

## WAC 458-20-145

### Sourcing retail sales for business and occupation tax and state and local retail sales tax—Sourcing of use tax for purchasers.

#### Part 1. General Information.

(101) **Introduction.** This rule explains how to determine where sales of tangible personal property, retail services, extended warranties, digital products, digital codes, and leases of tangible personal property are sourced for purposes of the business and occupation (B&O) tax and the combined state and local retail sales tax. See RCW [82.32.730](#). This rule also explains how to determine where use occurs for purposes of sourcing combined state and local use tax.

(102) **Organization of rule.** This rule is divided into five parts as follows:

Part 1. General information.

Part 2. General sourcing rules for most retail sales of tangible personal property, extended warranties, digital products, digital codes, and other retail services.

Part 3. Special sourcing rules for retail sales of certain goods and services.

Part 4. Sourcing rules for leases and rentals of tangible personal property.

Part 5. Sourcing rules for use tax purposes - Purchasers.

(103) **Other rules may apply.** Readers may also want to refer to the following rules:

(a) WAC [458-20-153](#) Funeral establishments.

(b) WAC [458-20-15502](#) Taxation of computer software.

(c) WAC [458-20-15503](#) Digital products.

(d) WAC [458-20-158](#) Florists and nurserymen.

(e) WAC [458-20-211](#) Leases or rentals of tangible personal property, bailments.

(f) WAC [458-20-245](#) Taxation of competitive telephone service, telecommunications service, and ancillary service.

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

(105) **Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this rule:

(a) **"Extended warranty"** means an agreement for a specified duration to perform the replacement or repair of tangible personal property at no additional charge or at a reduced charge for tangible personal property, labor, or both, or to provide indemnification for the replacement or repair of tangible personal property, based on the occurrence of specified events. The term "extended warranty" does not include an agreement otherwise meeting the definition of extended warranty in this subsection, if no separate charge is made for the agreement and the value of the agreement is included in the sales price of the tangible personal property covered by the agreement. See RCW [82.04.050](#)(7).

(b) **"Florist"** means a person whose primary business activity is the retail sale of fresh cut flowers, potted ornamental plants, floral arrangements, floral bouquets, wreaths, or any similar products, used for decorative and not landscaping purposes. See RCW [82.32.730](#) (9)(e). "Primary business activity" means more than 50 percent of a person's gross sales revenue is derived from the activity.

(c) **"Lease"** and **"rental"** mean any transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property for a fixed or indeterminate term for consideration. See RCW [82.04.040](#) for a complete definition of the term "lease or rental."

(d) **"Motor vehicle"** generally means every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails. See RCW [46.04.320](#). A vehicle is a device capable of being moved upon a public highway. See RCW [46.04.670](#).

(e) **"Primary property location"** means the property's physical address as provided by the lessee and kept in the lessor's records maintained in the ordinary course of business, provided use of this address does not constitute bad faith. The primary property location will not change merely by intermittent use of the

leased property in different local jurisdictions, e.g., use of leased business property on business trips or service calls to multiple jurisdictions.

(f) **"Purchaser"** has the same meaning as in RCW **82.08.010** and **82.12.010**, and includes the purchaser's agent.

(g) **"Purchaser's donee"** means a person, other than the purchaser, to whom the purchaser directs shipment of goods (e.g., a gift recipient).

(h) **"Receive"** and **"receipt"** mean taking possession of, or having dominion and control over, tangible personal property and making first use of services. "Receive" and "receipt" do not include possession by a shipping company on behalf of the purchaser. See RCW **82.32.730** (9)(f). The term also means making first use of digital automated services, or taking possession or making first use of digital goods or digital codes, whichever comes first.

(i) **"Retail sale"** has the same meaning as provided in RCW **82.04.050** and includes, but is not limited to, sales and leases of tangible personal property, sales of retail services, sales of extended warranties, digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services.

(j) **"Retail service"** means those services described in RCW **82.04.050** as retail sales. This definition includes retail sales of labor and services rendered with respect to tangible personal property.

(k) **"Semi-trailer"** means every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by a vehicle, motor vehicle, or truck tractor and so constructed that an appreciable part of its weight and that of its load rests upon and is carried by such other vehicle, motor vehicle, or truck tractor. See RCW **46.04.530**.

(l) **"Shipping company"** means a separate legal entity that ships, transports, or delivers tangible personal property on behalf of another, such as a common carrier, contract carrier, or private carrier either affiliated or unaffiliated with the seller or purchaser. A "shipping company" is not a division or branch of a seller or purchaser that carries out shipping duties for the seller or purchaser, respectively.

(m) **"Source," "sourced," or "sourcing"** refer to the location (as in a local taxing district, jurisdiction, or authority) where a sale or lease is deemed to occur and is subject to retail sales tax. It also, for purposes of this rule, refers to the location where "use" is deemed to occur for purposes of use tax paid by purchaser as a consumer. The department assigns location codes to identify the specific taxing locations that receive the local taxes. These location codes are used on tax returns to accurately identify the correct taxing location and tax rate.

Sellers and their agents are responsible for determining the appropriate tax rate for all their taxable retail sales in Washington. Sellers and their agents are also responsible for collecting from their purchasers the correct amount of tax due upon each sale and remitting that tax to the department.

(n) **"Tangible personal property"** means property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or touched, or that is in any other manner perceptible to the senses and, for sales and use tax purposes, includes prewritten software. See RCW **82.08.010**(7), **82.08.950**, and **82.12.950** for more information.

(o) **"Trailer"** means every vehicle without motive power designed for being drawn by or used in conjunction with a motor vehicle constructed so that no appreciable part of its weight rests upon or is carried by such motor vehicle, but does not include a municipal transit vehicle, or any portion thereof. See RCW **46.04.620**.

(p) **"Transportation equipment"** means:

(i) Locomotives and railcars used to carry people or property in interstate commerce;

(ii) Trucks and truck tractors with gross vehicle weight ratings of 10,000 pounds or greater, trailers, and semi-trailers, or passenger buses that are:

(A) Registered through an International Registration Plan (International Registration Plan is a reciprocity agreement among states of the United States and provinces of Canada providing for payment of license fees on the basis of total distance operated in all jurisdictions);

(B) Operated under authority of a carrier authorized and certificated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (or other federal authority) to engage in carrying people or property in interstate commerce;

(iii) Aircraft operated by air carriers authorized and certificated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (or other federal or foreign authority) to carry people or property by air in interstate or foreign commerce; and

(iv) Containers designed for use on, and component parts attached or secured on, the items described in (p)(i) through (iii) of this subsection. RCW **82.32.730** (8)(e).

(106) **Other resources.** The department offers a number of resources to assist taxpayers in sourcing retail sales. These resources include:

(a) **The "Local Sales & Use Tax Flyer."** This publication is updated every quarter and is available online on the department's website at [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov). The publication provides a listing of all local taxing jurisdictions, location codes, and their corresponding tax rates.

(b) **The online sales and use tax rate look up application (GIS).** This is an online application that provides current and past sales and use tax rates and location codes based on an address or a selected location on a map. It also allows users to download data that they can incorporate into their own systems to retrieve the proper tax rate for a specific address. Visit the department's website at [dor.wa.gov](http://dor.wa.gov) for more information on this topic.

## Part 2. General Sourcing Rules for Most Retail Sales.

(201) **State and local retail sales tax sourcing rules for most retail sales.** Part 2 of this rule describes Washington's retail sales tax general sourcing rules for sales of tangible personal property, extended warranties, other retail services, and transportation equipment. The sourcing provisions for Washington's retail sales tax in this Part 2 also apply to retailing B&O tax for retail sales. Part 3 of this rule details exceptions to the general sourcing guidance in this Part 2.

This part also generally applies to retail sales of digital products and digital codes. Readers should refer to WAC **458-20-15503**, which extensively addresses the sourcing of digital products and codes. This rule does not address sourcing under facts that are unique to sales of digital products and codes.

General sourcing rules apply in a descending order of priority, meaning that if the seller has information necessary to satisfy the requirement in (a) of this subsection, then those sourcing provisions must be applied. If the requirement in (a) of this subsection does not apply, the seller must consider whether the requirement in (b) of this subsection applies, and apply those sourcing provisions to the sale. If the requirement in (b) of this subsection does not apply, then the seller must use the same method in determining whether the requirements first in (c), second (d), or third (e) of this subsection apply respectively, and then apply the applicable sourcing provision. Retail sales must be sourced in this manner as follows:

- (a) Business location of the seller;
- (b) Other location of receipt by the purchaser;
- (c) Purchaser's address maintained in the seller's ordinary business records;
- (d) Purchaser's address obtained at the consummation (i.e., completion) of the sale;
- (e) Origin sourcing.

(202) **Business location of the seller.** If a purchaser or a purchaser's donee receives tangible personal property, a retail service, an extended warranty, or a digital product at the seller's business location, the sale is sourced to that business location.

In the case of retail services, this sourcing rule will generally apply where a purchaser receives retail services at the seller's place of business, e.g., an auto repair shop where purchasers pick up the repaired goods at the repair shop location.

### **Example 1. Tangible personal property received at seller's Washington business location.**

**Facts:** Bill, a Tacoma resident, travels to Renton and purchases a ring from a jeweler located in Renton. Bill receives the ring at the Renton location.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to its Renton business location.

### **Example 2. Tangible personal property received at seller's Washington business location, purchaser is a resident of another state.**

**Facts:** Jane, an Idaho resident, purchases and takes receipt of a mattress at a retailer's physical store in Spokane, Washington.

**Conclusion:** Even though Jane takes the mattress back to Idaho for her use, the seller must source the sale to its Spokane business location.

**Example 3. Tangible personal property received at seller's out-of-state business location, purchaser is a Washington resident.**

**Facts:** Luggage Retailer has retail stores located in Washington and Oregon. John, a Washington resident, goes to Luggage Retailer's store in Portland, Oregon to purchase luggage. John takes possession of the luggage at the store.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to its Portland business location where John took possession of the luggage. John is subject to use tax on the luggage upon his use of the luggage in Washington. Refer to Part 5 of this rule for more information regarding sourcing requirements for use tax imposed on the purchaser as a consumer.

**Example 4. Tangible personal property received at seller's Washington business location using purchaser's own trucks, purchaser is an out-of-state business.**

**Facts:** An out-of-state purchaser takes possession of tangible personal property in Vancouver, Washington and immediately delivers the tangible personal property to the purchaser's out-of-state location.

**Conclusion:** The sale is sourced to Washington because the purchaser received the tangible personal property in Washington.

**Example 5. Tangible personal property received at seller's Washington business location by an affiliated shipping company (separate legal entity), receipt by purchaser is outside of Washington.**

**Facts:** The purchaser in Example 4 uses a wholly owned "shipping company" (a legal entity separate from the purchaser) to receive purchased goods in Vancouver, Washington and immediately deliver them to the purchaser's out-of-state location.

**Conclusion:** Because "receive" and "receipt" do not include possession by the "shipping company," including a "shipping company" that is affiliated with the purchaser, the sale is sourced to the location where the purchaser receives the goods outside of Washington. The seller should maintain records that support the sourcing of the sale outside of Washington. See subsection (203)(b) of this rule for more details on recordkeeping requirements.

**Example 6. Retail service received at seller's Washington business location.**

**Facts:** Barbara, a Longview resident, takes her car to a mechanic shop located in Centralia. The mechanic services the car at the Centralia location. Several days later Barbara picks up the car from the Centralia location.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to its Centralia business location.

**Example 7. Extended warranty received at seller's Washington business location.**

**Facts:** Saffron, a Des Moines resident, buys a computer from a Burien computer retailer. When purchasing the computer, Saffron also purchases and receives a five-year extended warranty for the computer at the Burien location.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale of the extended warranty and computer to its Burien business location.

(203) **Other location of receipt by the purchaser.** If the purchaser receives tangible personal property, retail services, digital products or codes, or an extended warranty at a location other than the seller's place of business, then the sale must be sourced to the location where the purchaser, or the purchaser's donee, receives the property, retail service, digital product or code, or extended warranty. This location may be indicated in instructions, known to the seller, for delivery to the purchaser or the purchaser's donee.

(a) Delivery terms, such as "FOB shipping point" and "FOB origin," and the Uniform Commercial Code's provisions defining sale or where risk of loss passes, do not determine where the place of receipt occurs.

(b) The seller must retain documents used in the ordinary course of the seller's business to show how the seller knows the location where the purchaser or purchaser's donee received the goods. Acceptable proof includes, but is not limited to, the following documents:

(i) Instructions for delivery to the seller indicating where the purchaser wants the goods delivered, provided on a sales contract, sales invoice, or any other document used in the seller's ordinary course of business showing the instructions for delivery;

(ii) If shipped by a shipping company, a waybill, bill of lading, or other contract of carriage indicating where delivery occurs; or

(iii) If shipped by the seller using the seller's own transportation equipment, a trip-sheet signed by the person making delivery for the seller and showing:

(A) The seller's name and address;

(B) The purchaser's name and address;

(C) The place of delivery, if different from the purchaser's address; and

(D) The time of delivery to the purchaser together with the signature of the purchaser or its agent acknowledging receipt of the goods at the place designated by the purchaser.

**Example 8. Tangible personal property delivered to purchaser's address.**

**Facts:** Wade, a Seattle resident, buys furniture from a store located in Everett. Wade has the furniture delivered to his Seattle residence, where he will receive it.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Seattle, the location where the purchaser received the furniture.

**Example 9. Remotely accessed prewritten software.**

**Facts:** Joanne, a Port Angeles business owner, purchases a prewritten software program online from a store located in Sequim. Joanne receives access to the software remotely, at her home address in Port Angeles. The seller has information identifying Port Angeles as the location where the software is accessed by the customer.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Joanne's Port Angeles home location.

**Example 10. Tangible personal property delivered to purchaser via third-party shipping company.**

**Facts:** An out-of-state seller uses a third-party shipping company to ship goods to a customer located in Ellensburg. The seller first delivers the goods to the shipping company outside Washington using its own transportation equipment. The shipping company delivers the goods to Ellensburg.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Ellensburg, the location of receipt by the purchaser. Even though the shipping company took possession of the goods outside of Washington, possession by the shipping company is not receipt by the purchaser for Washington tax purposes.

**Example 11. Tangible personal property received by purchaser's affiliated shipping company outside Washington then delivered to purchaser.**

**Facts:** A purchaser's affiliated shipping company arranges to pick up goods from an out-of-state seller's business location and deliver the goods to the purchaser's Yakima facility. The affiliated shipping company has the authority to accept and inspect the goods prior to transport on behalf of the buyer.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Yakima, the location of receipt by the purchaser. Possession by a shipping company on behalf of a purchaser, including a shipping company affiliated with the purchaser, is not receipt for purposes of this rule. A shipping company's authority to accept and inspect goods on behalf of a buyer does not constitute receipt by the buyer.

**Example 12. Purchaser exercises dominion and control over tangible personal property outside Washington, prior to receiving the tangible personal property in Washington.**

**Facts:** An out-of-state manufacturer with nexus in Washington sells coffee mugs to a Washington-based purchaser in the business of selling small quantities of the goods under its own label in its own packaging. The purchaser directs the seller to deliver the goods to a third-party packaging plant located out-of-state for repackaging of the goods in the purchaser's own packaging. The purchaser then has a third-party shipping company pick up the goods at the packaging plant.

**Conclusion:** The purchaser takes constructive possession of the goods outside of Washington because it has exercised dominion and control over the goods by having them repackaged at an out-of-state packaging facility before shipment to Washington. The seller must source the sale to the location of the out-of-state packaging plant.

**Example 13. Retail service received at location of the purchaser.**

**Facts:** Brett, a Tacoma resident, hires ABC Painting Co., located in Olympia, to paint his home. ABC's employees perform the painting services at Brett's home in Tacoma.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Tacoma, the location where the customer received the retail service.

**Example 14. Retail repair service received at the location where repaired goods are received.**

**Facts:** Gabe, a Shoreline resident, sends a clock to a repair business located in Auburn. The business repairs the clock and then delivers the clock to Gabe's home in Shoreline.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Shoreline, the location where the customer received the repaired clock.

**Example 15. Retail repair service received at the location where repaired goods are received (repair service in state, receipt of repaired goods out-of-state).**

**Facts:** Assume the facts in Example 14, except that Gabe is a resident of Nevada, and that the repaired clock will be delivered by the seller to Gabe's home in Las Vegas.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Las Vegas, NV, the location where the customer received the repaired clock.

**Example 16. Extended warranty delivered to location of the purchaser.**

**Facts:** Tara, a Chelan resident, buys a computer over the internet. The retailer offers a five-year extended warranty. Tara decides to purchase the extended warranty and sends the seller the appropriate paperwork. The seller then sends the extended warranty documents to Tara's home in Chelan.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Chelan, the location where the customer received the extended warranty documents.

**Example 17. Tangible personal property delivered to location of purchaser's donee.**

**Facts:** Sandra, a Vancouver, Washington resident, buys a computer online from a merchant in Seattle. The computer is a gift for Tim, a student attending college in Pullman. The purchaser directs the seller to ship the computer to Tim's home address in Pullman. Tim receives the computer at the Pullman location.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Pullman, the location of receipt by the purchaser's donee.

**(204) Purchaser's address maintained in the seller's ordinary business records.** If the sourcing rules described in subsections (202) and (203) of this rule do not apply, a retail sale is sourced to the purchaser's address as indicated in the seller's records maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business, provided use of this address does not constitute bad faith.

**Example 18. Tangible personal property picked up by unaffiliated shipping company from seller's business location, no delivery information available.**

**Facts:** A hotel located in Shelton purchases bathroom towels from a seller located in Bremerton. Rather than having the towels delivered by the seller, the purchaser uses an unaffiliated shipping company to pick up the towels at the seller's business location and deliver them to the purchaser in Shelton. The seller is not able to obtain delivery information for the purchase; however, the seller maintains the address of the purchaser for billing purposes.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Shelton using the purchaser's address information retained in the seller's ordinary business records.

**(205) Purchaser's address obtained at the consummation of sale.** If the sourcing rules described in subsections (202), (203), and (204) of this rule do not apply, the sale must be sourced to the purchaser's address obtained during the consummation of sale. If no other address is available, this address may be the address included on the purchaser's payment instrument (e.g., check, credit card, or money order), provided use of this address does not constitute bad faith.

**Example 19. Prewritten software delivered electronically, location of purchaser's receipt is unknown, billing address information available to seller.**

**Facts:** Eric buys prewritten software over the internet from a retail outlet located on Vashon Island. The seller transmits the prewritten software to an email address designated by Eric. The email address does not disclose Eric's location. Eric pays for the software by credit card. When entering the relevant credit card information, Eric discloses a residential address in Port Angeles to which the credit card is billed.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Port Angeles, the purchaser's credit card billing address obtained by the seller at the consummation of the sale.

(206) **Origin sourcing.** If the sourcing rules described in subsections (202), (203), (204), and (205) of this rule do not apply, the sale must be sourced to the physical address from which the:

- (a) Tangible personal property was shipped;
- (b) Digital product, digital code, or computer software was first available for transmission by the seller;

or

(c) Extended warranty, digital automated service, or other retail service was provided, disregarding any location that merely provided the digital transfer of the product sold.

**Example 20. Prewritten software delivered electronically, location of purchaser's receipt is unknown, purchaser address information is not available.**

**Facts:** Rebecca purchases prewritten computer software electronically and requests that the software be delivered to a specified email address. The seller operates from a retail store located in Tacoma. The seller does not know the location where the software will be received and further does not have information about Rebecca's location in its ordinary business records. Additionally, Rebecca does not supply the seller with address information during the consummation of the sale.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Tacoma, the location where the computer software was first available for transmission by the seller. This result will not change if the software is routed from a Tacoma server through a second server (either operated by the seller or some third party) located outside of Tacoma. Routing as used in this context refers to the transfer of prewritten software from one location to another location for retransmission to a final destination, and does not include transfers to another location where additional services or products may be added.

### **Part 3. Special Sourcing Rules for Retail Sales of Certain Goods and Services.**

(301) **Sales of watercraft; sales of modular, mobile, and manufactured homes; and sales of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, and aircraft that do not qualify as transportation equipment.**

(a) **Seller's location within Washington.** Sales of the types of tangible personal property described in this subsection must be sourced to the location at or from which delivery is made in cases where the seller's location is within Washington.

(b) **Seller's location outside Washington, participating seller representative within Washington.** Sales of the types of tangible personal property described in this subsection that are delivered into Washington from a point outside the state, where a local in-state facility, office, outlet, agent or other representative (even though not formally characterized as a "salesperson") of the seller participates in the transaction in some way, such as by taking the order, must be sourced to the location of the local facility, etc., for purposes of the local sales tax.

(c) **Seller's location outside Washington, no participating seller representative within Washington.** Sales of the types of tangible personal property described in this subsection that are delivered into Washington from a point outside the state, where no local in-state facility, office, outlet, agent or other representative (even though not formally characterized as a "salesperson") of the seller participates in the transaction, must be sourced to the location of the customer for purposes of the local sales tax.

**Example 21. Motor vehicle delivered to the location of the purchaser.**

**Facts:** Ben, a Federal Way purchaser, buys a car from a dealer in Fife. The customer has the option of picking up the car on the lot in Fife or having it delivered to his residential address in Federal Way. Ben asks to have the car delivered to the Federal Way location.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Fife, the dealer's location from which the car was delivered.

(302) **Florist sales.**

(a) **Florist sales must be sourced in a manner consistent with:**

- (i) The sourcing requirements described in subsection (301)(a) and (b) of this section; or
- (ii) In the case of a sale in which one florist takes an order from a customer and then communicates that order to another florist who delivers the items purchased to the place designated by the customer, the



location at or from which the delivery is made to the customer is deemed to be the location of the florist originally taking the order. See RCW **82.32.730** (7)(d).

(b) **Collection of retail sales tax:** On all orders taken by a Washington florist and communicated to a second florist, either in Washington or at a point outside the state, the florist taking the order will be responsible for the collection of the retail sales tax from the customer placing the order. See WAC **458-20-158**.

**Example 22. Floral arrangement delivered to a purchaser's donee in Washington, seller located in Washington.**

**Facts:** Wade, an out-of-state resident, purchases a floral arrangement directly from a florist in Renton. The purchase arrangement does not involve multiple florists. Wade arranges for the florist to deliver the arrangement to a hospital located in Seattle, where his brother Frank is a patient.

**Conclusion:** The seller must source the sale to Renton, the location at or from which delivery is made. Because the seller is physically located in Washington and the purchase was made directly between the buyer and the florist, the sale is sourced to the location from which delivery was made.

**Example 23. Floral arrangement delivered to a purchaser in Washington, originating florist located in Washington, delivering florist located out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Michelle, a Tacoma resident, purchases a floral arrangement from an online florist, Beautiful Flowers, LLC. Beautiful Flowers, LLC is located in Seattle, but has contractual agreements with florists throughout the country, whereby the contracted florist will prepare and deliver floral arrangements to Beautiful Flowers LLC's customers as a subcontractor. Michelle arranges for the flowers to be delivered to her brother in Camas. The floral arrangement is prepared and delivered by a florist located in Portland, Oregon.

**Conclusion:** The seller would source the sale to Seattle and collect retail sales tax as the location at which the florist originally took the order was in Washington. RCW **82.32.730** (7)(d) specifies that the sale is sourced to the location of the florist originally taking the order.

(303) **Telecommunications service and ancillary services.** Sales of telecommunications service and ancillary services are defined as retail sales in RCW **82.04.050**. Sellers must source these services under the sourcing provisions located in RCW **82.32.520**. See RCW **82.04.065**, **82.04.530**, and **82.04.535** for more information about telecommunication services and ancillary services, and the calculation of gross proceeds for purposes of B&O tax.

#### **Part 4. Sourcing Rules for Leases and Rentals of Tangible Personal Property.**

(401) The terms "lease" and "rental" are used interchangeably throughout this subsection. This subsection provides state and local retail sales tax sourcing guidance for lessors of tangible personal property. Persons who rent or lease tangible personal property to consumers are required to collect retail sales tax on the amount of each rental or lease payment at the time the payment becomes due. In addition, persons who rent or lease tangible personal property are generally subject to Washington's B&O tax. See WAC **458-20-211**.

(a) **How do I source lease payments attributable to the lease of transportation equipment?** If you are leasing transportation equipment, you must source the lease payments attributable to that transportation equipment as follows:

(i) For purposes of retail sales tax, you must source the lease payments attributable to the lease of transportation equipment following the sourcing requirements for retail sales discussed in Part 2 of this rule. The sourcing requirements for retail sales discussed in Part 2 of this rule apply to both single payment leases and periodic payment leases of transportation equipment. See RCW **82.32.730**(4).

(ii) For purposes of B&O tax, you must source the lease payments attributable to the lease of transportation equipment as described in Excise Tax Advisory 3185.2014.

(b) **How should I source lease payments attributable to the lease of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, and aircraft that do not qualify as transportation equipment?** If you are leasing a motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, or aircraft that does not qualify as transportation equipment, you must source the lease payments as follows:



(i) **Leases that require recurring periodic payments.** If the lease requires recurring periodic payments, you must source each periodic payment to the "primary property location" of the leased property. The "primary property location" will not change by intermittent use of the leased property in different jurisdictions, e.g., use of leased business property on business trips or service calls to multiple local jurisdictions.

(ii) **Leases that do not require recurring periodic payments.** If the lease does not require recurring periodic payments, you must source the single lease payment following the sourcing requirements discussed in Part 2 of this rule.

**Example 24. Motor vehicle lease with recurring periodic payments.**

**Facts:** Rich, a Fall City customer, leases a car from a dealer in Duvall. Rich leases the car for a period of one year. The car does not qualify as transportation equipment. Rich provides the dealer with his residential address in Fall City where he keeps the car. Rich makes monthly periodic payments throughout the term of the lease. Rich indicates the primary property location for the car is his residence in Fall City. The Fall City location is recorded in the store's business records. The first monthly lease payment is due at the end of the month following the date in which Rich acquired the vehicle.

**Conclusion:** The seller (lessor) must source the periodic lease payments to Fall City, the residential primary property location of the purchaser (lessee). If Rich changes the vehicle's primary location during the term of the lease and notifies the lessor, the lessor must source any subsequent lease payments to the primary location of the vehicle.

**Example 25. Vehicle trailer lease that does not involve recurring periodic payments.**

**Facts:** Amanda, a Tacoma business owner, rents a trailer for a period of one week and no periodic payments are required under the lease. The trailer does not qualify as transportation equipment. Amanda receives the trailer at a business location in Tacoma.

**Conclusion:** The seller (lessor) must source the sale to Tacoma, the seller's business location where the trailer was received by the purchaser (lessee).

(c) **How do I source lease payments for all other tangible personal property?** For leases of tangible personal property not described in (a) or (b) of this subsection, sellers must source lease payments as follows:

(i) **Lease that requires recurring periodic payments.** If a lease of tangible personal property requires recurring periodic payments, sellers must source the first periodic lease payment following the sourcing requirements discussed in Part 2 of this rule. Sellers must source subsequent periodic payments to the primary property location for the relevant payment period. The primary property location will not change by intermittent use of the leased property in different local jurisdictions, e.g., use of leased business property on business trips or service calls to multiple local jurisdictions.

(ii) **Leases that do not require recurring periodic payments.** If a lease of tangible personal property does not require recurring periodic payments, sellers must source the single payment following the sourcing requirements described in Part 2 of this rule.

**Example 26. Lease of tangible personal property with periodic lease payments, tangible personal property picked up at seller's location, tangible personal property intermittently used out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Alison, a Seattle business owner, leases equipment from a store in Issaquah. Alison picks up the equipment in Issaquah and makes an initial periodic payment on the lease. The equipment is used primarily in Washington, but the equipment is intermittently used in Oregon throughout the term of the lease. Alison indicates the primary property location for the equipment is a business address in Seattle. The Seattle location is recorded in the store's business records. The equipment is leased for a period of one year.

**Conclusion:** The seller (lessor) must source the initial periodic payment to Issaquah, the location where the equipment was received. The seller must source the subsequent periodic payments to Seattle, the primary property location of the equipment. Alison's intermittent use of the equipment in other jurisdictions does not change the primary property location of the equipment.

**Example 27. Lease of tangible personal property with periodic lease payments, tangible personal property delivered to purchaser, primary location of property changes during the term of the**

**lease.**

**Facts:** Amelia, a Pasco business owner, leases equipment from a store located in Pasco for a period of one year. The leased equipment is delivered by the lessor to Amelia and received at the primary property location of the equipment in Walla Walla. Amelia indicates this will be the primary property location for a period of six months. For the second six months of the lease, Amelia indicates the primary property location is a business address in Leavenworth. The store records the primary property locations in its business records.

**Conclusion:** The seller (lessor) must source the initial periodic payment to Walla Walla, the location where Amelia received the equipment. The seller must source subsequent periodic lease payments covering the first six months of the lease to Walla Walla, the primary property location. The seller must source periodic lease payments covering the last six months of the lease to Leavenworth, the primary property location.

### **Part 5. Sourcing Rules for Use Tax Purposes - Purchasers.**

(501) **Use tax imposed on the consumer.** Where an article of tangible personal property, an extended warranty, retail service, prewritten computer software, digital product, or digital code is acquired by a consumer in this state in any manner, including through a casual or isolated sale, or as a by-product used by the manufacturer thereof, use tax is generally due, unless an exemption applies or retail sales tax has been paid. RCW **82.12.020**. The rate of use tax is cumulative of a state and local component, where the local component varies by local jurisdiction.

(502) **Sourcing rules.** Sourcing rules for use tax vary depending on the object of use, as follows:

(a) **Tangible personal property**, except for natural gas and manufactured gas, is sourced to the location where the taxpayer makes first taxable use of the article of tangible personal property as a consumer. This includes the location of installation, storage, withdrawal from storage, distribution, or any other act preparatory to subsequent actual use or consumption of the article of tangible personal property within this state. RCW **82.12.010**. "First taxable use" is described in the examples below.

#### **Example 28. Use of a motor vehicle by a Washington resident, vehicle registration and location of the vehicle's primary use.**

**Facts:** Sandra, a Spokane resident, purchases a motor vehicle from a private seller located in Seattle. Retail sales tax was not collected by the private seller. Title to the vehicle is transferred in the King County Auditor's office. Sandra will primarily use the vehicle in Spokane and will drive the vehicle to her residence in Spokane upon completion of the sale. Sandra will list the Spokane address on her vehicle registration and new vehicle insurance policy.

**Conclusion:** The King County Auditor's office will collect use tax from Sandra based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Spokane, as Sandra's use of the vehicle in Seattle is insufficient to establish first taxable use in that location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax.

#### **Example 29. Use of a motor vehicle by a Washington resident, purchase of vehicle out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Jerry, a Seattle resident, purchases a motor vehicle from a car dealership located in Oregon. The dealership is not registered with the department and does not collect retail sales tax from Jerry at the time of sale. Jerry drives the vehicle via Interstate 5, from Portland, Oregon to Seattle. Jerry subsequently registers the vehicle with the King County Auditor's office upon returning with the vehicle to Seattle.

**Conclusion:** The King County Auditor's office will collect use tax from Jerry based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Seattle. Although Jerry drove the vehicle in Clark County, the use was insufficient to establish first taxable use in that location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax.

#### **Example 30. Use of a personal watercraft in Washington, purchase of watercraft out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Cameron, a Port Townsend resident, purchases a 42-foot sailboat from a boat dealer in Portland, Oregon. Cameron takes possession of the sailboat at the dealer's location in Portland and does not pay Washington's retail sales tax. Cameron navigates the watercraft down the Columbia River and around the Olympic Peninsula, ultimately arriving in Port Townsend. Cameron entered into a long-term moorage agreement and lists the Port Townsend marina as an additional insured party on his current watercraft insurance policy.

**Conclusion:** The sailboat is subject to use tax based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Port Townsend. Although Cameron sailed the watercraft in Washington on the Columbia River, the use was

insufficient to establish first taxable use in that location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax.

**Example 31. Use of a personal aircraft in Washington by a Washington resident, possession taken outside of Washington.**

**Facts:** John, a Bremerton resident, purchases an aircraft from a dealer located in Sacramento, California. John takes possession of the aircraft in California and flies it back to Washington. Prior to arriving at the Bremerton airport, where John has secured a permanent hangar or storage space for the aircraft, John lands the aircraft in Pullman, Washington. While in Pullman he refuels the aircraft before continuing on to the final destination in Bremerton.

**Conclusion:** The aircraft is subject to use tax based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Bremerton. Although John fueled the aircraft in Pullman, the use was insufficient to establish first taxable use in that location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax.

**Example 32. Use of tangible personal property by a Washington business, purchase of tangible personal property out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Grace, an Issaquah business owner, purchases a trailer-mounted generator from a dealer located in Oregon without paying retail sales tax. Grace tows the generator with her own motor vehicle to the company warehouse located in Issaquah. The company stores the generator at their warehouse throughout the year and operates it at various worksites throughout the state.

**Conclusion:** The King County Auditor's office will collect use tax based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Issaquah, the location where the taxpayer stores the generator. Although Grace towed the generator through other jurisdictions prior to arriving at the business' Issaquah warehouse, the use was insufficient to establish first taxable use in another location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax. Even though Grace operates the generator in multiple locations, the company warehouse is the location where first taxable use as a consumer occurs.

**Example 33. Use of tangible personal property by a Washington resident, purchase of tangible personal property out-of-state.**

**Facts:** Alex, a Wenatchee resident, purchases an electric bicycle from a dealer in Montana, without paying retail sales tax. Alex takes possession of the electric bicycle in Montana and transports it back to Wenatchee in their own motor vehicle where it will be stored in their garage. Alex rides the electric bicycle in Wenatchee and various other locations throughout the state.

**Conclusion:** The electric bicycle is subject to use tax based on the combined state and local use tax rate for Wenatchee, the location where Alex stores the electric bicycle. Transporting the electric bicycle to Wenatchee was insufficient to establish first taxable use in another location for purposes of the local portion of the use tax.

**Example 34. Use of tangible personal property by an out-of-state service provider.**

**Facts:** ABC Testing, an out-of-state medical testing company, provides services to Washington customers. ABC sends a customer of its services, a Sequim resident, a container that the customer uses to provide a saliva sample. The container is shipped to Sequim and back out of Washington using unaffiliated shipping companies. ABC owns the container at all times and its customers are subject to ABC terms and conditions regarding their use of the containers. ABC discards the container upon receipt and testing of the customer's sample at their out-of-state business location.

**Conclusion:** Use tax is due and sourced to Sequim, the location where the testing company made the tangible personal property available for their customer's use.

(b) **Retail services**, which include the installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, or improving of tangible personal property for consumers, are sourced to the location where the taxpayer takes or assumes dominion or control over the article of tangible personal property upon which the service was performed. Dominion and control includes installation, storage, withdrawal from storage, distribution, or any other act preparatory to subsequent actual use or consumption of the article within this state.

**Example 35. Tangible personal property repaired by out-of-state business who is not required to register or collect Washington taxes.**

**Facts:** Pamela, a resident of Sequim, sends an antique oil painting to an out-of-state business who will refurbish and repair the painting. The out-of-state repairer does not have nexus with Washington and is

not required to register with the state or collect Washington's sales tax. Upon completion of the restoration, the repairer sends the painting to Pamela's residence, via a third-party shipping company.

**Conclusion:** Pamela must report and pay use tax. Pamela must source the repair services to Sequim, the location where first taxable use of the repaired painting occurred as a consumer.

(c) **Extended warranties** are sourced to the location where the taxpayer, after acquiring the extended warranty, first takes or assumes dominion or control over the article of tangible personal property to which the extended warranty applies.

**Example 36. Extended warranty purchased from an out-of-state business who is not required to register or collect Washington taxes.**

**Facts:** Michael, a resident of Longview, purchases a laptop computer from an online retailer, who is not registered with the state or required to collect Washington's taxes. The retailer sends Michael the laptop computer to his residential address in Longview via a third-party shipping company. At the time of the laptop's purchase, Michael also purchases an extended warranty. The retailer sends Michael an email which contains the extended warranty in electronic form.

**Conclusion:** Michael must report and pay use tax. Michael must source his use of the laptop computer and the extended warranty to Longview, the location where Michael first assumed dominion and control over the property and extended warranty, establishing first taxable use in this state as a consumer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW **82.32.300** and **82.01.060**. WSR 23-01-026, § 458-20-145, filed 12/9/22, effective 1/9/23. Statutory Authority: RCW **82.32.300** and **82.01.060**(2). WSR 08-12-035, § 458-20-145, filed 5/30/08, effective 6/30/08. Statutory Authority: RCW **82.32.300**. WSR 83-07-032 (Order ET 83-15), § 458-20-145, filed 3/15/83; Order ET 75-1, § 458-20-145, filed 5/2/75; Order ET 70-3, § 458-20-145 (Rule 145), filed 5/29/70, effective 7/1/70.]