u>0.90</u>		

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-02-015, filed 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11)

WAC 458-30-262 Agricultural land valuation—Interest rate—Property tax component. For assessment year (~~((2011))~~ 2012, the interest rate and the property tax component that are to be used to value classified farm and agricultural lands are as follows:

- (1) The interest rate is ~~((7.00))~~ 6.16 percent; and
- (2) The property tax component for each county is:

COUNTY	PERCENT	COUNTY	PERCENT
Adams	((1.20)) <u>1.25</u>	Lewis	((0.96)) <u>0.99</u>
Asotin	((1.22)) <u>1.24</u>	Lincoln	((1.18)) <u>1.20</u>
Benton	((1.16)) <u>1.17</u>	Mason	0.88
Chelan	((0.92)) <u>0.95</u>	Okanogan	0.96
Clallam	((0.88)) <u>0.95</u>	Pacific	((1.07)) <u>1.11</u>
Clark	((1.16)) <u>1.32</u>	Pend Oreille	((0.83)) <u>0.82</u>
Columbia	((1.11)) <u>1.21</u>	Pierce	((1.14)) <u>1.29</u>
Cowlitz	((1.07)) <u>1.13</u>	San Juan	((0.49)) <u>0.53</u>
Douglas	((0.96)) <u>1.07</u>	Skagit	((0.98)) <u>1.05</u>
Ferry	((0.91)) <u>0.92</u>	Skamania	((0.82)) <u>0.88</u>
Franklin	((1.27)) <u>1.28</u>	Snohomish	((0.99)) <u>1.12</u>
Garfield	((1.09)) <u>1.16</u>	Spokane	((1.19)) <u>1.29</u>
Grant	((1.19)) <u>1.21</u>	Stevens	((0.94)) <u>0.98</u>

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-02-016, filed 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11)

WAC 458-30-590 Rate of inflation—Publication—Interest rate—Calculation. (1) **Introduction.** This section sets forth the rates of inflation discussed in WAC 458-30-550. It also explains the department of revenue's obligation to annually publish a rate of inflation and the manner in which this rate is determined.

(2) **General duty of department—Basis for inflation rate.** Each year the department determines and publishes a rule establishing an annual rate of inflation. This rate of inflation is used in computing the interest that is assessed when farm and agricultural or timber land, which are exempt from special benefit assessments, is withdrawn or removed from current use classification.

(a) The rate of inflation is based upon the implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures calculated by the United States Department of Commerce. This rate is used to calculate the rate of interest collected on exempt special benefit assessments.

(b) The rate is published by December 31st of each year and applies to all withdrawals or removals from farm and agricultural or timber land classification that occur the following year.

(3) **Assessment of rate of interest.** An owner of classified farm and agricultural or timber land is liable for interest on the exempt special benefit assessment. Interest accrues from the date the local improvement district is created until the land is withdrawn or removed from classification. Interest accrues and is assessed in accordance with WAC 458-30-550.

(a) Interest is assessed only for the time (years and months) the land remains classified under RCW 84.34.020 (2) or (3).

(b) If the classified land is exempt from the special benefit assessment for more than one year, the annual inflation rates are used to calculate an average rate of interest. This average is determined by adding the inflation rate for each year the classified land was exempt from the special benefit assessment after the local improvement district was created.

The sum of the inflation rates is then divided by the number of years involved to determine the applicable rate of interest.

(c) Example. A local improvement district for a domestic water supply system was created in January 1990 and the owner used the statutory exemption provided in RCW 84.34.320. On July 1, 1997, the land was removed from the farm and agricultural classification. An average interest rate was calculated using the inflation rates for 1990 through 1997. The owner was then notified of the amount of previously exempt special benefit assessment, plus the average interest rate.

(4) **Rates of inflation.** The rates of inflation used to calculate the interest as required by WAC 458-30-550 are as follows:

YEAR	PERCENT	YEAR	PERCENT
1976	5.6	1977	6.5
1978	7.6	1979	11.3
1980	13.5	1981	10.3
1982	6.2	1983	3.2
1984	4.3	1985	3.5
1986	1.9	1987	3.7
1988	4.1	1989	4.8
1990	5.4	1991	4.2
1992	3.3	1993	2.7
1994	2.2	1995	2.3
1996	2.2	1997	2.1
1998	0.85	1999	1.42
2000	2.61	2001	1.89
2002	1.16	2003	1.84
2004	2.39	2005	2.54
2006	3.42	2007	2.08
2008	4.527	2009	-0.85 (negative)
2010	1.539	<u>2011</u>	<u>2.755</u>

**WSR 11-20-112
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

[Filed October 5, 2011, 11:13 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-20-12401 Special stadium sales and use tax, this rule explains the special stadium sales and use tax. It explains the tax applies to retail sales of food and beverages by restaurants, taverns, and bars in counties with a population of one million or more.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT

LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Gayle Carlson, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47453, Olympia, WA 98504-7453, e-mail GayleC@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY December 5, 2011.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department is proposing to amend WAC 458-20-12401 to recognize that the special stadium sales and use does not apply to sales of food and beverages by restaurants, taverns, and bars located in King County after September 30, 2011. The purpose of this tax was to pay off the debt service on bonds issued to support the construction of Safeco Field.

Copies of draft rules are available for viewing and printing on our web site at Rules Agenda.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: To update the rule to provide businesses with current tax-reporting information.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 82.32.300 and 82.01.060(2).

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 82.14.360(1).

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Gayle Carlson, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1576; Implementation: Alan R. Lynn, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1599; and Enforcement: Russ Brubaker, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1505.

October 5, 2011

Alan R. Lynn

Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-01-050, filed 12/9/09, effective 1/9/10)

WAC 458-20-12401 Special stadium sales and use tax.

(1) **Introduction.** RCW 82.14.360 provides for a special stadium sales and use tax that applies to sales of food and beverages by restaurants, taverns, and bars in counties with a population of one million or more. ~~((Currently, the special stadium tax applies only in King County.))~~ The tax applies only to those food and beverage sales that are already subject to the retail sales tax. Grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores were specifically excluded from the definition of a restaurant and are not required to collect the tax. However, a restaurant located within a grocery store, mini-market, or convenience store is subject to this tax if the restaurant is owned or operated by a different legal entity from the store or market. ~~((This section explains when the tax will apply.))~~ The special stadium tax applied only in King County and was effective through September 30, 2011.

(2) **Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this section.

(a) "Restaurant" means any establishment having special space and accommodation where food and beverages are regularly sold to the public for immediate, but not necessarily

on-site, consumption, but excluding grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores. Restaurant includes, but is not limited to, lunch counters, diners, coffee shops, espresso shops or bars, concession stands or counters, delicatessens, and cafeterias. It also includes space and accommodations where food and beverages are sold to the public for immediate consumption that are located within hotels, motels, lodges, boarding houses, bed-and-breakfast facilities, hospitals, office buildings, movie theaters, and schools, colleges, or universities, if a separate charge is made for such food or beverages. Mobile sales units that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption within a place, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge, are "restaurants" for purposes of this tax. So too are public and private carriers, such as trains and vessels, that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption on trips that both originate and terminate within the county imposing the special stadium tax if a separate charge for the food and/or beverages is made. A restaurant is open to the public for purposes of this section if members of the public can be served as guests. "Restaurant" does not include businesses making sales through vending machines or through mobile sales units such as catering trucks or sidewalk vendors of food or beverage items.

(b) "Tavern" has the same meaning here as in RCW 66.04.010 and means any establishment with special space and accommodation for the sale of beer by the glass and for consumption on the premises.

(c) "Bar" means any establishment selling liquor by the glass or other open container and includes, but is not limited to, establishments that have been issued a class H license by the liquor control board.

(d) "Grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores," have their ordinary and common meaning.

(3) **Tax application.** This special stadium sales and use tax (~~currently applies~~) applied only to food and beverages sold by restaurants, bars, and taverns in King County through September 30, 2011. The tax is in addition to any other sales or use tax that applies to these sales. This special tax only applies if the regular sales or use tax imposed by chapters 82.08 or 82.12 RCW applies.

(a) The tax applies to the total charge made by the restaurant, tavern, or bar, for food and beverages. If a mandatory gratuity is included in the charge that, too, is subject to the tax.

(b) Catering provided by a restaurant, tavern, or bar is also subject to the tax. However, when catering is done by a business that does not meet the definition of restaurant in subsection (2) of this section, has no facilities for preparing food, and all food is prepared at the customer's location, the charge is not subject to the tax.

(c) In the case of catering subject to the tax, if a separate charge is made for linens, glassware, tables, tents, or other items of tangible personal property that are not required for the catering, those separate charges are not subject to the tax. However, separately stated charges for items that are required as a part of the catering service, such as waitpersons or mandatory gratuities, are subject to the tax.

(4) **Examples.** The following examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax status of each situation must be determined after a review of all of the facts and circum-

stances. For these examples, assume the transactions (~~occur~~) occurred in King County prior to October 1, 2011.

(a) The Hot Bakery operates a coffee shop where customers may purchase baked goods and coffee for consumption on the premises. When utensils are provided with the bakery goods, the sale of bakery goods, along with the coffee is considered prepared food. The sale of prepared food is subject to the retail sales tax and special stadium tax. If the bakery products are bagged or boxed without utensils, the retail sales and special stadium taxes do not apply under the provisions of RCW 82.08.0293. See WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients, for information about the sales of prepared foods.

(b) Charlie operates a "fast food" business. Customers may consume the food and beverages on the premises or may take the food "to go" for consumption elsewhere. All sales of food and beverages by this business are subject to the special stadium tax, including the food and beverages sold "to go."

(c) Jane operates carts that may be set up on a sidewalk or within parks from which customers may purchase hot dogs and beverages. The cart includes heating facilities for preparation of hot dogs at the cart site. No seating is provided by Jane. The site location is not owned or leased by Jane. These sales are not subject to the special stadium sales tax because the business does not have a designated space for the preparation of the food it sells. This business does not fit the definition of "restaurant." However, if Jane operates a mobile food service unit selling food or beverages for immediate consumption at fixed locations within the grounds of a stadium, arena, fairgrounds, or other place, admission to which is subject to an admission charge, then the special stadium tax applies.

(d) Bill operates a combination gas station and convenience store. The convenience store sells some groceries and also some prepared foods such as hot dogs and hamburgers. Customers may also purchase soft drinks or coffee by the cup. None of these sales are subject to the special stadium sales tax because of the specific language in the statute exempting convenience stores from the tax.

(e) Peter operates a business that sells prepared pizza. The business prepares and bakes the pizza at its premises. The business has no seating. Customers may order the pizzas by either entering Peter's place of business or by telephone. Customers may either take delivery at the seller's site or the business will deliver the pizza to the customer's residence or other site. These sales are subject to the special stadium sales tax because the business does have a designated site and facilities for the preparation of food for sale for immediate consumption, even though no seating is available. The regular retail sales tax applies to these sales since these sales are not exempt food products under RCW 82.08.0293(2).

(f) Jack has the exclusive concession rights to prepare and sell hot dogs within a sports facility. Customers place their orders and take delivery of the prepared food and beverages at Jack's site in the sports facility. Jack provides no seating that he controls. Customers generally take the food and beverage to their seats and consume the items while watching the sports event. Jack will also prepare hot dogs and soft drinks at his food bar and use his employees or agents to sell these products to customers in the stands while the sports

event is in progress. All of the sales of food and beverages by Jack are subject to the special stadium sales tax. Jack's business operation meets the definition of "restaurant." Jack has set aside space that he controls for the purpose of preparing food and beverages for immediate consumption for sale to the public.

(g) Jinny operates a cafe within Abe's grocery store, for the sale of food or beverages for immediate consumption on the premises. Abe's grocery store is a separate entity from Jinny's cafe, and it leases the space for the cafe to Jinny. Sales of food and beverages by Abe's grocery store are exempt from the special stadium tax, but sales at the cafe by Jinny are subject to retail sales tax and the special stadium sales tax.

WSR 11-20-114
EXPEDITED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
[Filed October 5, 2011, 11:20 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients, provides guidelines for determining if food or food ingredients qualify for retail sales tax and use tax exemptions provided by RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Gayle Carlson, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 47453, Olympia, WA 98504-7453, e-mail GayleC@dor.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY December 5, 2011.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: The department is proposing to amend WAC 458-20-244 to recognize Initiative 1107, passed by the voters in November 2010 and codified as chapter 2, Laws of 2011. This initiative, in part, repeals the retail sales tax imposed on sales of bottled water and candy by chapter 23, Laws of 2010 1st sp. sess. Effective December 2, 2010, bottled water and candy are again exempt from retail sales and use taxes.

Copies of draft rules are available for viewing and printing on our web site at Rules Agenda.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: To change current tax-reporting guidance in the rule to recognize that retail sales tax no longer applies to sales of bottled water and candy.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 82.32.300 and 82.01.060(2).

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Department of revenue, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Gayle Carlson, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1576; Implementation: Alan R. Lynn, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1599; and Enforcement: Russ Brubaker, 1025 Union Avenue S.E., Suite #544, Olympia, WA, (360) 534-1505.

October 5, 2011

Alan R. Lynn

Rules Coordinator

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-21-010, filed 10/7/10, effective 11/7/10)

WAC 458-20-244 Food and food ingredients. (1) Introduction.

(a) **What is the purpose of this section?** This section, WAC 458-20-244, provides guidelines for determining if food or food ingredients qualify for the retail sales tax and use tax exemptions under RCW 82.08.0293 and 82.12.0293 (collectively referred to in this section as the "exemptions").

There is no corresponding business and occupation (B&O) tax exemption. Even if a sale of food or food ingredients is exempt from retail sales tax or use tax under the exemptions, gross proceeds from sales of food or food ingredients remain subject to the retailing B&O tax.

(b) **What other sections might apply?** The following sections may contain additional relevant information:

- WAC 458-20-119, Sales of meals;
- WAC 458-20-124, Restaurants, cocktail bars, taverns and similar businesses;
- WAC 458-20-12401, Special stadium sales and use tax;
- WAC 458-20-166, Hotels, motels, boarding houses, rooming houses, resorts, summer camps, trailer camps, etc.;
- WAC 458-20-167, Education institutions, school districts, student organizations, and private schools;
- WAC 458-20-168, Hospitals, medical care facilities, and adult family homes;
- WAC 458-20-169, Nonprofit organizations; and
- WAC 458-20-229, Refunds.

(2) What qualifies for the exemptions?

(a) **In general.** The exemptions apply to food and food ingredients. "Food and food ingredients" means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value.

(b) **Items not used solely for ingestion or chewing.** Items that are commonly ingested or chewed by humans for their taste or nutritional value but which may also be used for other purposes are generally treated as food or food ingredients. For example, pumpkins are presumed to be a food or food ingredient unless the pumpkin is sold painted or is otherwise clearly for decorative purposes rather than consumption. This is true even though the purchaser may use an undecorated pumpkin for carving and display rather than for eating.

(3) **What does not qualify for the exemptions?** The exemptions do not apply to the following items, which are

not considered "food or food ingredients" or which are otherwise specifically excluded from the exemptions:

(a) **Items sold for medical or hygiene purposes.** Items commonly used for medical or hygiene purposes, such as cough drops, breath sprays, toothpaste, etc., are not ingested for taste or nutrition and are not considered a food or food ingredient. In contrast, breath mints are commonly ingested for taste and are considered a food or food ingredient.

(b) **Bulk sales of ice.** Ice sold in bags, containers, or units of greater than ten pounds and blocks of ice of any weight are not considered a food or food ingredient. Ice sold in cubed, shaved, or crushed form in packages or quantities of ten pounds or less is considered a food or food ingredient. Refer to WAC 458-20-120, Sales of ice, for additional guidance on the sale of ice.

(c) **Alcoholic beverages.** Alcoholic beverages are excluded from the definition of food and food ingredients. "Alcoholic beverages" means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

(d) **Tobacco.** Tobacco is excluded from the definition of food and food ingredients. "Tobacco" includes cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other items that contain tobacco.

(e) **Candy.** Effective June 1, 2010, ~~((chapter 23, Laws of 2010, sp. sess., (2ESSB 6143) excludes))~~ candy was excluded from the exemptions and retail sales tax was imposed on sales of candy. See chapter 23, Laws of 2010, sp. sess. Sales of candy again became exempt effective December 2, 2010. See chapter 2, Laws of 2011.

(i) "Candy" means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces.

(ii) "Candy" does not include any preparation containing flour and does not require refrigeration.

(iii) For a list of products and whether they meet the definition of candy, refer to the department's internet site at <http://dor.wa.gov/>. If the product in question is not listed on the internet site write the department, including a label or copy of label for the product, for a ruling at:

Taxpayer Services
Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 47478
Olympia, WA 98504-7478

(f) **Bottled water.** ~~((From June 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, chapter 23, Laws of 2010, sp. sess., (2ESSB 6143) excludes))~~ Effective June 1, 2010, bottled water was excluded from the exemptions and retail sales tax was due on sales of bottled water. See chapter 23, Laws of 2010, sp. sess. Sales of bottled water again became exempt effective December 2, 2010. See chapter 2, Laws of 2011.

(i) "Bottled water" means water that is placed in a sealed container or package for human consumption.

(ii) Bottled water is calorie free and does not contain sweeteners or other additives except that it may contain:

- (A) Antimicrobial agents;
- (B) Fluoride;
- (C) Carbonation;

(D) Vitamins, minerals, and electrolytes;

(E) Oxygen;

(F) Preservatives; and

(G) Only those flavors, extracts, or essences derived from a spice or fruit.

(iii) "Bottled water" includes water that is delivered to the buyer in a reusable container that is not sold with the water.

(iv) See subsection (8) of this section for limited exceptions to the tax on bottled water.

(g) **Soft drinks.** Soft drinks are excluded from the exemptions. "Soft drinks" means any nonalcoholic beverage that contains natural or artificial sweeteners, except beverages that contain:

- Milk or milk products;
- Soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes; or
- More than fifty percent by volume of vegetable or fruit juice.

For example, sweetened sports beverages are considered "soft drinks," but a sweetened soy beverage is a food or food ingredient.

Beverage mixes that are not sold in liquid form are not soft drinks even though they are intended to be made into a beverage by the customer. Examples include powdered fruit drinks, powdered tea or coffee drinks, and frozen concentrates. These items are a food or food ingredient and are not subject to retail sales tax.

(h) **Dietary supplements.** Dietary supplements are excluded from the exemptions. "Dietary supplement" means any product intended to supplement the diet, other than tobacco, which meets all of the following requirements:

- Contains a vitamin; mineral; herb or other botanical; amino acid; a substance for use by humans to increase total dietary intake; or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract; or combination of any of them;
- Is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, soft gel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and

• Is required to be labeled with a Food and Drug Administration "supplement facts" box. If a product is otherwise considered a food or food ingredient and labeled with both a "supplement facts" box and "nutrition facts" box, the product is treated as a food or food ingredient.

Nutrition products formulated to provide balanced nutrition as a sole source of a meal or of the diet are considered a food or food ingredient and not a dietary supplement. Refer to RCW 82.08.925 for information on the sales tax exemption applicable to dietary supplements dispensed under a prescription.

(i) **Prepared food.** Prepared food is excluded from the exemptions. Prepared food generally means heated foods, combined foods, or foods sold with utensils provided by the seller, as described in more detail in subsection (4) of this section. "Prepared food" does not include food sold by a seller whose proper primary North American industry classification system (NAICS) classification is manufacturing in sector 311, except subsector 3118 (bakeries), unless the food

is sold with utensils provided by the seller (see subsection (4)(c) of this section).

(4) **What is "prepared food"?** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if any one of the following ((are)) is true:

(a) **Heated foods.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if sold in a heated state or are heated by the seller, except bakery items. "Bakery items" include bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, Danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, and tortillas. Food is sold in a heated state or is heated by the seller when the seller provides the food to the customer at a temperature that is higher than the air temperature of the seller's establishment. Food is not sold in a heated state or heated by the seller if the customer, rather than the seller, heats the food in a microwave provided by the seller.

(b) **Combined foods.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if the item sold consists of two or more foods or food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item, unless the food or food ingredients are any of the following:

- Bakery items (defined in (a) of this subsection);
- Items that the seller only cuts, repackages, or pasteurizes;
- Items that contain eggs, fish, meat, or poultry, in a raw or undercooked state requiring cooking as recommended by the federal Food and Drug Administration in chapter 3, part 401.11 of *The Food Code*, published by the Food and Drug Administration, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, so as to prevent foodborne illness; or
- Items sold in an unheated state as a single item at a price that varies based on weight or volume.

(c) **Food sold with utensils provided by the seller.** Food or food ingredients are "prepared foods" if sold with utensils provided by the seller. Utensils include plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, and straws. A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food.

(i) **Utensils are customarily provided by the seller.** A food or food ingredient is "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if the seller's customary practice for that item is to physically deliver or hand a utensil to the customer with the food or food ingredient as part of the sales transaction. If the food or food ingredient is prepackaged with a utensil, the seller is considered to have physically delivered a utensil to the customer unless the food and utensil are prepackaged together by a food manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS. Examples of utensils provided by such manufacturers include juice boxes that are packaged with drinking straws, and yogurt or ice cream cups that are packaged with wooden or plastic spoons.

(ii) **Utensils are necessary to receive the food.** Individual food or food ingredient items are "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if a plate, glass, cup, or bowl is necessary to receive the food or food ingredient and the seller makes those utensils available to its customers. For example, items obtained from a self-serve salad bar are sold with utensils provided by the seller, because the customer must use a bowl or plate provided by the seller in order to receive the items.

(ii) **More than seventy-five percent prepared food sales with utensils available.** All food and food ingredients sold at an establishment, including foods prepackaged with a utensil by a manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS, are "sold with utensils provided by the seller" if the seller makes utensils available to its customers and the seller's gross sales of prepared food under (a), (b), and (c)(ii) of this subsection equal more than seventy-five percent of the seller's gross sales of all food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, and dietary supplements.

(A) **Exception for four or more servings.** Even if a seller has more than seventy-five percent prepared food sales, four servings or more of food or food ingredients packaged for sale as a single item and sold for a single price are not "sold with utensils provided by the seller" unless the seller's customary practice for the package is to physically hand or otherwise deliver a utensil to the customer as part of the sales transaction. Whenever available, the number of servings included in a package of food or food ingredients is to be determined based on the manufacturer's product label. If no label is available, the seller must reasonably determine the number of servings.

(B) **Determining total sales of prepared foods.** The seller must determine a single prepared food sales percentage annually for all the seller's establishments in the state based on the prior year of sales. The seller may elect to determine its prepared food sales percentage based either on the prior calendar year or on the prior fiscal year. A seller may not change its elected method for determining its prepared food percentage without the written consent of the department of revenue. The seller must determine its annual prepared food sales percentage as soon as possible after accounting records are available, but in no event later than ninety days after the beginning of the seller's calendar or fiscal year. A seller may make a good faith estimate of its first annual prepared food sales percentage if the seller's records for the prior year are not sufficient to allow the seller to calculate the prepared food sales percentage. The seller must adjust its good faith estimate prospectively if its relative sales of prepared foods in the first ninety days of operation materially depart from the seller's estimate.

(d) **Examples.** The following examples identify a number of facts and then state a conclusion. These examples should be used only as a general guide. The tax results of other situations must be determined after a review of all of the facts and circumstances.

(i) **Example 1.** Fast Cafe sells hot and cold coffee and mixed coffee and mixed milk beverages, cold soft drinks, milk and juice in single-serving containers, sandwiches, whole fruits, cold pasta salad, cookies and other pastries. Fast Cafe prepares the pasta salad on-site. It orders the pastries from a local bakery, including specialty cakes which it sells both as whole cakes and by the slice. It purchases its sandwiches from a local caterer. The sandwiches are delivered by the caterer prewrapped in plastic with condiments and a plastic knife. Fast Cafe makes straws, napkins and cup lids available for all customers by placing them on a self-service stand. In its first full year of operation, Fast Cafe's annual gross sales of all food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, and dietary supplements is \$100,000. Of

this gross sales total, \$80,000 is from the sale of hot coffee and hot and cold mixed coffee and milk beverages, all sold in disposable paper or plastic cups with the Fast Cafe logo.

Because more than seventy-five percent of Fast Cafe's total sales of food and food ingredients, including prepared food, soft drinks, and dietary supplements are sales of food or food ingredients that are heated or combined by the seller or sold with a utensil (cups) necessary to receive the food, Fast Cafe has more than seventy-five percent prepared food sales. Because Fast Cafe makes utensils available for its customers, all food and food ingredients sold by Fast Cafe are considered "prepared food," including the cold milk beverages, cookies and pastries, pasta salad, sandwiches and whole fruits. The only exception is the sale of whole specialty cakes. Because a whole cake contains four or more servings, it is not subject to retail sales tax unless Fast Cafe customarily hands a utensil to the customer as part of the sale transaction.

(ii) **Example 2.** Assume the same facts as in Example 1, but that only \$60,000 of Fast Cafe's Year 1 gross sales were sales of hot coffee and hot and cold mixed coffee and milk beverages. The remainder of its sales were sales of sandwiches, whole fruits, cookies and other pastries. Under these facts, Fast Cafe does not have more than seventy-five percent prepared food sales. Thus, the items sold by Fast Cafe are taxed as follows:

- Hot coffee and milk beverages are heated by the seller and are also sold by Fast Cafe with a utensil (a paper cup) necessary to receive the food. The hot coffee and milk beverages are "prepared food" for either reason and are subject to retail sales tax.

- Cold mixed milk beverages are a combination of two or more foods or food ingredients and are also sold by Fast Cafe with a utensil (a paper or plastic cup) necessary to receive the food. The cold milk beverages are "prepared food" for either reason and are subject to retail sales tax.

- Cold soft drinks are not exempt and are subject to retail sales tax.

- Sandwiches prepared by the caterer are subject to retail sales tax. Even though the caterer, rather than the seller, combines the ingredients and includes a utensil, Fast Cafe is considered to have provided the utensil because the caterer is not a food manufacturer classified under sector 311 of the NAICS.

- Pasta salad is combined by the seller and is subject to retail sales tax. Note that if the pasta salad was sold by the pound, rather than by servings, it would not be subject to retail sales tax.

- Milk and juice in single serving containers, whole fruit, cookies, pastries, slices of cake, and whole cakes are not subject to retail sales tax unless the seller's customary practice is to hand a utensil to the customer as part of the sales transaction. None of these items are heated by the seller, combined by the seller, or require a plate, glass, cup, or bowl in order to receive the item. Even if Fast Cafe heats the pastries for its customers, the pastries are not subject to retail sales tax.

(iii) **Example 3.** A pizza restaurant sells whole hot pizzas, hot pizza by the slice, and unheated ready-to-bake pizzas. The whole hot pizzas and hot pizza sold by the slice, including delivered pizzas, are "prepared food" because these items are sold in a heated state. If the unheated ready-to-bake

pizzas are prepared by the seller, they are "prepared food" because the seller has mixed or combined two or more food ingredients. This is true even though some ingredients in the unheated pizzas are raw or uncooked, because those ingredients do not require cooking to prevent foodborne illness. If the unheated ready-to-bake pizzas are prepared by a manufacturer other than the seller, they will be taxable as "prepared food" only if sold with utensils provided by the seller.

(5) How are combined sales of taxable and exempt items taxed?

(a) **Combined sales.** Where two or more distinct and identifiable items of tangible personal property, at least one of which is a food or food ingredient, are sold for one non-itemized price that does not vary based on the selection by the purchaser of items included in the transaction:

- The entire transaction is taxable if the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable items is greater than fifty percent of the combined purchase price or sales price; and

- The entire transaction is exempt from retail sales tax if the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable items is fifty percent or less of the combined purchase price or sales price.

The seller may make the determination based on either purchase price or sales price, but may not use a combination of the purchase price and sales price.

(b) Example.

A combination wine and cheese picnic basket contains four items packaged together: A bottle of wine, a wine opener, single-serving cheeses, and the picnic basket holding these items. The seller's purchase price for the wine, wine-opener, and picnic basket totals ten dollars. The seller's purchase price for the cheeses is two dollars. The seller must collect retail sales taxes on the entire package, because the seller's purchase price for the taxable items (ten dollars) is greater than fifty percent of the combined purchase price (twelve dollars).

(c) **Incidental packaging.** "Distinct and identifiable items" does not include packaging which is immaterial or incidental to the sale of another item or items. For example, a decorative bag sold filled with candy is not the sale of "distinct and identifiable" items where the bag is merely ornamental packaging immaterial in the sale of the candy.

(d) **Free items.** "Distinct and identifiable items" does not include items provided free of charge. An item is only provided free of charge if the seller's sales price does not vary depending on whether the item is included in the sale.

(6) What are the seller's accounting requirements?

All sales of food and food ingredients at an establishment will be treated as taxable unless the seller separately accounts for sales of exempt and nonexempt food and food ingredients. It is sufficient separation for accounting purposes if cash registers or the like are programmed to identify items that are not tax exempt and to calculate and assess the proper sales tax accordingly.

(7) Are there any other retail sales tax exemptions that apply?

(a) **Meals served.** The exemptions apply to food and food ingredients furnished, prepared, or served as meals:

(i) Under a state-administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the Older Americans Act (Public Law 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040;

(ii) That are provided to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, or low-income persons by a not-for-profit organization organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW; or

(iii) Effective August 1, 2009, RCW 82.08.0293 provides to residents, sixty-two years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. The sale of a meal that is billed to both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection (a)(iii) if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least sixty-two years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" means a facility:

(A) That meets the definition of a qualified low-income housing project under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as existing on August 1, 2009;

(B) That has been partially funded under Title 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1485 of the federal Internal Revenue Code; and

(C) For which the lessor or operator has at any time been entitled to claim a federal income tax credit under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

(b) Foods exempt under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Under RCW 82.08.0297, eligible foods (~~under the Food Stamp Act of 1977~~) purchased with food ~~((coupons))~~ benefits under the SNAP or a successor program are exempt from the retail sales tax. This is a separate and broader exemption than the retail sales tax exemption for food and food ingredients under RCW 82.08.0293. For example, soft drinks (~~and~~), garden seeds, and plants which produce food for the household to eat are "eligible foods" but are not "food or food ingredients." If such items are purchased with food ~~((coupons))~~ benefits under SNAP or a successor program, they are exempt from the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.0297, even though the items do not qualify for the exemption under RCW 82.08.0293.

~~(i) ((Definition of food coupons. The term "food coupons," as used in this subsection means any coupon, stamp, type of certificate, authorization card, cash or check issued in lieu of a coupon, or access device, including an electronic benefit transfer card or personal identification number issued pursuant to the provisions of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. See 7 CFR § 271.2, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003.~~

~~((ii))~~ **Use of food ~~((coupons))~~ benefits combined with other means of payment.** When both food ~~((coupons))~~ benefits and other means of payment are used in the same sales transaction, for purposes of collecting retail sales taxes, the other means of payment shall be applied first to items which are food and food ingredients exempt under RCW 82.08.0293. The intent is to apply the ~~((coupons))~~ benefits and other means of payment in such a way as to provide the greatest possible exemption from retail sales tax.

~~((iii))~~ **(ii) Example.** A customer purchases the following at a grocery store: Meat for three dollars, cereal for three dollars, canned soft drinks for five dollars, and soap for two dollars for a total of thirteen dollars. The customer pays with

seven dollars in ~~((coupons))~~ benefits and six dollars in cash. The cash is applied first to the soap because the soap is neither exempt under RCW 82.08.0293 nor an eligible food under ~~((the Food Stamp Act))~~ SNAP. The remaining cash (four dollars) is applied first to the meat and the cereal. The food ~~((stamps))~~ benefits are applied to the balance of the meat and cereal (two dollars) and to the soft drinks (five dollars). Retail sales tax is due only on the soap.

(8) Exceptions to tax on bottled water. ~~((Chapter 23, Laws of 2010, sp. sess., (2ESSB 6143) provides))~~ Effective June 1, 2010, two exemptions to the retail sales and use taxes on bottled water ((effective June 1, 2010)) were as described in (a) and (b) of this subsection. Effective December 2, 2010, the retail sales and use taxes on bottled water were repealed. The exemptions are no longer applicable effective December 2, 2010.

(a) Prescription issued bottled water. Bottled water prescribed to patients for use in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or other medical condition and delivered to the buyer in a reusable container that is not sold with the water is exempt provided the buyer provides the seller with a completed buyer's retail sales tax exemption certificate or a streamlined sales tax exemption certificate. A seller must retain a copy of the certificate for their files. Tax will be collected on all other sales of prescribed bottled water. Any buyer that has paid at least twenty-five dollars in state and local sales taxes on purchases of bottled water subject to this exemption may apply for a refund of the collected taxes directly from the department. No refund may be made for tax paid more than four years after the end of the calendar year in which the tax was paid to a seller.

(b) Potable water not readily available. Bottled water for human use to persons who do not otherwise have a readily available source of potable water and delivered to the buyer in a reusable container that is not sold with the water is exempt provided the buyer provides the seller with a completed buyer's retail sales tax exemption certificate or a streamlined sales tax exemption certificate. A seller must retain a copy of the certificate for their files. Tax will be collected on all other sales of bottled water. Any buyer that has paid at least twenty-five dollars in state and local sales taxes on purchases of bottled water subject to this exemption may apply for a refund of the collected taxes directly from the department. No refund may be made for tax paid more than four years after the end of the calendar year in which the tax was paid to a seller.

(c) Forms and additional information are available. Forms and additional information can be obtained from the department's internet site at <http://dor.wa.gov/> or by contacting the department at:

Taxpayer Services
Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 47478
Olympia, WA 98504-7478
1-800-647-7706

(9) Vending machine sales. The exemptions do not apply to sales of food and food ingredients dispensed from vending machines. There are special requirements for reporting sales tax collected on vending machine sales, discussed in

(a) of this subsection. "Honor box" sales (sales of snacks or other items from open display trays) are not considered vending machine sales.

(a) **Calculating and reporting retail sales tax collected on vending machine sales.** Vending machine owners do not need to state the retail sales tax amount separately from the selling price. See RCW 82.08.050(5) and 82.08.0293. Instead, vending machine owners must determine the amount of retail sales tax collected on the sale of food or food ingredients by using one of the following methods:

$$\text{gross machine proceeds} - \frac{(\text{gross machine proceeds})}{(1 + \text{sales tax rate})} = \text{tax in gross}$$

(ii) **All other food or food ingredients.** For all other food and food ingredients dispensed from vending machines, a vending machine owner must calculate the amount of retail sales tax that has been collected ("tax in gross") based on

$$(\text{gross machine proceeds} \times .57) \times \text{sales tax rate} = \text{tax in gross}$$

The remaining 43% of the gross vending machine proceeds, less the "tax in gross" amount, is reported as an exempt

$$(\text{gross machine proceeds} \times .43) - \text{tax in gross} = \text{exempt food deduction}$$

(b) **Example.** Jane owns a vending machine business with machines in Spokane and Seattle. In each location, she has a vending machine selling candy and water and a second vending machine selling hot cocoa and coffee drinks. Her annual sales for the vending machines and the combined retail sales tax rates for Seattle and Spokane are as follows:

(i) **Food or food ingredients dispensed in a heated state and soft drinks.** For food or food ingredients dispensed from vending machines in a heated state (e.g., hot coffee, soups, tea, and hot chocolate) and vending machine sales of soft drinks, a vending machine owner must calculate the amount of retail sales tax that has been collected ("tax in gross") based on the gross vending machine proceeds. The "tax in gross" is a deduction against the gross amount of both retailing B&O and retail sales. The formula is:

fifty-seven percent of the gross vending machine proceeds. The "tax in gross" is a deduction against the gross amount of both retailing B&O and retail sales. The formula is:

food sales deduction against retail sales proceeds only calculated as follows:

	Coffee Machine (cocoa & coffee)	Candy Machine (candy & water)	Combined Retail Sales Tax Rate
Seattle	\$2,500	\$10,000	.088
Spokane	\$3,000	\$6,000	.086

To determine the amount of retail sales tax she collected on the sale of cocoa and coffee (food dispensed in a heated state), Jane calculates the "tax in gross" amount as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{gross machine proceeds} - \frac{(\text{gross machine proceeds})}{(1 + \text{sales tax rate})} = \text{tax in gross} \\ \$2,500 &- (\$2,500/1.088) = \$202.21 \quad (\text{Seattle coffee machine}) \\ \$3,000 &- (\$3,000/1.086) = \underline{\$237.57} \quad (\text{Spokane coffee machine}) \\ &\$439.78 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for both retailing B&O and retail sales, Jane must report her total gross coffee machine proceeds of \$5,500 with a "tax in gross" deduction of \$439.78.

To determine the amount of retail sales tax she collected on the sale of candy and water, Jane calculates the "tax in gross" amount as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{gross machine proceeds} \times .57) \times \text{sales tax rate} = \text{tax in gross} \\ \$10,000 \times .57 \times .088 &= \$501.60 \quad (\text{Seattle candy machine}) \\ \$6,000 \times .57 \times .086 &= \underline{\$294.12} \quad (\text{Spokane candy machine}) \\ &\$795.72 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for both retailing B&O and retail sales, Jane must report her total gross candy machine proceeds of \$16,000 with a "tax in gross" deduction of \$795.72.

Jane must also report an exempt food sales deduction representing the remaining 43% of the gross candy machine proceeds.

$$\begin{aligned} &(43\% \times \text{gross machine proceeds}) - \text{tax in gross} = \text{exempt food deduction} \\ (.43 \times \$16,000) - \$795.72 &= \$6,084.28 \end{aligned}$$

Jane reports the exempt food sales deduction only against the gross amount of her retail sales. The deduction does not apply to retailing B&O.