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STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT

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Adopted November 12, 2002

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**(Amended November 19, 2003, November 16, 2004, April 16, 2005,
October 1, 2005, January 13, 2006, and April 18, 2006)**

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1 **ARTICLE I**
2 **PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLE**
3

4 **Section 101: TITLE**

5 This multistate Agreement shall be referred to, cited, and known as the Streamlined Sales and
6 Use Tax Agreement.
7

8 **Section 102: FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE**

9 It is the purpose of this Agreement to simplify and modernize sales and use tax administration in
10 the member states in order to substantially reduce the burden of tax compliance. The Agreement
11 focuses on improving sales and use tax administration systems for all sellers and for all types of
12 commerce through all of the following:

- 13 A. State level administration of sales and use tax collections.
14 B. Uniformity in the state and local tax bases.
15 C. Uniformity of major tax base definitions.
16 D. Central, electronic registration system for all member states.
17 E. Simplification of state and local tax rates.
18 F. Uniform sourcing rules for all taxable transactions.
19 G. Simplified administration of exemptions.
20 H. Simplified tax returns.
21 I. Simplification of tax remittances.
22 J. Protection of consumer privacy.
23

24 **Section 103: TAXING AUTHORITY PRESERVED**

25 This Agreement shall not be construed as intending to influence a member state to impose a tax
26 on or provide an exemption from tax for any item or service. However, if a member state
27 chooses to tax an item or exempt an item from tax, that state shall adhere to the provisions
28 concerning definitions as set out in Article III of this Agreement.
29

1 **Section 104: DEFINED TERMS**

2 This Agreement defines terms for use within the Agreement and for application in the sales and
3 use tax laws of the member states. The definition of a term is not intended to influence the
4 interpretation or application of that term with respect to other tax types.

5
6 An alphabetical list of all the terms defined in the Agreement and their location in the Agreement
7 is found in Appendix B of this Agreement, the Index of Definitions. Terms defined for use
8 within this Agreement are set out in Article II of the Agreement. Many of the uniform definitions
9 for application in the sales and use tax laws of the member states are set out in Appendix C of
10 this Agreement, the Library of Definitions. Definitions that are not set out in Appendix C are
11 defined when applied in a particular section of the Agreement and are set out in that section of
12 the Agreement. The appendices have the same effect as the Articles in the Agreement.

13

14 **Section 105: TREATMENT OF VENDING MACHINES**

15 The provisions of the Agreement do not apply to vending machines sales. The Agreement does
16 not restrict how a member state taxes vending machine sales.

1 **ARTICLE II**
2 **DEFINITIONS**

3
4 The following definitions apply in this Agreement:

5 **Section 201: AGENT**

6 A person appointed by a seller to represent the seller before the member states.

7 **Section 202: CERTIFIED AUTOMATED SYSTEM (CAS)**

8 Software certified under the Agreement to calculate the tax imposed by each jurisdiction on a
9 transaction, determine the amount of tax to remit to the appropriate state, and maintain a record
10 of the transaction.

11 **Section 203: CERTIFIED SERVICE PROVIDER (CSP)**

12 An agent certified under the Agreement to perform all the seller's sales and use tax functions,
13 other than the seller's obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

14 **Section 204: ENTITY-BASED EXEMPTION**

15 An exemption based on who purchases the product or who sells the product. An exemption that
16 is available to all individuals shall not be considered an entity-based exemption.

17
18 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 Section 204 was amended by adding the second sentence. Each member state*
19 *shall comply with the October 1, 2005 amendment to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

20
21 **Section 205: MODEL 1 SELLER**

22 A seller that has selected a CSP as its agent to perform all the seller's sales and use tax functions,
23 other than the seller's obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

24 **Section 206: MODEL 2 SELLER**

25 A seller that has selected a CAS to perform part of its sales and use tax functions, but retains
26 responsibility for remitting the tax.

27 **Section 207: MODEL 3 SELLER**

28 A seller that has sales in at least five member states, has total annual sales revenue of at least five
29 hundred million dollars, has a proprietary system that calculates the amount of tax due each
30 jurisdiction, and has entered into a performance agreement with the member states that

1 establishes a tax performance standard for the seller. As used in this definition, a seller includes
2 an affiliated group of sellers using the same proprietary system.

3 **Section 208: PERSON**

4 An individual, trust, estate, fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability
5 partnership, corporation, or any other legal entity.

6 **Section 209: PRODUCT-BASED EXEMPTION**

7 An exemption based on the description of the product and not based on who purchases the
8 product or how the purchaser intends to use the product.

9 **Section 210: PURCHASER**

10 A person to whom a sale of personal property is made or to whom a service is furnished.

11 **Section 211: REGISTERED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT**

12 Registration by a seller with the member states under the central registration system provided in
13 Article IV of this Agreement.

14 **Section 212: SELLER**

15 A person making sales, leases, or rentals of personal property or services.

16 **Section 213: STATE**

17 Any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

18
19 *Compiler's note: On April 18, 2006 Section 213 was amended as follows: "Any state of the United States, ~~and the~~
20 District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico." The amendment to this section became effective upon
21 adoption.*

22
23 **Section 214: USE-BASED EXEMPTION**

24 An exemption based on a specified use of the product by the purchaser.

25
26 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 Section 214 was amended as follows: "An exemption based on a specified use
27 of the product by the purchaser's use of the product." Each member state shall comply with the October 1, 2005
28 amendment to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

1 **ARTICLE III**

2 **REQUIREMENTS EACH STATE MUST ACCEPT TO PARTICIPATE**

3

4 **Section 301: STATE LEVEL ADMINISTRATION**

5 Each member state shall provide state level administration of sales and use taxes. The state level
6 administration may be performed by a member state's Tax Commission, Department of Revenue,
7 or any other single entity designated by state law. Sellers are only required to register with, file
8 returns with, and remit funds to the state level authority. Each member state shall provide for
9 collection of any local taxes and distribution of them to the appropriate taxing jurisdictions.
10 Each member state shall conduct, or authorize others to conduct on its behalf, all audits of the
11 sellers registered under the Agreement for that state's tax and the tax of its local jurisdictions,
12 and local jurisdictions shall not conduct independent sales or use tax audits of sellers registered
13 under the Agreement.

14

15 **Section 302: STATE AND LOCAL TAX BASES**

16 Through December 31, 2005, if a member state has local jurisdictions that levy a sales or use tax,
17 all local jurisdictions in the state shall have a common tax base. After December 31, 2005, the
18 tax base for local jurisdictions shall be identical to the state tax base unless otherwise prohibited
19 by federal law. This section does not apply to sales or use taxes levied on the retail sale or
20 transfer of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes, or mobile
21 homes.

22

23 **Section 303: SELLER REGISTRATION**

24 Each member state shall participate in an online sales and use tax registration system in
25 cooperation with the other member states. Under this system:

- 26 A. A seller registering under the Agreement is registered in each of the member states.
27 B. The member states agree not to require the payment of any registration fees or other
28 charges for a seller to register in a state in which the seller has no legal requirement to
29 register.
30 C. A written signature from the seller is not required.

- 1 D. An agent may register a seller under uniform procedures adopted by the member states.
2 E. A seller may cancel its registration under the system at any time under uniform
3 procedures adopted by the governing board. Cancellation does not relieve the seller of its
4 liability for remitting to the proper states any taxes collected.
5

6 **Section 304: NOTICE FOR STATE TAX CHANGES**

- 7 A. Each member state shall lessen the difficulties faced by sellers when there is a change in
8 a state sales or use tax rate or base by making a reasonable effort to do all of the
9 following:
10 1. Provide sellers with as much advance notice as practicable of a rate change.
11 2. Limit the effective date of a rate change to the first day of a calendar quarter.
12 3. Notify sellers of legislative changes in the tax base and amendments to sales and use
13 tax rules and regulations.
14 B. Failure of a seller to receive notice or failure of a member state to provide notice or limit
15 the effective date of a rate change shall not relieve the seller of its obligation to collect
16 sales or use taxes for that member state.
17

18 **Section 305: LOCAL RATE AND BOUNDARY CHANGES**

19 Each member state that has local jurisdictions that levy a sales or use tax shall:

- 20 A. Provide that local rate changes will be effective only on the first day of a calendar
21 quarter after a minimum of sixty days' notice to sellers.
22 B. Apply local sales tax rate changes to purchases from printed catalogs wherein the
23 purchaser computed the tax based upon local tax rates published in the catalog only on
24 the first day of a calendar quarter after a minimum of one hundred twenty days' notice to
25 sellers.
26 C. For sales and use tax purposes only, apply local jurisdiction boundary changes only on
27 the first day of a calendar quarter after a minimum of sixty days' notice to sellers.
28 D. Provide and maintain a database that describes boundary changes for all taxing
29 jurisdictions. This database shall include a description of the change and the effective
30 date of the change for sales and use tax purposes.

- 1 E. Provide and maintain a database of all sales and use tax rates for all of the jurisdictions
2 levying taxes within the state. For the identification of states, counties, cities, and
3 parishes, codes corresponding to the rates must be provided according to Federal
4 Information Processing Standards (FIPS) as developed by the National Institute of
5 Standards and Technology. For the identification of all other jurisdictions, codes
6 corresponding to the rates must be in the format determined by the governing board.
- 7 F. Provide and maintain a database that assigns each five digit and nine digit zip code
8 within a member state to the proper tax rates and jurisdictions. The state must apply the
9 lowest combined tax rate imposed in the zip code area if the area includes more than one
10 tax rate in any level of taxing jurisdictions. If a nine digit zip code designation is not
11 available for a street address or if a seller or CSP is unable to determine the nine digit zip
12 code designation applicable to a purchase after exercising due diligence to determine the
13 designation, the seller or CSP may apply the rate for the five digit zip code area. For the
14 purposes of this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that a seller or CSP has
15 exercised due diligence if the seller has attempted to determine the nine digit zip code
16 designation by utilizing software approved by the governing board that makes this
17 designation from the street address and the five digit zip code applicable to a purchase.
- 18 G. Have the option of providing address-based boundary database records for assigning
19 taxing jurisdictions and their associated rates which shall be in addition to the
20 requirements of subsection (F) of this section. The database records must be in the same
21 approved format as the database records pursuant to subsection (F) of this section and
22 must meet the requirements developed pursuant to the federal Mobile
23 Telecommunications Sourcing Act (4 U.S.C.A. Sec. 119(a)). The governing board may
24 allow a member state to require sellers that register under this Agreement to use an
25 address-based database provided by that member state. If any member state develops
26 address-based assignment database records pursuant to the Agreement, a seller or CSP
27 may use those database records in place of the five and nine-digit zip code database
28 records provided for in subsection (F) of this section. If a seller or CSP is unable to
29 determine the applicable rate and jurisdiction using an address-based database record
30 after exercising due diligence, the seller or CSP may apply the nine digit zip code

1 designation applicable to a purchase. If a nine-digit zip code designation is not available
2 for a street address or if a seller or CSP is unable to determine the nine digit zip code
3 designation applicable to a purchase after exercising due diligence to determine the
4 designation, the seller or CSP may apply the rate for the five digit zip code area. For the
5 purposes of this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that a seller or CSP has
6 exercised due diligence if the seller or CSP has attempted to determine the tax rate and
7 jurisdiction by utilizing software approved by the governing board that makes this
8 assignment from the address and zip code information applicable to the purchase.

9 H. States that have met the requirements of subsection (F) may also elect to certify vendor
10 provided address-based databases for assigning tax rates and jurisdictions. The
11 databases must be in the same approved format as the database records pursuant to (G)
12 of this section and must meet the requirements developed pursuant to the federal Mobil
13 Telecommunications Sourcing Act (4 U.S.C.A. Sec. 119 (a)). If a state certifies a
14 vendor address-based database, a seller or CSP may use that database in place of the
15 database provided for in subsection (F) or (G) of this section. Vendors providing
16 address-based databases may request certification of their databases from the governing
17 board. Certification by the governing board does not replace the requirement that the
18 databases be certified by the states individually.

19
20 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 the following amendments were made to Section 305:*

- 21 1. In Section 305 (F) "or CSP" was added after each "seller." In addition, in two places "~~of a~~
22 ~~purchaser~~" was replaced with "applicable to a purchase."
- 23 2. Section 305 (G) was amended as follows: "~~Participate with other member states in the~~
24 ~~development of an~~ Have the option of providing address-based ~~system~~ database records for
25 assigning taxing jurisdictions and their associated rates which shall be in addition to the
26 requirements of subsection (F) of this section. The ~~system~~ database records must be in the same
27 approved format as the database records pursuant to subsection (F) of this section and must meet
28 the requirements developed pursuant to the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act (4
29 U.S.C. Sec. 119) (4 U.S.C.A. Sec.119 (a)). The governing board may allow a member state to
30 require sellers that register under this Agreement to use an address-based ~~system~~ database
31 provided by that member state. If any member state develops ~~an~~ address-based assignment ~~system~~
32 database records pursuant to the ~~Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act~~ Agreement, a seller or

1 CSP may use ~~that system~~ those database records in place of the ~~system~~ five and nine-digit zip code
2 database records provided for in subsection (F) of this section. If a seller or CSP is unable to
3 determine the applicable rate and jurisdiction using an address-based database record after
4 exercising due diligence, the seller or CSP may apply the nine digit zip code designation
5 applicable to a purchase. If a nine-digit zip code designation is not available for a street address
6 or if a seller or CSP is unable to determine the nine digit zip code designation applicable to a
7 purchase after exercising due diligence to determine the designation, the seller or CSP may apply
8 the rate for the five digit zip code area. For the purposes of this section, there is a rebuttable
9 presumption that a seller or CSP has exercised due diligence if the seller or CSP has attempted to
10 determine the tax rate and jurisdiction by utilizing software approved by the governing board that
11 makes this assignment from the address and zip code information applicable to the purchase”.

12 3. Section 305 (H) was added.

13 The amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.

15 **Section 306: RELIEF FROM CERTAIN LIABILITY**

16 Each member state shall relieve sellers and CSPs using databases pursuant to subsections (F),
17 (G) and (H) of Section 305 from liability to the member state and local jurisdictions for having
18 charged and collected the incorrect amount of sales or use tax resulting from the seller or CSP
19 relying on erroneous data provided by a member state on tax rates, boundaries, or taxing
20 jurisdiction assignments. After providing adequate notice as determined by the governing board,
21 a member state that provides an address-based database for assigning taxing jurisdictions
22 pursuant to Section 305, subsection (G) or (H) may cease providing liability relief for errors
23 resulting from the reliance on the database provided by the member state under the provisions of
24 Section 305, subsection (F). If a seller demonstrates that requiring the use of the address-based
25 database would create an undue hardship, a member state and the governing board may extend
26 the relief from liability to such seller for a designated period of time.

27
28 *Compiler’s note: On October 1, 2005 Section 306 was amended as follows: “Each member state shall relieve sellers*
29 *and CSPs using databases pursuant to subsections (F), (G) and (H) from liability to the member state and local*
30 *jurisdictions for having charged and collected the incorrect amount of sales or use tax resulting from the seller or*
31 *CSP relying on erroneous data provided by a member state on tax rates, boundaries, or taxing jurisdiction*
32 *assignments. After providing adequate notice as determined by the governing board, a A member state that provides*
33 *an address-based ~~system~~ database for assigning taxing jurisdictions pursuant to Section 305, subsection (G) ~~or~~*

1 ~~pursuant to the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act will not be required to provide or (H) may cease~~
2 ~~providing liability relief for errors resulting from the reliance on the ~~information~~ database provided by the member~~
3 ~~state under the provisions of Section 305, subsection (F). If a seller demonstrates that requiring the use of the~~
4 ~~address-based database would create an undue hardship, a member state and the governing board may extend the~~
5 ~~relief from liability to such seller for a designated period of time.”~~

6
7 *The amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.*
8

9 **Section 307: DATABASE REQUIREMENTS AND EXCEPTIONS**

- 10 A. The electronic databases provided for in Section 305, subsections (D), (E), (F), and (G)
11 shall be in a downloadable format approved by the governing board. The databases may
12 be directly provided by the state or provided by a vendor as designated by the state. A
13 database provided by a vendor as designated by a state shall be applicable to and subject
14 to all provisions of Sections 305, 306 and this section. These databases must be
15 provided at no cost to the user of the database.
- 16 B. The provisions of Section 305, subsections (F) and (G) do not apply when the purchased
17 product is received by the purchaser at the business location of the seller.
- 18 C. The databases provided by Section 305, subsections (D), (E), (F), and (G) are not a
19 requirement of a state prior to entering into the Agreement. A seller that did not have a
20 requirement to register in a state prior to registering pursuant to this Agreement or a CSP
21 shall not be required to collect sales or use taxes for a state until the first day of the
22 calendar quarter commencing more than sixty days after the state has provided the
23 databases required by Section 305, subsections (D), (E), and (F). Provided, for the initial
24 implementation of the Agreement pursuant to Section 701, a CSP shall be required to
25 collect sales or use taxes for each member state, subject to the provisions of Section 705,
26 pursuant to the terms of the operating agreement entered into between the CSP and the
27 governing board in order to provide adequate time for testing and loading of the
28 databases.

29
30 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 the following amendments were made to Section 307:*
31 *Section 307 (A) was amended by adding the last three sentences.*

1 Section 307 (C) was amended by adding “and (G)” after “(F),” deleting the second sentence (~~The governing board~~
2 ~~shall establish the effective dates for availability and use of the databases.)~~ and adding the last two sentences.
3 The amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.
4

5 **Section 308: STATE AND LOCAL TAX RATES**

- 6 A. No member state shall have multiple state sales and use tax rates on items of personal
7 property or services, except that a member state may impose a single additional rate,
8 which may be zero, on food and food ingredients and drugs as defined by state law
9 pursuant to the Agreement. In addition, if federal law prohibits the imposition of local
10 tax on a product that is subject to state tax, the state may impose an additional rate on
11 such product, provided such rate achieves tax parity for similar products.
- 12 B. A member state that has local jurisdictions that levy a sales or use tax shall not have
13 more than one local sales tax rate or more than one local use tax rate per local
14 jurisdiction. If the local jurisdiction levies both a sales tax and use tax, the local rates
15 must be identical.
- 16 C. The provisions of this section do not apply to sales or use taxes levied on electricity,
17 piped natural or artificial gas, or other heating fuels delivered by the seller, or the retail
18 sale or transfer of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured
19 homes, or mobile homes.
20

21 *Compiler’s note: On April 18, 2006 Section 307A was amended by deleting “after December 31, 2005” following*
22 *“or services” and by adding the second sentence. The amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.*
23

24 **Section 309: APPLICATION OF GENERAL SOURCING RULES AND EXCLUSIONS** 25 **FROM THE RULES**

- 26 A. Each member state shall agree to require sellers to source the retail sale of a product in
27 accordance with Section 310. The provisions of Section 310 apply regardless of the
28 characterization of a product as tangible personal property, a digital good, or a service.
29 The provisions of Section 310 only apply to determine a seller's obligation to pay or
30 collect and remit a sales or use tax with respect to the seller's retail sale of a product.

1 These provisions do not affect the obligation of a purchaser or lessee to remit tax on the
2 use of the product to the taxing jurisdictions of that use.

3 B. Section 310 does not apply to sales or use taxes levied on the following:

- 4 1. The retail sale or transfer of watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes, or
5 mobile homes. These items must be sourced according to the requirements of each
6 member state.
- 7 2. The retail sale, excluding lease or rental, of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or
8 aircraft that do not qualify as transportation equipment, as defined in Section 310,
9 subsection (D). The retail sale of these items shall be sourced according to the
10 requirements of each member state, and the lease or rental of these items must be
11 sourced according to Section 310, subsection (C).
- 12 3. Telecommunications services, as set out in Section 315, shall be sourced in
13 accordance with Section 314.
- 14 4. Until December 31, 2007, florist sales as defined by each member state. Prior to this
15 date, these items must be sourced according to the requirements of each member
16 state.

17
18 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 Section 309 (B)(4) was amended by deleting 2005 and inserting 2007. The*
19 *amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.*

20 21 **Section 310: GENERAL SOURCING RULES**

22 A. The retail sale, excluding lease or rental, of a product shall be sourced as follows:

- 23 1. When the product is received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller, the
24 sale is sourced to that business location.
- 25 2. When the product is not received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller,
26 the sale is sourced to the location where receipt by the purchaser (or the purchaser's
27 donee, designated as such by the purchaser) occurs, including the location indicated
28 by instructions for delivery to the purchaser (or donee), known to the seller.
- 29 3. When subsections (A)(1) and (A)(2) do not apply, the sale is sourced to the location
30 indicated by an address for the purchaser that is available from the business records of

1 the seller that are maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business when use
2 of this address does not constitute bad faith.

3 4. When subsections (A)(1), (A)(2), and (A)(3) do not apply, the sale is sourced to the
4 location indicated by an address for the purchaser obtained during the consummation
5 of the sale, including the address of a purchaser's payment instrument, if no other
6 address is available, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith.

7 5. When none of the previous rules of subsections (A)(1), (A)(2), (A)(3), or (A)(4)
8 apply, including the circumstance in which the seller is without sufficient information
9 to apply the previous rules, then the location will be determined by the address from
10 which tangible personal property was shipped, from which the digital good or the
11 computer software delivered electronically was first available for transmission by the
12 seller, or from which the service was provided (disregarding for these purposes any
13 location that merely provided the digital transfer of the product sold).

14 B. The lease or rental of tangible personal property, other than property identified in
15 subsection (C) or subsection (D), shall be sourced as follows:

16 1. For a lease or rental that requires recurring periodic payments, the first periodic
17 payment is sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with the provisions of
18 subsection (A). Periodic payments made subsequent to the first payment are sourced
19 to the primary property location for each period covered by the payment. The primary
20 property location shall be as indicated by an address for the property provided by the
21 lessee that is available to the lessor from its records maintained in the ordinary course
22 of business, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith. The property
23 location shall not be altered by intermittent use at different locations, such as use of
24 business property that accompanies employees on business trips and service calls.

25 2. For a lease or rental that does not require recurring periodic payments, the payment is
26 sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with the provisions of subsection (A).

27 3. This subsection does not affect the imposition or computation of sales or use tax on
28 leases or rentals based on a lump sum or accelerated basis, or on the acquisition of
29 property for lease.

- 1 C. The lease or rental of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or aircraft that do not qualify
2 as transportation equipment, as defined in subsection (D), shall be sourced as follows:
- 3 1. For a lease or rental that requires recurring periodic payments, each periodic payment
4 is sourced to the primary property location. The primary property location shall be as
5 indicated by an address for the property provided by the lessee that is available to the
6 lessor from its records maintained in the ordinary course of business, when use of this
7 address does not constitute bad faith. This location shall not be altered by intermittent
8 use at different locations.
 - 9 2. For a lease or rental that does not require recurring periodic payments, the payment is
10 sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with the provisions of subsection (A).
 - 11 3. This subsection does not affect the imposition or computation of sales or use tax on
12 leases or rentals based on a lump sum or accelerated basis, or on the acquisition of
13 property for lease.
- 14 D. The retail sale, including lease or rental, of transportation equipment shall be sourced the
15 same as a retail sale in accordance with the provisions of subsection (A),
16 notwithstanding the exclusion of lease or rental in subsection (A). “Transportation
17 equipment” means any of the following:
- 18 1. Locomotives and railcars that are utilized for the carriage of persons or property in
19 interstate commerce.
 - 20 2. Trucks and truck-tractors with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001
21 pounds or greater, trailers, semi-trailers, or passenger buses that are:
 - 22 a. Registered through the International Registration Plan; and
 - 23 b. Operated under authority of a carrier authorized and certificated by the U.S.
24 Department of Transportation or another federal authority to engage in the
25 carriage of persons or property in interstate commerce.
 - 26 3. Aircraft that are operated by air carriers authorized and certificated by the U.S.
27 Department of Transportation or another federal or a foreign authority to engage in
28 the carriage of persons or property in interstate or foreign commerce.
 - 29 4. Containers designed for use on and component parts attached or secured on the items
30 set forth in subsections (D)(1) through (D)(3).

1 *Compiler's note: The Governing Board issued an interpretation of Section 310C on April 18, 2006. That*
2 *interpretation can be found in the Library of Interpretations.*

3
4 **Section 311: GENERAL SOURCING DEFINITIONS**

5 For the purposes of Section 310, subsection (A), the terms "receive" and "receipt" mean:

- 6 A. Taking possession of tangible personal property,
- 7 B. Making first use of services, or
- 8 C. Taking possession or making first use of digital goods, whichever comes first.

9 The terms "receive" and "receipt" do not include possession by a shipping company on behalf of
10 the purchaser.

11
12 **Section 312: MULTIPLE POINTS OF USE (Effective through December 31, 2007)**

13 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 310, a business purchaser that is not a holder of a
14 direct pay permit that knows at the time of its purchase of a digital good, computer software
15 delivered electronically, or a service that the digital good, computer software delivered
16 electronically, or service will be concurrently available for use in more than one jurisdiction shall
17 deliver to the seller in conjunction with its purchase a form disclosing this fact ("Multiple Points
18 of Use or MPU" Exemption Form).

- 19 A. Upon receipt of the MPU Exemption Form, the seller is relieved of all obligation to
20 collect, pay, or remit the applicable tax and the purchaser shall be obligated to collect,
21 pay, or remit the applicable tax on a direct pay basis.
- 22 B. A purchaser delivering the MPU Exemption Form may use any reasonable, but
23 consistent and uniform, method of apportionment that is supported by the purchaser's
24 business records as they exist at the time of the consummation of the sale.
- 25 C. The MPU Exemption Form will remain in effect for all future sales by the seller to the
26 purchaser (except as to the subsequent sale's specific apportionment that is governed by
27 the principle of subsection (B) and the facts existing at the time of the sale) until it is
28 revoked in writing.
- 29 D. A holder of a direct pay permit shall not be required to deliver a MPU Exemption Form
30 to the seller. A direct pay permit holder shall follow the provisions of subsection (B) in

1 apportioning the tax due on a digital good or a service that will be concurrently available
2 for use in more than one jurisdiction.

3
4 **Section 312: MULTIPLE POINTS OF USE (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)**

5 A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 310, a business purchaser that is not a holder
6 of a direct pay permit that knows at the time of its purchase of a digital good, computer
7 software, or a service that the digital good, computer software, or service will be
8 concurrently available for use in more than one jurisdiction shall deliver to the seller in
9 conjunction with its purchase an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use or
10 meet the requirements of Section 312, subsections (B) or (C). Computer software, for
11 purposes of this section includes, but is not limited to computer software delivered
12 electronically, by load and leave, or in tangible form. Computer software received in-
13 person by a business purchaser at a business location of the seller is not included.

- 14 1. Upon receipt of an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use, the
15 seller is relieved of all obligation to collect, pay, or remit the applicable tax and
16 the purchaser shall be obligated to collect, pay, or remit the applicable tax on a
17 direct pay basis.
- 18 2. A purchaser delivering an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use
19 may use any reasonable, but consistent and uniform, method of apportionment
20 that is supported by the purchaser's books and records as they exist at the time the
21 transaction is reported for sales or use tax purposes.
- 22 3. A purchaser delivering an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use
23 shall report and pay the appropriate tax to each jurisdiction where concurrent use
24 occurs. The tax due will be calculated as if the apportioned amount of the digital
25 good, computer software or service had been delivered to each jurisdiction to
26 which the sale is apportioned pursuant to Section 312, subdivision (A)(2).
- 27 4. The exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use will remain in effect for
28 all future sales by the seller to the purchaser (except as to the subsequent sale's
29 specific apportionment that is governed by the principles of Section 312,
30 subdivisions (A)(2) and (A)(3)) until it is revoked in writing.

- 1 B. Notwithstanding Section 312, subsection (A), when the seller knows that the product will
2 be concurrently available for use in more than one jurisdiction, but the purchaser does not
3 provide an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use as required in subsection
4 (A), the seller may work with the purchaser to produce the correct apportionment. The
5 purchaser and seller may use any reasonable, but consistent and uniform, method of
6 apportionment that is supported by the seller's and purchaser's business records as they
7 exist at the time the transaction is reported for sales or use tax purposes. If the purchaser
8 certifies to the accuracy of the apportionment and the seller accepts the certification, the
9 seller shall collect and remit the tax pursuant to Section 312, subdivision (A)(3). In the
10 absence of bad faith, the seller is relieved of any further obligation to collect tax on any
11 transaction where the seller has collected tax pursuant to the information certified by the
12 purchaser.
- 13 C. When the seller knows that the product will be concurrently available for use in more
14 than one jurisdiction and the purchaser does not have a direct pay permit and does not
15 provide the seller with an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use
16 exemption as required in Section 312, subsection (A), or certification pursuant to Section
17 312, subsection (B), the seller shall collect and remit the tax based on the provisions of
18 Section 310.
- 19 D. A holder of a direct pay permit shall not be required to deliver an exemption certificate
20 claiming multiple points of use to the seller. A direct pay permit holder shall follow the
21 provisions of Section 312 subdivisions (A)(2) and (A)(3) of this section in apportioning
22 the tax due on a digital good, computer software, or a service that will be concurrently
23 available for use in more than one jurisdiction.
- 24 E. Nothing in this section shall limit a person's obligation for sales or use tax to any state in
25 which the qualifying purchases are concurrently available for use, nor limit a person's
26 ability under local, state, federal, or constitutional law, to claim a credit for sales or use
27 taxes legally due and paid to other jurisdictions.

28
29 *Compiler's note: The following amendments were made on April 16, 2005. Each member state shall comply with*
30 *the April 16, 2005 amendments to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

- 1) *The first paragraph of Section 312 was numbered 312 (A) and was amended by deleting “delivered electronically” after “computer software” in the first two uses of that term; deleting “a form disclosing this fact (“Multiple Points of Use or MPU” Exemption Form)” after “with its purchase”; and inserting the material starting with “an exemption certificate”.*
- 2) *The former subsection 312 (A) was renumbered subdivision 312 (A)(1) and was amended by deleting “the MPU Exemption Form” and inserting “an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use” prior to the first comma.*
- 3) *The former subsection 312 (B) was renumbered subdivision 312 (A)(2) and was amended by deleting “the MPU Exemption Form” and inserting “an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use” after “delivering”; deleting “business” and inserting “books and” after “the purchaser’s”; and deleting “of the consummation of the sale” and inserting “the transaction is reported for sales or use tax purposes” after “at the time”.*
- 4) *A new subdivision 312 (A)(3) was added.*
- 5) *The former subsection 312 (C) was renumbered subdivision 312 (A)(4) and amended by deleting “the MPU Exemption Form” and inserting “an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use” after the first “The”; and deleting “subsection (B) and the facts existing at the time of the sale” and inserting “Section 312, subdivisions (A)(2) and (A)(3)” after “principles” which was made plural.*
- 6) *Subsections (B), (C) and (E) were added.*
- 7) *Subsection (D) was amended by deleting “a MPU Exemption Form” and inserting “an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use” after “required to deliver”; changing the reference from “subsection (B)” to “Section 312, subdivisions (A)(2) and (A)(3)”; and inserting “,computer software,” after “digital good”.*

Section 313: DIRECT MAIL SOURCING

- A. Notwithstanding Section 310, a purchaser of direct mail that is not a holder of a direct pay permit shall provide to the seller in conjunction with the purchase either a Direct Mail Form or information to show the jurisdictions to which the direct mail is delivered to recipients.
1. Upon receipt of the Direct Mail Form, the seller is relieved of all obligations to collect, pay, or remit the applicable tax and the purchaser is obligated to pay or remit the applicable tax on a direct pay basis. A Direct Mail Form shall remain in effect for all future sales of direct mail by the seller to the purchaser until it is revoked in writing.

1 2. Upon receipt of information from the purchaser showing the jurisdictions to which
2 the direct mail is delivered to recipients, the seller shall collect the tax according to
3 the delivery information provided by the purchaser. In the absence of bad faith, the
4 seller is relieved of any further obligation to collect tax on any transaction where the
5 seller has collected tax pursuant to the delivery information provided by the
6 purchaser.

7 B. If the purchaser of direct mail does not have a direct pay permit and does not provide the
8 seller with either a Direct Mail Form or delivery information, as required by subsection
9 (A) of this section, the seller shall collect the tax according to Section 310, subsection
10 (A)(5). Nothing in this paragraph shall limit a purchaser's obligation for sales or use tax
11 to any state to which the direct mail is delivered.

12 C. If a purchaser of direct mail provides the seller with documentation of direct pay
13 authority, the purchaser shall not be required to provide a Direct Mail Form or delivery
14 information to the seller.

15
16 **Section 314: TELECOMMUNICATION SOURCING RULE**

17 A. Except for the defined telecommunication services in subsection (C), the sale of
18 telecommunication service sold on a call-by-call basis shall be sourced to (i) each level
19 of taxing jurisdiction where the call originates and terminates in that jurisdiction or (ii)
20 each level of taxing jurisdiction where the call either originates or terminates and in
21 which the service address is also located.

22 B. Except for the defined telecommunication services in subsection (C), a sale of
23 telecommunications services sold on a basis other than a call-by-call basis, is sourced to
24 the customer's place of primary use.

25 C. The sale of the following telecommunication services shall be sourced to each level of
26 taxing jurisdiction as follows:

27 1. A sale of mobile telecommunications services other than air-to-ground radiotelephone
28 service and prepaid calling service, is sourced to the customer's place of primary use
29 as required by the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act.

- 1 2. A sale of post-paid calling service is sourced to the origination point of the
2 telecommunications signal as first identified by either (i) the seller's
3 telecommunications system, or (ii) information received by the seller from its service
4 provider, where the system used to transport such signals is not that of the seller.
- 5 3. **(Effective through December 31, 2007)** A sale of prepaid calling service is sourced
6 in accordance with Section 310. Provided however, in the case of a sale of mobile
7 telecommunications service that is a prepaid telecommunications service, the rule
8 provided in Section 310, subsection (A)(5) shall include as an option the location
9 associated with the mobile telephone number.
- 10 3. **(Effective on and after January 1, 2008)** A sale of prepaid calling service or a sale
11 of a prepaid wireless calling service is sourced in accordance with Section 310.
12 Provided however, in the case of a sale of prepaid wireless calling service, the rule
13 provided in Section 310, subsection (A)(5) shall include as an option the location
14 associated with the mobile telephone number.
- 15 4. A sale of a private communication service is sourced as follows:
- 16 a. Service for a separate charge related to a customer channel termination point is
17 sourced to each level of jurisdiction in which such customer channel termination
18 point is located.
- 19 b. Service where all customer termination points are located entirely within one
20 jurisdiction or levels of jurisdiction is sourced in such jurisdiction in which the
21 customer channel termination points are located.
- 22 c. Service for segments of a channel between two customer channel termination points
23 located in different jurisdictions and which segment of channel are separately charged
24 is sourced fifty percent in each level of jurisdiction in which the customer channel
25 termination points are located.
- 26 d. Service for segments of a channel located in more than one jurisdiction or levels of
27 jurisdiction and which segments are not separately billed is sourced in each
28 jurisdiction based on the percentage determined by dividing the number of customer
29 channel termination points in such jurisdiction by the total number of customer
30 channel termination points.

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Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 314, subdivision (C)(3) was amended by inserting "or a sale of a prepaid wireless calling service" after "service" in the first line; and by deleting "mobile telecommunications service that is a prepaid telecommunications" and inserting "prepaid wireless calling" in its place. Member states shall comply with this amendment no later than January 1, 2008.

Section 315: TELECOMMUNICATION SOURCING DEFINITIONS (Effective through December 31, 2007)

For the purpose of Section 314, the following definitions apply:

- A. "Air-to-Ground Radiotelephone service" means a radio service, as that term is defined in 47 CFR 22.99, in which common carriers are authorized to offer and provide radio telecommunications service for hire to subscribers in aircraft.
- B. "Call-by-call Basis" means any method of charging for telecommunications services where the price is measured by individual calls.
- C. "Communications Channel" means a physical or virtual path of communications over which signals are transmitted between or among customer channel termination points.
- D. "Customer" means the person or entity that contracts with the seller of telecommunications services. If the end user of telecommunications services is not the contracting party, the end user of the telecommunications service is the customer of the telecommunication service, but this sentence only applies for the purpose of sourcing sales of telecommunications services under Section 314. "Customer" does not include a reseller of telecommunications service or for mobile telecommunications service of a serving carrier under an agreement to serve the customer outside the home service provider's licensed service area.
- E. "Customer Channel Termination Point" means the location where the customer either inputs or receives the communications.
- F. "End user" means the person who utilizes the telecommunication service. In the case of an entity, "end user" means the individual who utilizes the service on behalf of the entity.
- G. "Home service provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section 124(5) of Public Law 106-252 (Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act).

- 1 H. "Mobile telecommunications service" means the same as that term is defined in
2 Section 124(7) of Public Law 106-252 (Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act).
- 3 I. "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the
4 customer's use of the telecommunications service primarily occurs, which must be the
5 residential street address or the primary business street address of the customer. In
6 the case of mobile telecommunications services, "place of primary use" must be
7 within the licensed service area of the home service provider.
- 8 J. "Post-paid calling service" means the telecommunications service obtained by
9 making a payment on a call-by-call basis either through the use of a credit card or
10 payment mechanism such as a bank card, travel card, credit card, or debit card, or by
11 charge made to a telephone number which is not associated with the origination or
12 termination of the telecommunications service. A post-paid calling service includes a
13 telecommunications service that would be a prepaid calling service except it is not
14 exclusively a telecommunication service.
- 15 K. "Prepaid calling service" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications
16 services, which must be paid for in advance and which enables the origination of calls
17 using an access number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically
18 dialed, and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines
19 with use in a known amount.
- 20 L. "Private communication service" means a telecommunication service that entitles the
21 customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of
22 channels between or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which
23 such channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension
24 lines, stations, and any other associated services that are provided in connection with
25 the use of such channel or channels.
- 26 M. "Service address" means:
- 27 1. The location of the telecommunications equipment to which a customer's call is
28 charged and from which the call originates or terminates, regardless of where the
29 call is billed or paid.

- 1 2. If the location in subsection (M)(1) is not known, service address means the
2 origination point of the signal of the telecommunications services first identified
3 by either the seller's telecommunications system or in information received by the
4 seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is
5 not that of the seller.
- 6 3. If the location in subsection (M)(1) and subsection (M)(2) are not known, the
7 service address means the location of the customer's place of primary use.
- 8

9 **Section 315: TELECOMMUNICATION SOURCING DEFINITIONS (Effective on and**
10 **after January 1, 2008)**

11 For the purpose of Section 314, the following definitions apply:

- 12 A. "Air-to-Ground Radiotelephone service" means a radio service, as that term is defined
13 in 47 CFR 22.99, in which common carriers are authorized to offer and provide radio
14 telecommunications service for hire to subscribers in aircraft.
- 15 B. "Call-by-call Basis" means any method of charging for telecommunications services
16 where the price is measured by individual calls.
- 17 C. "Communications Channel" means a physical or virtual path of communications over
18 which signals are transmitted between or among customer channel termination points.
- 19 D. "Customer" means the person or entity that contracts with the seller of
20 telecommunications services. If the end user of telecommunications services is not
21 the contracting party, the end user of the telecommunications service is the customer
22 of the telecommunication service, but this sentence only applies for the purpose of
23 sourcing sales of telecommunications services under Section 314. "Customer" does
24 not include a reseller of telecommunications service or for mobile
25 telecommunications service of a serving carrier under an agreement to serve the
26 customer outside the home service provider's licensed service area.
- 27 E. "Customer Channel Termination Point" means the location where the customer either
28 inputs or receives the communications.

- 1 F. "End user" means the person who utilizes the telecommunication service. In the case
2 of an entity, "end user" means the individual who utilizes the service on behalf of the
3 entity.
- 4 G. "Home service provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section 124(5) of
5 Public Law 106-252 (Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act).
- 6 H. "Mobile telecommunications service" means the same as that term is defined in
7 Section 124(7) of Public Law 106-252 (Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act).
- 8 I. "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the
9 customer's use of the telecommunications service primarily occurs, which must be the
10 residential street address or the primary business street address of the customer. In
11 the case of mobile telecommunications services, "place of primary use" must be
12 within the licensed service area of the home service provider.
- 13 J. "Post-paid calling service" means the telecommunications service obtained by
14 making a payment on a call-by-call basis either through the use of a credit card or
15 payment mechanism such as a bank card, travel card, credit card, or debit card, or by
16 charge made to a telephone number which is not associated with the origination or
17 termination of the telecommunications service. A post-paid calling service includes a
18 telecommunications service, except a prepaid wireless calling service, that would be a
19 prepaid calling service except it is not exclusively a telecommunication service.
- 20 K. "Prepaid calling service" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications
21 services, which must be paid for in advance and which enables the origination of calls
22 using an access number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically
23 dialed, and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines
24 with use in a known amount.
- 25 L. "Prepaid wireless calling service" means a telecommunications service that provides
26 the right to utilize mobile wireless service as well as other non-telecommunications
27 services, including the download of digital products delivered electronically, content
28 and ancillary services, which must be paid for in advance that is sold in
29 predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known
30 amount.

1 M. "Private communication service" means a telecommunication service that entitles the
2 customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of
3 channels between or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which
4 such channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension
5 lines, stations, and any other associated services that are provided in connection with
6 the use of such channel or channels.

7 N. "Service address" means:

- 8 1. The location of the telecommunications equipment to which a customer's call is
9 charged and from which the call originates or terminates, regardless of where the
10 call is billed or paid.
- 11 2. If the location in subsection (N)(1) is not known, service address means the
12 origination point of the signal of the telecommunications services first identified
13 by either the seller's telecommunications system or in information received by the
14 seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is
15 not that of the seller.
- 16 3. If the location in subsection (N)(1) and subsection (N)(2) are not known, the
17 service address means the location of the customer's place of primary use.

18
19 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 315 (J) was amended by inserting " , except a prepaid wireless calling*
20 *service," after "telecommunications service in the second sentence. The former 315 (L) and (M) were renumbered*
21 *315 (M) and (N) and a new Section 315 (L) was inserted. The cross references in 315 (N) were changed to account*
22 *for the renumbering. Member states shall comply with amendments to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

23
24 **Section 316: ENACTMENT OF EXEMPTIONS (Effective through December 31, 2007)**

25 A. A member state may enact a product-based exemption without restriction if the
26 Agreement does not have a definition for the product or for a term that includes the
27 product. If the Agreement has a definition for the product or for a term that includes the
28 product, a member state may exempt all items included within the definition but shall
29 not exempt only part of the items included within the definition unless the Agreement
30 sets out the exemption for part of the items as an acceptable variation.

1 B. A member state may enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption without restriction
2 if the Agreement does not have a definition for the product whose use or purchase by a
3 specific entity is exempt or for a term that includes the product. If the Agreement has a
4 definition for the product whose use or specific purchase is exempt, a member state may
5 enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption that applies to that product as long as the
6 exemption utilizes the Agreement definition of the product. If the Agreement does not
7 have a definition for the product whose use or specific purchase is exempt but has a
8 definition for a term that includes the product, a member state may enact an entity-based
9 or a use-based exemption for the product without restriction.

10 C. For purposes of complying with the requirements in this section, the inclusion of a
11 product within the definition of tangible personal property is disregarded.

12
13 **Section 316: ENACTMENT OF EXEMPTIONS (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)**

14 A member state shall enact entity-based, use-based and product-based exemptions in accordance
15 with the provisions of this section and shall utilize common definitions in accordance with the
16 provisions of Section 327 and Library of Definitions in Appendix C of this Agreement.

17 (1) A member state may enact a product-based exemption without restriction if Part II of the
18 Library of Definitions does not have a definition for such product.

19 (2) A member state may enact a product-based exemption for a product if Part II of the
20 Library of Definitions has a definition for such product and the member state utilizes in
21 the exemption the product definition in a manner consistent with Part II of the Library of
22 Definitions and Section 327 of this Agreement.

23 (3) A member state may enact a product-based exemption exempting all items included
24 within a definition in Part II of the Library of Definitions but shall not exempt specific
25 items included within the product definition unless the product definition sets out an
26 exclusion for such item.

27 (1) A member state may enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption for a product without
28 restriction if Part II of the Library of Definitions does not have a definition for such product.

29 (2) A member state may enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption for a product if
30 Part II of the Library of Definitions has a definition for such product and the member

1 state utilizes in the exemption the product definition in a manner consistent with Part II of
2 the Library of Definitions and Section 327 of this Agreement.

3 (3) A member state may enact an entity-based exemption for an item if Part II of the
4 Library of Definitions does not have a definition for such item but has a definition for a
5 product that includes such item.

6 (4) A member state may not enact a use-based exemption for an item which effectively
7 constitutes a product-based exemption if Part II of the Library of Definitions has a
8 definition for a product that includes such item.

9 (5) A member state may enact a use-based exemption for an item if Part II of the Library
10 of Definitions has a definition for a product that includes such item, if not prohibited in
11 Subsection (C) (4) of this section and if consistent with the definition in Part II of the
12 Library of Definitions.

13 For purposes of complying with the requirements in this section, the inclusion of a product
14 within the definition of tangible personal property is disregarded.

15
16 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 all of Section 316 was repealed and replaced with the current language. The
17 following language was repealed:*

18 *A member state may enact a product-based exemption without restriction if the Agreement does not have a definition
19 for the product or for a term that includes the product. If the Agreement has a definition for the product or for a
20 term that includes the product, a member state may exempt all items included within the definition but shall not
21 exempt only part of the items included within the definition unless the Agreement sets out the exemption for part of
22 the items as an acceptable variation.*

23 *A member state may enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption without restriction if the Agreement does not
24 have a definition for the product whose use or purchase by a specific entity is exempt or for a term that includes the
25 product. If the Agreement has a definition for the product whose use or specific purchase is exempt, a member state
26 may enact an entity-based or a use-based exemption that applies to that product as long as the exemption utilizes the
27 Agreement definition of the product. If the Agreement does not have a definition for the product whose use or
28 specific purchase is exempt but has a definition for a term that includes the product, a member state may enact an
29 entity-based or a use-based exemption for the product without restriction.*

30 *For purposes of complying with the requirements in this section, the inclusion of a product within the definition of
31 tangible personal property is disregarded.*

32
33 *Each member state shall comply with the October 1, 2005 amendments to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

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Section 317: ADMINISTRATION OF EXEMPTIONS

- A. Each member state shall observe the following provisions when a purchaser claims an exemption:
1. The seller shall obtain identifying information of the purchaser and the reason for claiming a tax exemption at the time of the purchase as determined by the governing board.
 2. A purchaser is not required to provide a signature to claim an exemption from tax unless a paper exemption certificate is used.
 3. The seller shall use the standard form for claiming an exemption electronically as adopted by the governing board.
 4. The seller shall obtain the same information for proof of a claimed exemption regardless of the medium in which the transaction occurred.
 5. A member state may utilize a system wherein the purchaser exempt from the payment of the tax is issued an identification number that shall be presented to the seller at the time of the sale.
 6. The seller shall maintain proper records of exempt transactions and provide them to a member state when requested.
 7. A member state shall administer use-based and entity-based exemptions when practicable through a direct pay permit, an exemption certificate, or another means that does not burden sellers.
 8. After December 31, 2007, in the case of drop shipment sales, member states must allow a third party vendor (e.g., drop shipper) to claim a resale exemption based on an exemption certificate provided by its customer/re-seller or any other acceptable information available to the third party vendor evidencing qualification for a resale exemption, regardless of whether the customer/re-seller is registered to collect and remit sales and use tax in the state where the sale is sourced.
- B. **(Effective through December 31, 2007)** Each member state shall relieve sellers that follow the requirements of this section from any tax otherwise applicable if it is

1 determined that the purchaser improperly claimed an exemption and to hold the
2 purchaser liable for the nonpayment of tax. This relief from liability does not apply to a
3 seller who fraudulently fails to collect the tax or solicits purchasers to participate in the
4 unlawful claim of an exemption.
5

6 **B. (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)** Each member state shall relieve sellers that
7 follow the requirements of this section from the tax otherwise applicable if it is
8 determined that the purchaser improperly claimed an exemption and to hold the
9 purchaser liable for the nonpayment of tax. This relief from liability does not apply to a
10 seller who fraudulently fails to collect tax; to a seller who solicits purchasers to
11 participate in the unlawful claim of an exemption; to a seller who accepts an exemption
12 certificate when the purchaser claims an entity-based exemption when (1) the subject of
13 the transaction sought to be covered by the exemption certificate is actually received by
14 the purchaser at a location operated by the seller and (2) the state in which that location
15 resides provides an exemption certificate that clearly and affirmatively indicates
16 (graying out exemption reason types on the uniform form and posting it on a state's web
17 site is an indicator) that the claimed exemption is not available in that state; or to a seller
18 who accepts an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use for tangible
19 personal property other than computer software for which an exemption claiming
20 multiple points of use is acceptable under Section 312.

21 **C. (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)** Each state shall relieve a seller of the tax
22 otherwise applicable if the seller obtains a fully completed exemption certificate or
23 captures the relevant data elements required under the Agreement within 90 days
24 subsequent to the date of sale.

- 25 1. If the seller has not obtained an exemption certificate or all relevant data elements as
26 provided in Section 317, subsection (C) the seller may, within 120 days subsequent to
27 a request for substantiation by a member state, either prove that the transaction was
28 not subject to tax by other means or obtain a fully completed exemption certificate
29 from the purchaser, taken in good faith. For purposes of this section, member states

1 may continue to apply their own standards of good faith until such time as a uniform
2 standard for good faith is defined in the Agreement.

3 2. Nothing in this section shall affect the ability of member states to require purchasers
4 to update exemption certificate information or to reapply with the state to claim
5 certain exemptions.

6 3. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, each member state shall relieve a seller of the
7 tax otherwise applicable if it obtains a blanket exemption certificate for a purchaser
8 with which the seller has a recurring business relationship. States may not request
9 from the seller renewal of blanket certificates or updates of exemption certificate
10 information or data elements when there is a recurring business relationship between
11 the buyer and seller. For purposes of this section a recurring business relationship
12 exists when a period of no more than twelve months elapses between sales
13 transactions.

14
15 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Subsection (A)(8) was added. Subsection (B) was amended to delete "any" and*
16 *insert "the" after "from" in the first sentence and by inserting all the material after "claim an exemption" in the*
17 *second sentence. Subsection (C) was inserted. Each member state shall comply with the April 16, 2005*
18 *amendments to this section no later than January 1, 2008.*

19 20 **Section 318: UNIFORM TAX RETURNS**

21 Each member state shall:

22 A. Require that only one tax return for each taxing period for each seller be filed for the
23 member state and all the taxing jurisdictions within the member state.

24 B. Require that returns be due no sooner than the twentieth day of the month following the
25 month in which the transaction occurred.

26 C. Allow any Model 1, Model 2, or Model 3 seller to submit its sales and use tax returns in
27 a simplified format that does not include more data fields than permitted by the
28 governing board. A member state may require additional informational returns to be
29 submitted not more frequently than every six months under a staggered system
30 developed by the governing board.

- 1 D. Allow any seller that is registered under the Agreement, which does not have a legal
2 requirement to register in the member state, and is not a Model 1, 2, or 3 seller, to submit
3 its sales and use tax returns as follows:
- 4 1. Upon registration, a member state shall provide to the seller the returns required by
5 that state.
 - 6 2. A member state may require a seller to file a return anytime within one year of the
7 month of initial registration, and future returns may be required on an annual basis in
8 succeeding years.
 - 9 3. In addition to the returns required in subsection (D)(2), a member state may require
10 sellers to submit returns in the month following any month in which they have
11 accumulated state and local tax funds for the state in the amount of one thousand
12 dollars or more.
- 13 E. Participate with other member states in developing a more uniform sales and use tax
14 return that, when completed, would be available to all sellers.
- 15 F. Require, at each member state's discretion, all Model 1, 2, and 3 sellers to file returns
16 electronically. It is the intent of the member states that all member states have the
17 capability of receiving electronically filed returns by January 1, 2004.
- 18

19 **Section 319: UNIFORM RULES FOR REMITTANCES OF FUNDS**

20 Each member state shall:

- 21 A. Require only one remittance for each return except as provided in this subsection. If any
22 additional remittance is required, it may only be required from sellers that collect more
23 than thirty thousand dollars in sales and use taxes in the member state during the
24 preceding calendar year as provided herein. The state shall allow the amount of any
25 additional remittance to be determined through a calculation method rather than actual
26 collections. Any additional remittances shall not require the filing of an additional
27 return.
- 28 B. Require, at each member state's discretion, all remittances from sellers under Models 1,
29 2, and 3 to be remitted electronically.
- 30 C. Allow for electronic payments by both ACH Credit and ACH Debit.

- 1 D. Provide an alternative method for making "same day" payments if an electronic funds
2 transfer fails.
- 3 E. Provide that if a due date falls on a legal banking holiday in a member state, the taxes are
4 due to that state on the next succeeding business day.
- 5 F. Require that any data that accompanies a remittance be formatted using uniform tax type
6 and payment type codes approved by the governing board.

7

8 *Compiler's note: On October 1, 2005 the second sentence in Section 319(A) was amended as follows: "The state
9 shall allow the amount of the any additional remittance shall to be determined through a calculation method rather
10 than actual collections. Any additional remittances and shall not require the filing of an additional return." The
11 amendment to this section became effective upon adoption.*

12

13 **Section 320: UNIFORM RULES FOR RECOVERY OF BAD DEBTS**

14 Each member state shall use the following to provide a deduction for bad debts to a seller. To
15 the extent a member state provides a bad debt deduction to any other party, the same procedures
16 will apply. Each member state shall:

- 17 A. Allow a deduction from taxable sales for bad debts. Any deduction taken that is
18 attributed to bad debts shall not include interest.
- 19 B. Utilize the federal definition of "bad debt" in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166 as the basis for
20 calculating bad debt recovery. However, the amount calculated pursuant to 26 U.S.C.
21 Sec. 166 shall be adjusted to exclude: financing charges or interest; sales or use taxes
22 charged on the purchase price; uncollectable amounts on property that remain in the
23 possession of the seller until the full purchase price is paid; expenses incurred in
24 attempting to collect any debt, and repossessed property.
- 25 C. Allow bad debts to be deducted on the return for the period during which the bad debt is
26 written off as uncollectable in the claimant's books and records and is eligible to be
27 deducted for federal income tax purposes. For purposes of this subsection, a claimant
28 who is not required to file federal income tax returns may deduct a bad debt on a return
29 filed for the period in which the bad debt is written off as uncollectable in the claimant's
30 books and records and would be eligible for a bad debt deduction for federal income tax
31 purposes if the claimant was required to file a federal income tax return.

- 1 D. Require that, if a deduction is taken for a bad debt and the debt is subsequently collected
2 in whole or in part, the tax on the amount so collected must be paid and reported on the
3 return filed for the period in which the collection is made.
- 4 E. Provide that, when the amount of bad debt exceeds the amount of taxable sales for the
5 period during which the bad debt is written off, a refund claim may be filed within the
6 member state's otherwise applicable statute of limitations for refund claims; however,
7 the statute of limitations shall be measured from the due date of the return on which the
8 bad debt could first be claimed.
- 9 F. Where filing responsibilities have been assumed by a CSP, allow the service provider to
10 claim, on behalf of the seller, any bad debt allowance provided by this section. The CSP
11 must credit or refund the full amount of any bad debt allowance or refund received to the
12 seller.
- 13 G. Provide that, for the purposes of reporting a payment received on a previously claimed
14 bad debt, any payments made on a debt or account are applied first proportionally to the
15 taxable price of the property or service and the sales tax thereon, and secondly to
16 interest, service charges, and any other charges.
- 17 H. In situations where the books and records of the party claiming the bad debt allowance
18 support an allocation of the bad debts among the member states, permit the allocation.

19

20 **Section 321: CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY PROTECTIONS UNDER MODEL 1**

- 21 A. The purpose of this section is to set forth the member states' policy for the protection of
22 the confidentiality rights of all participants in the system and of the privacy interests of
23 consumers who deal with Model 1 sellers.
- 24 B. As used in this section, the term "confidential taxpayer information" means all
25 information that is protected under a member state's laws, regulations, and privileges; the
26 term "personally identifiable information" means information that identifies a person;
27 and the term "anonymous data" means information that does not identify a person.
- 28 C. The member states agree that a fundamental precept in Model 1 is to preserve the
29 privacy of consumers by protecting their anonymity. With very limited exceptions, a

1 CSP shall perform its tax calculation, remittance, and reporting functions without
2 retaining the personally identifiable information of consumers.

3 D. The governing board may certify a CSP only if that CSP certifies that:

- 4 1. Its system has been designed and tested to ensure that the fundamental precept of
5 anonymity is respected;
- 6 2. That personally identifiable information is only used and retained to the extent
7 necessary for the administration of Model 1 with respect to exempt purchasers;
- 8 3. It provides consumers clear and conspicuous notice of its information practices,
9 including what information it collects, how it collects the information, how it uses the
10 information, how long, if at all, it retains the information and whether it discloses the
11 information to member states. Such notice shall be satisfied by a written privacy
12 policy statement accessible by the public on the official web site of the CSP;
- 13 4. Its collection, use and retention of personally identifiable information will be limited
14 to that required by the member states to ensure the validity of exemptions from
15 taxation that are claimed by reason of a consumer's status or the intended use of the
16 goods or services purchased; and
- 17 5. It provides adequate technical, physical, and administrative safeguards so as to
18 protect personally identifiable information from unauthorized access and disclosure.

19 E. Each member state shall provide public notification to consumers, including their exempt
20 purchasers, of the state's practices relating to the collection, use and retention of
21 personally identifiable information.

22 F. When any personally identifiable information that has been collected and retained is no
23 longer required for the purposes set forth in subsection (D)(4), such information shall no
24 longer be retained by the member states.

25 G. When personally identifiable information regarding an individual is retained by or on
26 behalf of a member state, such state shall provide reasonable access by such individual to
27 his or her own information in the state's possession and a right to correct any inaccurately
28 recorded information.

29 H. If anyone other than a member state, or a person authorized by that state's law or the
30 Agreement, seeks to discover personally identifiable information, the state from whom

1 the information is sought should make a reasonable and timely effort to notify the
2 individual of such request.

3 I. This privacy policy is subject to enforcement by member states' attorneys general or other
4 appropriate state government authority.

5 J. Each member states' laws and regulations regarding the collection, use, and maintenance
6 of confidential taxpayer information remain fully applicable and binding. Without
7 limitation, the Agreement does not enlarge or limit the member states' authority to:

- 8 1. Conduct audits or other review as provided under the Agreement and state law.
- 9 2. Provide records pursuant to a member state's Freedom of Information Act, disclosure
10 laws with governmental agencies, or other regulations.
- 11 3. Prevent, consistent with state law, disclosures of confidential taxpayer information.
- 12 4. Prevent, consistent with federal law, disclosures or misuse of federal return
13 information obtained under a disclosure agreement with the Internal Revenue Service.
- 14 5. Collect, disclose, disseminate, or otherwise use anonymous data for governmental
15 purposes.

16 K. This privacy policy does not preclude the governing board from certifying a CSP whose
17 privacy policy is more protective of confidential taxpayer information or personally
18 identifiable information than is required by the Agreement.

19
20 **Section 322: SALES TAX HOLIDAYS**

21 A. If a member state allows for temporary exemption periods, commonly referred to as sales
22 tax holidays, the member state shall:

- 23 1. Not apply an exemption after December 31, 2004, unless the items to be exempted
24 are specifically defined in the Agreement and the exemptions are uniformly applied to
25 state and local sales and use taxes.
- 26 2. Provide notice of the exemption period at least sixty days' prior to the first day of the
27 calendar quarter in which the exemption period will begin.

28 B. A member state may establish a sales tax holiday that utilizes price thresholds set
29 by such state and the provisions of the Agreement on the use of thresholds shall
30 not apply to exemptions provided by a state during a sales tax holiday. In order to

1 provide uniformity, a price threshold established by a member state for exempt
2 items shall include only items priced below the threshold. A member state shall
3 not exempt only a portion of the price of an individual item during a sales tax
4 holiday.

5 C. The following procedures are to be used by member states in administering a
6 sales tax holiday exemption:

- 7 1. Layaway sales - A sale of eligible property under a layaway sale qualifies for
8 exemption if:
 - 9 a. final payment on a layaway order is made by, and the property is given to,
10 the purchaser during the exemption period; or
 - 11 b. the purchaser selects the property and the retailer accepts the order for the
12 item during the exemption period, for immediate delivery upon full
13 payment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period.
- 14 2. Bundled sales - Member states will follow the same procedure during the sales
15 tax holiday as agreed upon for handling a bundled sale at other times.
- 16 3. Coupons and discounts - A discount by the seller reduces the sales price of the
17 property and the discounted sales price determines whether the sales price is
18 within a sales tax holiday price threshold of a member state. A coupon that
19 reduces the sales price is treated as a discount if the seller is not reimbursed
20 for the coupon amount by a third-party. If a discount applies to the total
21 amount paid by a purchaser rather than to the sales price of a particular item
22 and the purchaser has purchased both eligible property and taxable property,
23 the seller should allocate the discount based on the total sales prices of the
24 taxable property compared to the total sales prices of all property sold in that
25 same transaction.
- 26 4. Splitting of items normally sold together - Articles that are normally sold as a
27 single unit must continue to be sold in that manner. Such articles cannot be
28 priced separately and sold as individual items in order to obtain the
29 exemption. For example, a pair of shoes cannot have each shoe sold

1 separately so that the sales price of each shoe is within a sales tax holiday
2 price threshold.

3 5. Rain checks - A rain check allows a customer to purchase an item at a certain
4 price at a later time because the particular item was out of stock. Eligible
5 property that customers purchase during the exemption period with use of a
6 rain check will qualify for the exemption regardless of when the rain check
7 was issued. Issuance of a rain check during the exemption period will not
8 qualify eligible property for the exemption if the property is actually
9 purchased after the exemption period.

10 6. Exchanges - The procedure for an exchange in regards to a sales tax holiday is
11 as follows:

12 a. If a customer purchases an item of eligible property during the exemption
13 period, but later exchanges the item for a similar eligible item, even if a
14 different size, different color, or other feature, no additional tax is due
15 even if the exchange is made after the exemption period.

16 b. If a customer purchases an item of eligible property during the exemption
17 period, but after the exemption period has ended, the customer returns the
18 item and receives credit on the purchase of a different item, the
19 appropriate sales tax is due on the sale of the newly purchased item.

20 c. If a customer purchases an item of eligible property before the exemption
21 period, but during the exemption period the customer returns the item and
22 receives credit on the purchase of a different item of eligible property, no
23 sales tax is due on the sale of the new item if the new item is purchased
24 during the exemption period.

25 7. Delivery charges - Delivery charges, including shipping, handling and service
26 charges, are part of the sales price of eligible property unless a member state
27 defines "sales price" to exclude such charges. For the purpose of determining
28 a sales tax holiday price threshold, if all the property in a shipment qualifies as
29 eligible property and the sales price for each item in the shipment is within the
30 sales tax holiday price threshold, then the seller does not have to allocate the

1 delivery, handling, or service charge to determine if the price threshold is
2 exceeded. The shipment will be considered a sale of eligible products. If the
3 shipment includes eligible property and taxable property (including an eligible
4 item with a sales price in excess of the price threshold), the seller should
5 allocate the delivery charge by using:

- 6 a. a percentage based on the total sales prices of the taxable property
7 compared to the total sales prices of all property in the shipment; or
- 8 b. a percentage based on the total weight of the taxable property compared to
9 the total weight of all property in the shipment.

10 The seller must tax the percentage of the delivery charge allocated to the
11 taxable property but does not have to tax the percentage allocated to the
12 eligible property.

- 13 8. Order date and back orders - For the purpose of a sales tax holiday, eligible
14 property qualifies for exemption if:
 - 15 a. the item is both delivered to and paid for by the customer during the
16 exemption period; or
 - 17 b. the customer orders and pays for the item and the seller accepts the order
18 during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is
19 made after the exemption period. The seller accepts an order when the
20 seller has taken action to fill the order for immediate shipment. Actions to
21 fill an order include placement of an "in date" stamp on a mail order or
22 assignment of an "order number" to a telephone order. An order is for
23 immediate shipment when the customer does not request delayed
24 shipment. An order is for immediate shipment notwithstanding that the
25 shipment may be delayed because of a backlog of orders or because stock
26 is currently unavailable to, or on back order by, the seller.
- 27 9. Returns - For a 60-day period immediately after the sales tax holiday
28 exemption period, when a customer returns an item that would qualify for the
29 exemption, no credit for or refund of sales tax shall be given unless the
30 customer provides a receipt or invoice that shows tax was paid, or the seller

1 has sufficient documentation to show that tax was paid on the specific item.
2 This 60-day period is set solely for the purpose of designating a time period
3 during which the customer must provide documentation that shows that sales
4 tax was paid on returned merchandise. The 60-day period is not intended to
5 change a seller's policy on the time period during which the seller will accept
6 returns.

- 7 10. Different time zones - The time zone of the seller's location determines the authorized
8 time period for a sales tax holiday when the purchaser is located in one time zone and
9 a seller is located in another.

10
11 **Section 323: CAPS AND THRESHOLDS**

12 A. Each member state shall:

- 13 1. Not have caps or thresholds on the application of state sales or use tax rates or
14 exemptions that are based on the value of the transaction or item after December 31,
15 2005. A member state may continue to have caps and thresholds until that date.
16 2. Not have caps that are based on the application of the rates unless the member state
17 assumes the administrative responsibility in a manner that places no additional burden
18 on the retailer.

19 B. Each member state that has local jurisdictions that levy a sales or use tax shall not place
20 caps or thresholds on the application of local rates or use tax rates or exemptions that are
21 based on the value of the transaction or item after December 31, 2005. A member state
22 may continue to have caps and thresholds until that date.

23 C. The provisions of this section do not apply to sales or use taxes levied on the retail sale or
24 transfer of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes, or
25 mobile homes or to instances where the burden of administration has been shifted from
26 the retailer.

27
28 **Section 324: ROUNDING RULE**

29 A. After December 31, 2005, each member state shall adopt a rounding algorithm that meets
30 the following criteria:

- 1 1. Tax computation must be carried to the third decimal place, and
2 2. The tax must be rounded to a whole cent using a method that rounds up to the next
3 cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four.
- 4 B. Each state shall allow sellers to elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on an item
5 or an invoice basis, and shall allow the rounding rule to be applied to the aggregated state
6 and local taxes. No member state shall require a seller to collect tax based on a bracket
7 system.

8

9 **Section 325: CUSTOMER REFUND PROCEDURES**

- 10 A. These customer refund procedures are provided to apply when a state allows a purchaser
11 to seek a return of over-collected sales or use taxes from the seller.
- 12 B. Nothing in this section shall either require a state to provide, or prevent a state from
13 providing, a procedure by which a purchaser may seek a refund directly from the state
14 arising out of sales or use taxes collected in error by a seller from the purchaser.
15 Nothing in this section shall operate to extend any person's time to seek a refund of sales
16 or use taxes collected or remitted in error.
- 17 C. These customer refund procedures provide the first course of remedy available to
18 purchasers seeking a return of over-collected sales or use taxes from the seller. A cause
19 of action against the seller for the over-collected sales or use taxes does not accrue until
20 a purchaser has provided written notice to a seller and the seller has had sixty days to
21 respond. Such notice to the seller must contain the information necessary to determine
22 the validity of the request.
- 23 D. In connection with a purchaser's request from a seller of over-collected sales or use
24 taxes, a seller shall be presumed to have a reasonable business practice, if in the
25 collection of such sales or use taxes, the seller: i) uses either a provider or a system,
26 including a proprietary system, that is certified by the state; and ii) has remitted to the
27 state all taxes collected less any deductions, credits, or collection allowances.

1 **Section 326: DIRECT PAY PERMITS**

2 Each member state shall provide for a direct pay authority that allows the holder of a direct pay
3 permit to purchase otherwise taxable goods and services without payment of tax to the supplier
4 at the time of purchase. The holder of the direct pay permit will make a determination of the
5 taxability and then report and pay the applicable tax due directly to the tax jurisdiction. Each
6 state can set its own limits and requirements for the direct pay permit. The governing board shall
7 advise member states when setting state direct pay limits and requirements, and shall consider
8 use of the Model Direct Payment Permit Regulation as developed by the Task Force on EDI
9 Audit and Legal Issues for Tax Administration.

10
11 **Section 327: LIBRARY OF DEFINITIONS**

12 Each member state shall utilize common definitions as provided in this section. The terms
13 defined are set out in the Library of Definitions, in Appendix C of this Agreement. A member
14 state shall adhere to the following principles:

- 15 A. If a term defined in the Library of Definitions appears in a member state’s sales
16 and use tax statutes or administrative rules or regulations, the member state shall
17 enact or adopt the Library definition of the term in its statutes or administrative
18 rules or regulations in substantially the same language as the Library definition.
- 19 B. A member state shall not use a Library definition in its sales or use tax statutes or
20 administrative rules or regulations that is contrary to the meaning of the Library
21 definition.
- 22 C. Except as specifically provided in Section 316 and the Library of Definitions, a
23 member state shall impose a sales or use tax on all products or services included
24 within each definition or exempt from sales or use tax all products or services
25 within each definition.

26
27 **Section 328: TAXABILITY MATRIX**

- 28 A. To ensure uniform application of terms defined in the Library of Definitions each
29 member state shall complete a taxability matrix adopted by the governing board.
30 The member state’s entries in the matrix shall be provided and maintained in a

1 database that is in a downloadable format approved by the governing board. A
2 member state shall provide notice of changes in the taxability of the products or
3 services listed in the taxability matrix as required by the governing board.

- 4 B. A member state shall relieve sellers and CSPs from liability to the member state and
5 its local jurisdictions for having charged and collected the incorrect amount of sales
6 or use tax resulting from the seller or CSP relying on erroneous data provided by the
7 member state in the taxability matrix.

8
9 **Section 329: EFFECTIVE DATE FOR RATE CHANGES**

10 Each member state shall provide that the effective date of rate changes for services covering a
11 period starting before and ending after the statutory effective date shall be as follows:

- 12 A. For a rate increase, the new rate shall apply to the first billing period starting on or after
13 the effective date.
14 B. For a rate decrease, the new rate shall apply to bills rendered on or after the effective
15 date.

16
17 **Section 330: BUNDLED TRANSACTIONS (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)**

- 18 A. A member state shall adopt and utilize to determine tax treatment, the core definition for
19 a “bundled transaction” in Appendix C, Part I of the Library of Definitions in the
20 Agreement.
21 B. Member states are not restricted in their tax treatment of bundled transactions except as
22 otherwise provided in the Agreement. Member states are not restricted in their ability to
23 treat some bundled transactions differently from other bundled transactions.
24 C. In the case of a bundled transaction that includes any of the following:
25 telecommunication service, ancillary service, internet access, or audio or video
26 programming service:
27 1. If the price is attributable to products that are taxable and products that are
28 nontaxable, the portion of the price attributable to the nontaxable products may be
29 subject to tax unless the provider can identify by reasonable and verifiable
30 standards such portion from its books and records that are kept in the regular

1 course of business for other purposes, including, but not limited to, non-tax
2 purposes.

3 2. If the price is attributable to products that are subject to tax at different tax rates,
4 the total price may be treated as attributable to the products subject to tax at the
5 highest tax rate unless the provider can identify by reasonable and verifiable
6 standards the portion of the price attributable to the products subject to tax at the
7 lower rate from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of
8 business for other purposes, including, but not limited to, non-tax purposes.

9 3. The provisions of this section shall apply unless otherwise provided by federal
10 law.

11
12 *Compiler's note: Section 330 was added on April 16, 2005. Member States shall comply with the provisions of this*
13 *Section no later than January 1, 2008.*

1 **ARTICLE IV**
2 **SELLER REGISTRATION**
3

4 **Section 401: SELLER PARTICIPATION**

- 5 A. The member states shall provide an online registration system that will allow sellers to
6 register in all the member states.
- 7 B. By registering, the seller agrees to collect and remit sales and use taxes for all taxable
8 sales into the member states, including member states joining after the seller's
9 registration. Withdrawal or revocation of a member state shall not relieve a seller of its
10 responsibility to remit taxes previously or subsequently collected on behalf of the state.
- 11 C. In member states where the seller has a requirement to register prior to registering under
12 the Agreement, the seller may be required to provide additional information to complete
13 the registration process or the seller may choose to register directly with those states.
- 14 D. A member state or a state that has withdrawn or been expelled shall not use registration
15 with the central registration system and the collection of sales and use taxes in the
16 member states as a factor in determining whether the seller has nexus with that state for
17 any tax at any time.

18
19 **Section 402: AMNESTY FOR REGISTRATION**

- 20 A. Subject to the limitations in this section:
- 21 1. A member state shall provide amnesty for uncollected or unpaid sales or use tax to a
22 seller who registers to pay or to collect and remit applicable sales or use tax on sales
23 made to purchasers in the state in accordance with the terms of the Agreement,
24 provided that the seller was not so registered in that state in the twelve-month period
25 preceding the effective date of the state's participation in the Agreement.
- 26 2. The amnesty will preclude assessment for uncollected or unpaid sales or use tax
27 together with penalty or interest for sales made during the period the seller was not
28 registered in the state, provided registration occurs within twelve months of the
29 effective date of the state's participation in the Agreement.

1 3. Amnesty similarly shall be provided by any additional state that joins the Agreement
2 after the seller has registered.

3 B. The amnesty is not available to a seller with respect to any matter or matters for which
4 the seller received notice of the commencement of an audit and which audit is not yet
5 finally resolved including any related administrative and judicial processes.

6 C. The amnesty is not available for sales or use taxes already paid or remitted to the state or
7 to taxes collected by the seller.

8 D. The amnesty is fully effective, absent the seller's fraud or intentional misrepresentation of
9 a material fact, as long as the seller continues registration and continues payment or
10 collection and remittance of applicable sales or use taxes for a period of at least thirty-six
11 months. Each member state shall toll its statute of limitations applicable to asserting a
12 tax liability during this thirty-six month period.

13 E. The amnesty is applicable only to sales or use taxes due from a seller in its capacity as a
14 seller and not to sales or use taxes due from a seller in its capacity as a buyer.

15 F. A member state may allow amnesty on terms and conditions more favorable to a seller
16 than the terms required by this section.

17 *Compiler's note: The Governing Board issued interpretations of Section 402B and 402C on April 18, 2006. Those*
18 *interpretations can be found in the Library of Interpretations.*

20 **Section 403: METHOD OF REMITTANCE**

21 When registering, the seller may select one of the following methods of remittances or other
22 method allowed by state law to remit the taxes collected:

23 A. MODEL 1, wherein a seller selects a CSP as an agent to perform all the seller's sales or
24 use tax functions, other than the seller's obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

25 B. MODEL 2, wherein a seller selects a CAS to use which calculates the amount of tax due
26 on a transaction.

27 C. MODEL 3, wherein a seller utilizes its own proprietary automated sales tax system that
28 has been certified as a CAS.

30 **Section 404: REGISTRATION BY AN AGENT**

- 1 A seller may be registered by an agent. Such appointment shall be in writing and submitted to a
- 2 member state if requested by the member state.

1 ARTICLE V

2 PROVIDER AND SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

3
4 **Section 501: CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS AND AUTOMATED**
5 **SYSTEMS**

- 6 A. The governing board shall certify automated systems and service providers to aid in the
7 administration of sale and use tax collections.
- 8 B. The governing board may certify a person as a CSP if the person meets all of the
9 following requirements:
- 10 1. The person uses a CAS;
 - 11 2. The person integrates its CAS with the system of a seller for whom the person
12 collects tax so that the tax due on a sale is determined at the time of the sale;
 - 13 3. The person agrees to remit the taxes it collects at the time and in the manner specified
14 by the member states;
 - 15 4. The person agrees to file returns on behalf of the sellers for whom it collects tax;
 - 16 5. The person agrees to protect the privacy of tax information it obtains in accordance
17 with Section 321 of the Agreement; and
 - 18 6. The person enters into a contract with the member states and agrees to comply with
19 the terms of the contract.
- 20 C. The governing board may certify a software program as a CAS if the governing board
21 determines that the program meets all of the following requirements:
- 22 1. It determines the applicable state and local sales and use tax rate for a transaction, in
23 accordance with Sections 309 to 315, inclusive;
 - 24 2. It determines whether or not an item is exempt from tax;
 - 25 3. It determines the amount of tax to be remitted for each taxpayer for a reporting
26 period;
 - 27 4. It can generate reports and returns as required by the governing board; and
 - 28 5. It can meet any other requirement set by the governing board.
- 29 D. The governing board may establish one or more sales tax performance standards for
30 Model 3 sellers that meet the eligibility criteria set by the governing board and that

1 developed a proprietary system to determine the amount of sales and use tax due on
2 transactions.

3
4 **Section 502: STATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CERTIFIED AUTOMATED**
5 **SYSTEM SOFTWARE AND CERTAIN LIABILITY RELIEF (Effective on and after**
6 **January 1, 2008)**

- 7 A. Each member state shall review software submitted to the governing board for
8 certification as a CAS under Section 501. Such review shall include a review to
9 determine that the program adequately classifies the state's product-based exemptions.
10 Upon completion of the review, the state shall certify to the governing board its
11 acceptance of the classifications made by the system.
- 12 B. Each member state shall relieve CSPs and model 2 sellers from liability to the member
13 state and local jurisdictions for not collecting sales or use taxes resulting from the CSP or
14 model 2 seller relying on the certification provided by the member state.
- 15 C. Each member state shall provide relief from liability to CSPs for not collecting sales and
16 use taxes in the same manner as provided to sellers under the provisions of section 317.
- 17 D. The governing board and the member states shall not be responsible for classification of
18 an item or transaction within the product-based exemptions certified. The relief from
19 liability provided in this section shall not be available for a CSP or model 2 seller that has
20 incorrectly classified an item or transaction into a product-based exemption certified by a
21 member state. This paragraph shall not apply to the individual listing of items or
22 transactions within a product definition approved by the governing board or the member
23 states.
- 24 E. If a member state determines that an item or transaction is incorrectly classified as to its
25 taxability, it shall notify the CSP or model 2 seller of the incorrect classification. The
26 CSP or model 2 seller shall have ten (10) days to revise the classification after receipt of
27 notice from the member state of the determination. Upon expiration of the ten (10) days,
28 CSP or model 2 seller shall be liable for the failure to collect the correct amount of sales
29 or use taxes due and owing to the member state.

- 1 *Compiler's note: Section 502 was added on January 13, 2006. Member States shall comply with the provisions of*
- 2 *this Section no later than January 1, 2008.*

1 ARTICLE VI

2 MONETARY ALLOWANCES FOR NEW TECHNOLOGICAL MODELS FOR SALES

3 TAX COLLECTION

4
5 **Section 601: MONETARY ALLOWANCE UNDER MODEL 1**

- 6 A. Each member state shall provide a monetary allowance to a CSP in Model 1 in
7 accordance with the terms of the contract between the governing board and the CSP. The
8 details of the monetary allowance will be provided through the contract process. The
9 governing board shall require that such allowance be funded entirely from money
10 collected in Model 1.
- 11 B. The contract between the governing board and a CSP may base the monetary allowance
12 to a CSP on one or more of the following:
- 13 1. A base rate that applies to taxable transactions processed by the CSP.
 - 14 2. For a period not to exceed twenty-four months following a voluntary seller's
15 registration through the Agreement's central registration process, a percentage of tax
16 revenue generated for a member state by the voluntary seller for each member state
17 for which the seller does not have a requirement to register to collect the tax.

18
19 **Section 602: MONETARY ALLOWANCE FOR MODEL 2 SELLERS**

20 The member states initially anticipate that they will provide a monetary allowance to sellers
21 under Model 2 based on the following:

- 22 A. All sellers shall receive a base rate for a period not to exceed twenty-four months
23 following the commencement of participation by a seller. The base rate will be set after
24 the base rate has been established for Model 1. This allowance will be in addition to any
25 discount afforded by each member state at the time.
- 26 B. The member states anticipate a monetary allowance to a Model 2 Seller based on the
27 following:
- 28 1. For a period not to exceed twenty-four months following a voluntary seller's
29 registration through the Agreement's central registration process, a percentage of tax

1 revenue generated for a member state by the voluntary seller for each member state
2 for which the seller does not have a requirement to register to collect the tax.

3 2. Following the conclusion of the twenty-four month period, a seller will only be
4 entitled to a vendor discount afforded under each member state's law at the time the
5 base rate expires.

6

7 **Section 603: MONETARY ALLOWANCE FOR MODEL 3 SELLERS AND ALL OTHER**
8 **SELLERS THAT ARE NOT UNDER MODELS 1 OR 2**

9 The member states anticipate that they will provide a monetary allowance to sellers under Model
10 3 and to all other sellers that are not under Models 1 or 2 based on the following:

11 A. For a period not to exceed twenty-four months following a voluntary seller's registration
12 through the Agreement's central registration process, a percentage of tax revenue
13 generated for a member state by the voluntary seller for each member state for which the
14 seller does not have a requirement to register to collect the tax.

15 B. Vendor discounts afforded under each member state's law.

1 ARTICLE VII

2 AGREEMENT ORGANIZATION

3
4 **Section 701: EFFECTIVE DATE**

5 The Agreement shall become binding and take effect when at least ten states comprising at least twenty
6 percent of the total population, as determined by the 2000 Federal census, of all states imposing a state
7 sales tax as of October 1, 2005 have petitioned for membership and have either been found to be in
8 compliance with the requirements of the Agreement pursuant to Section 805 or have been found to be an
9 associate member pursuant to Section 704. The Agreement shall take effect on the first day of a
10 calendar quarter at least sixty days after the tenth state is found in compliance or is found to be an
11 associate member.

12
13 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 701 was amended by inserting "either" after "and have" in the first sentence;*
14 *inserting "or have been found to be an associate member pursuant to Section 704" at the end of the first sentence; and*
15 *deleting ", but cannot take effect prior to July 1, 2003" and inserting "or is found to be an associate member" at the end of*
16 *the second sentence. The April 16, 2005 amendments to this section were effective upon adoption.*

17 *On April 18, 2006 Section 701 was amended by inserting "as of October 1, 2005" after "sales tax." The April 18, 2006*
18 *amendment to this section was effective upon adoption.*

19
20 **Section 702: APPROVAL OF INITIAL STATES**

21 Prior to the effective date of the Agreement, a state may seek membership by forwarding a petition for
22 membership and certificate of compliance to the Co-Chairs of the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing
23 States. The certificate of compliance shall meet the requirements of Section 802. If some changes to a
24 state's statutes, rules, regulations, or other authorities have been adopted, but are not yet in effect, the
25 petition for membership shall include the date on which those changes will be effective. A petitioning
26 state shall also provide a copy of its petition for membership and certificate of compliance to each of the
27 Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States. A petitioning state shall also post a copy of its petition for
28 membership and certificate of compliance on that state's web site.

29
30 Upon receipt of the requisite number of petitions as provided in Section 701, the Co-Chairs shall
31 convene and preside over a meeting of the petitioning states for the purpose of determining if the

1 petitioning states are in compliance with the Agreement. The meeting shall be convened as soon as
2 practicable after receipt of the requisite number of petitions provided in Section 701. An affirmative
3 vote of three-fourths of the other petitioning states is necessary for a petitioning state to be found in
4 compliance with the Agreement. A petitioning state shall not vote on its own petition for membership.

5
6 The Co-Chairs shall provide the public with an opportunity to comment prior to any vote on a state's
7 petition for membership.

8
9 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 this section was amended by deleting "that has adopted changes to its statutes, rules,
10 regulations, or other authorities necessary to bring a state into compliance as provided in Section 805," after "a state" in
11 the first sentence; inserting the second sentence; inserting "to a state's statutes, rules, regulations, or other authorities" after
12 "changes" in the third sentence; and deleting ", but shall not be earlier than the date the relevant statutes, rules, regulations,
13 or other authorities of the requisite number of petitioning states are effective" after "Section 701" in the second sentence in
14 the second paragraph. The April 16, 2005 amendments to this section were effective upon adoption.*

15
16 **Section 703: STREAMLINED SALES TAX IMPLEMENTING STATES**

17 A. From the time of ratification of this Agreement until the provisions of Section 701 have been met, the
18 Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States shall maintain responsibility for the Agreement, including
19 the disposition of all proposed amendments to the Agreement. If the provisions of Section 701 have
20 been met with the use of associate members as defined in Section 704, the Streamlined Sales Tax
21 Implementing States shall be responsible for the disposition of all proposed amendments to and
22 interpretations of the Agreement until such time as the provisions of Section 701 have been met without
23 the use of associate members.

24
25 B. Amendments to the Agreement considered by the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States shall
26 follow the provisions as set forth in Article IX, Section 901.

27
28 C. For a period of not less than six months nor longer than one year after the provisions of Section 701
29 are met without the use of associate members, the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States shall
30 provide advice to the Governing Board of the Agreement and shall be consulted by the Governing Board
31 before amending the Agreement.

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Compiler’s note: On April 16, 2005 Section 703 was amended by inserting the second sentence in 703 (A) and inserting “without the use of associate members” after “are met” in 703 (C). The April 16, 2005 amendments to this section were effective upon adoption.

Section 704: CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS

A. A petitioning state that is found to be in compliance pursuant to Section 805 of the Agreement and the changes to their statutes, rules, regulations or other authorities necessary to bring them into compliance are in effect shall be designated a Member State.

B. A petitioning state that is found to be in compliance pursuant to Section 805 of the Agreement and the changes to their statutes, rules, regulations or other authorities necessary to bring them into compliance are not in effect, but are scheduled to take effect on or before January 1, 2008, shall be designated an associate member. Provided the statutes, rules, regulations or other authorities remain in effect, the state shall automatically become a Member State upon the effective date of the conforming legislation.

C. A petitioning state that fails to receive an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the petitioning states as required under Section 702 may request associate membership. If such a request is made, the Petitioning States may grant such membership by majority vote upon a finding that the state has achieved substantial compliance with the terms of the Agreement taken as a whole, but not necessarily each provision as required by Section 805, measured qualitatively, and there is a reasonable expectation that the state will achieve compliance by January 1, 2008. A state that is granted associate membership by this section shall be required to re-petition for full membership under the requirements of the Agreement.

Compiler’s note: On April 16, 2005 Section 704 was added and was effective upon adoption.

Section 705: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

A. An associate member shall have all the rights and privileges of a member state except that an associate member may not vote on amendments to or interpretations of the Agreement when the

1 provisions of Section 701 have been met without the use of associate members. Associate members
2 may vote on amendments to or interpretations of the Agreement as an Implementing State under Section
3 703 (A).

4
5 B. An associate member shall retain such status until the Governing Board finds such state to be in
6 compliance pursuant to Section 805 or December 31, 2007, whichever is earlier, without regard to
7 whether the population requirement of Section 701 has been met. Any associate member that has not
8 been found in compliance by December 31, 2007 shall forfeit its status as an associate member. No
9 state may be an associate member after December 31, 2007. The Co-Chairs of the Streamlined Sales
10 Tax Implementing States shall provide an associate member state with the reasons why such state is not
11 in compliance with the Agreement.

12
13 C. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, a seller may, but is not required to
14 collect sales or use tax on sales into an associate member state unless the seller is otherwise required to
15 collect such taxes under applicable law. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 401 (B), a seller that
16 volunteers to collect tax in an associate member state is not required to collect tax in any other associate
17 member state. An associate member shall be responsible for payment of costs as provided in Article VI
18 for those sellers that volunteer to collect tax in an associate member state.

19
20 D. Neither the Governing Board nor a member state may share or grant access to an associate member
21 state any seller information from the seller's registration pursuant to Section 401. Neither the Governing
22 Board nor a member state may share or grant access to an associate member state any seller information
23 from an audit conducted by the Governing Board or a member state on behalf of the Governing Board
24 unless the associate member state is a party to the audit.

25
26 E. An associate member shall be responsible for the payment of the petition fee and the annual cost
27 allocation as determined by the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States or Governing Board.

1 F. An associate member state shall provide amnesty pursuant to the provisions of Section 402, provided,
2 the amnesty shall be in effect from the date the associate member status is attained until 12 months after
3 the associate member state has been found to be in compliance with the Agreement.

4

5 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 705 was added and was effective upon adoption.*

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ARTICLE VIII
STATE ENTRY AND WITHDRAWAL

Section 801: ENTRY INTO AGREEMENT

After the effective date of the Agreement, a state may apply to become a party to the Agreement by submitting a petition for membership and certificate of compliance to the governing board. The petition for membership shall include such state’s proposed date of entry. The petitioning state’s proposed date of entry shall be on the first day of a calendar quarter. The proposed date of entry shall be a date on which all provisions necessary for the state to be in compliance with the Agreement are in place and effective.

The petitioning state shall provide a copy of its petition for membership and the certificate of compliance to each member state when the petitioning state submits its petition for membership to the governing board. A petitioning state shall also post a copy of its petition for membership and certificate of compliance on that state’s web site.

Section 802: CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The certificate of compliance shall be signed by the chief executive of the state’s tax agency. The certificate of compliance shall document compliance with the provisions of the Agreement and cite applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or other authorities evidencing such compliance.

Section 803: ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION OF MEMBER STATES

Each member state shall annually re-certify that such state is in compliance with the Agreement. Each member state shall make a re-certification to the governing board on or before August 1 of each year after the year of the state’s entry. In its annual re-certification, the state shall include any changes in its statutes, rules, regulations, or other authorities that could affect its compliance with the terms of the Agreement. The re-certification shall be signed by the chief executive of the state’s tax agency.

1 A member state that cannot re-certify its compliance with the Agreement shall submit a statement of
2 non-compliance to the governing board. The statement of non-compliance shall include any action or
3 decision that takes such state out of compliance with the Agreement and the steps it will take to return to
4 compliance. The governing board shall promulgate rules and procedures to respond to statements of
5 noncompliance in accordance with Section 809.

6
7 Each member state shall post its annual re-certification or statement of non-compliance on that state's
8 web site.

9
10 **Section 804: REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL**

11 The governing board shall determine if a petitioning state is in compliance with the Agreement. A
12 three-fourths vote of the entire governing board is required to approve a state's petition for membership.
13 The governing board shall provide public notice and opportunity for comment prior to voting on a
14 state's petition for membership. A state's membership is effective on the proposed date of entry in its
15 petition for membership or the first day of the calendar quarter after its petition is approved by the
16 governing board, whichever is later, and is at least sixty days after its petition is approved.

17
18 **Section 805: COMPLIANCE**

19 A state is in compliance with the Agreement if the effect of the state's laws, rules, regulations, and
20 policies is substantially compliant with each of the requirements set forth in the Agreement.

21
22 **Section 806: AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

23 Authority to administer the Agreement shall rest with the governing board comprised of representatives
24 of each member state. Each member state may appoint up to four representatives to the governing
25 board. The representatives shall be members of the executive or legislative branches of the state. Each
26 member state shall be entitled to one vote on the governing board. Except as otherwise provided in the
27 Agreement, all actions taken by the governing board shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of
28 the governing board present and voting. The governing board shall determine its meeting schedule, but
29 shall meet at least once annually. The governing board shall provide a public comment period at each
30 meeting to provide members of the public an opportunity to address the board on matters relevant to the

1 administration or operation of the Agreement. The governing board shall provide public notice of its
2 meetings at least thirty days in advance of such meetings. The governing board shall promulgate rules
3 establishing the public notice requirements for holding emergency meetings on less than thirty day's
4 notice. The governing board may meet electronically.

5
6 The governing board is responsible for the administration and operation of the Agreement, including the
7 appointment of all manner of committees. The governing board may employ staff, advisors, consultants
8 or agents. The governing board may promulgate rules and procedures it deems necessary to carry out its
9 responsibilities. The governing board may take any action that is necessary and proper to fulfill the
10 purposes of the Agreement. The governing board may allocate the cost of administration of the
11 Agreement among the member states.

12
13 The governing board may assign committees certain duties, including, but not limited to:

- 14 A. Responding to questions regarding the administration of the Agreement;
- 15 B. Preparing certification requirements and coordinating the certification process for CSPs;
- 16 C. Coordinating joint audits;
- 17 D. Issuing requests for proposals;
- 18 E. Coordinating contracts with member states and providers; and
- 19 F. Maintaining records for the governing board.

20
21 **Section 807: OPEN MEETINGS**

22 Each meeting of the governing board and the minutes thereof shall be open to the public except as
23 provided herein. Meetings of the governing board may be closed only for one or more of the following:

- 24 A. Personnel issues.
- 25 B. Information required by the laws of any member state to be protected from public disclosure. In
26 the meeting, the governing board shall excuse any attendee to whom confidential taxpayer
27 information cannot be disclosed under the law of any member state.
- 28 C. Proprietary information requested by any business to be protected from disclosure.

- 1 D. The consideration of issues incident to competitive bidding, requests for information, or
2 certification, the disclosure of which would defeat the public interest in a fair and competitive
3 process.
- 4 E. The consideration of pending litigation in a member state the discussion of which in a public
5 session would, in the judgment of the member state engaged in the litigation, adversely affect its
6 interests. In the meeting, the governing board shall excuse any attendee to whom confidential
7 taxpayer information cannot be disclosed under the law of any member state.
- 8 F. The consideration of pending litigation in which the governing board is a party the discussion of
9 which in a public session would, in the judgment of the governing board, adversely affect its
10 interests. In the meeting, the governing board shall excuse any attendee to whom confidential
11 taxpayer information cannot be disclosed under the law of any member state.

12 A closed session of the governing board may be convened by the chair or by a majority vote of the
13 governing board. When a closed session is convened, the reason for the closed session shall be noted in
14 a public session. Any actions taken in the closed session shall be reported immediately upon the
15 reconvening of a public session.

16
17 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 807 (F) was added and was effective upon its adoption.*
18

19 **Section 808: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OR EXPULSION OF A MEMBER**

20 With respect to each member state, the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until a member
21 state withdraws its membership or is expelled. A member state's withdrawal or expulsion cannot be
22 effective until the first day of a calendar quarter after a minimum of sixty days' notice. A member state
23 shall submit notice of its intent to withdraw from the Agreement to the governing board and the chief
24 executive of each member state's tax agency. The member state shall provide public notice of its intent
25 to withdraw and post its notice of intent to withdraw on its web site. The withdrawal by or expulsion of
26 a state does not affect the validity of the Agreement among other member states. A state that withdraws
27 or is expelled from the Agreement remains liable for its share of any financial or contractual obligations
28 that were incurred by the governing board prior to the effective date of that state's withdrawal or
29 expulsion. The appropriate share of any financial or contractual obligation shall be determined by the

1 state and the governing board in good faith based on the relative benefits received and burdens incurred
2 by the parties.

3
4 **Section 809: SANCTION OF MEMBER STATES**

5 If a member state is found to be out of compliance with the Agreement, the governing board may
6 consider sanctions against the state. The sanctions that the governing board may impose include
7 expulsion from the Agreement, or other penalties as determined by the governing board. The adoption
8 of a resolution to sanction a member state for noncompliance with the Agreement shall require the
9 affirmative vote of three-fourths of the entire governing board, excluding the state that is the subject of
10 the resolution. The member state that is the subject of the resolution shall not vote on such resolution.
11 Resolutions seeking sanctions shall be acted upon by the governing board within a reasonable period of
12 time as set forth in the governing board's rules. The governing board shall provide an opportunity for
13 public comment prior to action on a proposed sanction.

14
15 **Section 810: STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

16 The governing board shall create a State and Local Government Advisory Council to advise the
17 governing board on matters pertaining to the administration of the Agreement. The membership shall
18 include at least one representative from each state that is a participating member of the Streamlined
19 Sales Tax Project pursuant to the Operating Rules of the Project as designated by that state. In addition,
20 the governing board shall appoint local government officials to the State and Local Government
21 Advisory Council. The governing board may appoint other state officials as it deems appropriate.
22 Matters pertaining to the administration of the Agreement shall include, but not be limited to, admission
23 of states into membership, noncompliance, and interpretations, revisions or additions to the Agreement.
24 The State and Local Government Advisory Council shall advise and assist the Business Advisory
25 Council in the functions noted in Section 811.

26
27 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 810 was amended by deleting "and Taxpayer" after "Business" in the last*
28 *sentence. The amendment to this section was effective upon its adoption.*

1 **Section 811: BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

2 The governing board shall recognize a Business Advisory Council from the private sector to advise the
3 governing board on matters pertaining to the administration of the Agreement. These matters shall
4 include, but not be limited to, admission of states into membership, noncompliance, and interpretations,
5 revisions or additions to the Agreement. The Business Advisory Council shall advise and assist the
6 State and Local Government Advisory Council in the functions noted in Section 810.

7
8 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 Section 811 was amended by deleting "AND TAXPAYER" from the title line; deleting*
9 *"create" and inserting "recognize" after "shall" in the first sentence and deleting "and Taxpayer" after "Business" from*
10 *the first and third sentences. The amendments to this section were effective upon its adoption.*

1 **ARTICLE IX**

2 **AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

3
4 **Section 901: AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENT**

5 Amendments to the Agreement may be brought before the governing board by any member state. The
6 Agreement may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the entire governing board. The governing board
7 shall give the Governor and presiding officer of each house of each member state notice of proposed
8 amendments to the Agreement at least sixty days prior to consideration. The governing board shall give
9 public notice of proposed amendments to the Agreement at least sixty days prior to consideration. The
10 governing board shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to action on an amendment to
11 the Agreement.

12
13 **Section 902: INTERPRETATIONS OF AGREEMENT**

14 Matters involving interpretation of the Agreement may be brought before the governing board by any
15 member state or by any other person. All interpretations shall require a three-fourths vote of the entire
16 governing board. The governing board shall publish all interpretations issued under this section.
17 Interpretations shall be considered part of the Agreement and shall have the same effect as the
18 Agreement. The governing board shall act on requests for interpretation of the Agreement within a
19 reasonable period of time and under guidelines and procedures as set forth in the governing board's
20 rules. The governing board may determine that it will not issue an interpretation. The governing board
21 shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to issuing an interpretation of the Agreement.

22
23 **Section 903: DEFINITION REQUESTS**

24 Any member state or any other person may make requests for additional definitions or for
25 interpretations on how an individual product or service fits within a definition. Requests shall be
26 submitted in writing as determined by the governing board. Such requests shall be referred to
27 the Advisory Council created in Section 810 or other group under guidelines and procedures as
28 set forth in the governing board's rules. The entity to which the request was referred shall post
29 notice of the request and provide for input from the public and the member states as directed by

1 the governing board. Within one hundred eighty days after receiving the request, they shall
2 report to the governing board one of the following recommendations:

- 3 A. That no action be taken on the request;
- 4 B. That a proposed amendment to the Library be submitted;
- 5 C. That an interpretation request be submitted; or
- 6 D. That additional time is needed to review the request.

7

8 If either an amendment or an interpretation is recommended, the entity to which the request was
9 referred shall provide the appropriate language as required by the governing board. The
10 governing board shall take action on the recommendation of the entity to which the request was
11 referred at the next meeting of the governing board pursuant to the notice requirements of
12 Section 806. Action by the governing board to approve a recommendation for no action shall be
13 considered the final disposition of the request. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a state
14 from directly submitting a proposed amendment or an interpretation request to the governing
15 board pursuant to Section 901 or Section 902.

ARTICLE X
ISSUE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Section 1001: RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR ISSUE RESOLUTION

The governing board shall promulgate rules creating an issue resolution process. The rules shall govern the conduct of the process, including the participation by any petitioner, affected state, and other interested party, the disposition of a petition to invoke the process, the allocation of costs for participating in the process, the possible involvement of a neutral third party or non-binding arbitration, and such further details as the governing board determines necessary and appropriate.

Section 1002: PETITION FOR RESOLUTION

Any member state or person may petition the governing board to invoke the issue resolution process to resolve matters of:

- A. Membership of a state under Article VIII;
- B. Matters of compliance under Section 805;
- C. Possibilities of sanctions of a member state under Section 809;
- D. Amendments to the Agreement under Section 901;
- E. Interpretation issues, including differing interpretations among the member states, under Section 902; or
- F. Other matters at the discretion of the governing board.

Section 1003: FINAL DECISION OF GOVERNING BOARD

The governing board shall consider any recommendations resulting from the issue resolution process before making its decision, which decision shall, as with all other matters under the Agreement, be final and not subject to further review.

Section 1004: LIMITED SCOPE OF THIS ARTICLE

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to substitute for, stay or extend, limit, expand, or otherwise affect, in any manner, any right or duty that any person or governmental body has under the laws of any member state or local government body. This Article is specifically

- 1 subject to the terms of Article XI and shall not be construed as taking precedence over Article
- 2 XI.

1 ARTICLE XI

2 RELATIONSHIP OF AGREEMENT TO MEMBER STATES AND PERSONS

3
4 **Section 1101: COOPERATING SOVEREIGNS**

5 This Agreement is among individual cooperating sovereigns in furtherance of their governmental
6 functions. The Agreement provides a mechanism among the member states to establish and
7 maintain a cooperative, simplified system for the application and administration of sales and use
8 taxes under the duly adopted law of each member state.
9

10 **Section 1102: RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW**

11 No provision of the Agreement in whole or part invalidates or amends any provision of the law
12 of a member state. Adoption of the Agreement by a member state does not amend or modify any
13 law of the state. Implementation of any condition of the Agreement in a member state, whether
14 adopted before, at, or after membership of a state, must be by the action of the member state. All
15 member states remain subject to Article VIII.
16

17 **Section 1103: LIMITED BINDING AND BENEFICIAL EFFECT**

- 18 A. This Agreement binds and inures only to the benefit of the member states. No person,
19 other than a member state, is an intended beneficiary of this Agreement. Any benefit to a
20 person other than a state is established by the laws of the member states and not by the
21 terms of this Agreement.
- 22 B. Consistent with subsection (A), no person shall have any cause of action or defense under
23 the Agreement or by virtue of a member state's approval of the Agreement. No person
24 may challenge, in any action brought under any provision of law, any action or inaction
25 by any department, agency, or other instrumentality of any member state, or any political
26 subdivision of a member state on the ground that the action or inaction is inconsistent
27 with the Agreement.
- 28 C. No law of a member state, or the application thereof, may be declared invalid as to any
29 person or circumstance on the ground that the provision or application is inconsistent
30 with the Agreement.

1

2 **Section 1104: FINAL DETERMINATIONS**

3 The determinations pertaining to the Agreement that are made by the member states are final
4 when rendered and are not subject to any protest, appeal, or review.

1 **ARTICLE XII**

2 **REVIEW OF COSTS AND BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGREEMENT**

3

4 **Section 1201: REVIEW OF COSTS AND BENEFITS**

5 The governing board will review costs and benefits of administration and collection of sales and
6 use taxes incurred by states and sellers under the existing sales and use tax laws at the time of
7 adoption of the Agreement and the proposed Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement.

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APPENDIX A
STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT
PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the private sector and of state and local governments to simplify and modernize sales and use tax administration;

WHEREAS, such simplification and modernization will result in a substantial reduction in the costs and complexity for sellers of personal property and services in conducting their commercial enterprises;

WHEREAS, such simplification and modernization will also result in additional voluntary compliance with the sales and use tax laws;

WHEREAS, such simplification and modernization of sales and use tax administration is best conducted in cooperation and coordination with other states; and

WHEREAS, the State of _____ levies a sales tax and levies a use tax. “Sales tax” means the tax levied under (CITE SPECIFIC STATUTE) and “use tax” means the tax levied under (CITE SPECIFIC STATUTE).

NOW, the undersigned representative hereby petitions the governing board of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (or Co-Chairs of the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States) for membership into the Agreement.

NAME

TITLE

STATE OF _____

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4

Appendix B
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1 Appendix C

2 LIBRARY OF DEFINITIONS

3
4 **Part I** Administrative definitions including tangible personal property. Terms included
5 in this Part are core terms that apply in imposing and administering sales and use taxes.

6
7 **Part II** Product definitions. Terms included in this Part are used to exempt items from
8 sales and use taxes or to impose tax on items by narrowing an exemption that otherwise includes
9 these items.

10
11 **Part III** Sales tax holiday definitions. Terms included in this Part are core terms that
12 apply in imposing and administering sales and use taxes during sales tax holidays.

13
14 PART I

15
16 Administrative Definitions

17
18 A “**bundled transaction**” is the retail sale of two or more products, except real property and
19 services to real property, where (1) the products are otherwise distinct and identifiable, and (2)
20 the products are sold for one non-itemized price. A “bundled transaction” does not include the
21 sale of any products in which the “sales price” varies, or is negotiable, based on the selection by
22 the purchaser of the products included in the transaction.

23
24 (A) “Distinct and identifiable products” does not include:

- 25 1. Packaging – such as containers, boxes, sacks, bags, and bottles – or other materials –
26 such as wrapping, labels, tags, and instruction guides – that accompany the “retail sale”
27 of the products and are incidental or immaterial to the “retail sale” thereof. Examples of
28 packaging that are incidental or immaterial include grocery sacks, shoeboxes, dry
29 cleaning garment bags and express delivery envelopes and boxes.

1 2. A product provided free of charge with the required purchase of another product. A
2 product is “provided free of charge” if the “sales price” of the product purchased does
3 not vary depending on the inclusion of the product “provided free of charge.”

4 3. Items included in the member state’s definition of “sales price,” pursuant to Appendix C
5 of the Agreement.

6 (B) The term “one non-itemized price” does not include a price that is separately identified by
7 product on binding sales or other supporting sales-related documentation made available to the
8 customer in paper or electronic form including, but not limited to an invoice, bill of sale, receipt,
9 contract, service agreement, lease agreement, periodic notice of rates and services, rate card, or
10 price list.

11 (C) A transaction that otherwise meets the definition of a “bundled transaction” as defined
12 above, is not a “bundled transaction” if it is:

13 (1) The “retail sale” of tangible personal property and a service where the tangible personal
14 property is essential to the use of the service, and is provided exclusively in connection with the
15 service, and the true object of the transaction is the service; or

16 (2) The “retail sale” of services where one service is provided that is essential to the use or
17 receipt of a second service and the first service is provided exclusively in connection with the
18 second service and the true object of the transaction is the second service; or

19 (3) A transaction that includes taxable products and nontaxable products and the “purchase
20 price” or “sales price” of the taxable products is de minimis.

21 (a) De minimis means the seller’s “purchase price” or “sales price” of the taxable
22 products is ten percent (10%) or less of the total “purchase price” or “sales price” of the
23 bundled products.

24 (b) Sellers shall use either the “purchase price” or the “sales price” of the products to
25 determine if the taxable products are de minimis. Sellers may not use a combination of the
26 “purchase price” and “sales price” of the products to determine if the taxable products are de
27 minimis.

28 (c) Sellers shall use the full term of a service contract to determine if the taxable
29 products are de minimis; or

1 (4) The “retail sale” of exempt tangible personal property and taxable tangible personal
2 property where:

3 (1) the transaction includes “food and food ingredients”, “drugs”, “durable medical
4 equipment”, “mobility enhancing equipment”, “over-the-counter drugs”, “prosthetic devices” (all
5 as defined in Appendix C) or medical supplies; and

6 (2) where the seller's “purchase price” or “sales price” of the taxable tangible personal
7 property is fifty percent (50%) or less of the total “purchase price” or “sales price” of the
8 bundled tangible personal property. Sellers may not use a combination of the “purchase price”
9 and “sales price” of the tangible personal property when making the fifty percent (50%)
10 determination for a transaction.

11
12 *Compiler’s note: On April 16, 2005 the definition of a “bundled transaction” was added. Member States shall*
13 *comply with this definition no later than January 1, 2008.*

14
15 **“Delivery charges”** means charges by the seller of personal property or services for preparation
16 and delivery to a location designated by the purchaser of personal property or services including,
17 but not limited to, transportation, shipping, postage, handling, crating, and packing.

18 A member state may exclude from “delivery charges” the charges for delivery of “direct mail” if
19 the charges are separately stated on an invoice or similar billing document given to the
20 purchaser.

21 If a shipment includes exempt property and taxable property, the seller should allocate the
22 delivery charge by using:

- 23 a. a percentage based on the total sales prices of the taxable property compared to
24 the total sales prices of all property in the shipment; or
25 b. a percentage based on the total weight of the taxable property compared to the
26 total weight of all property in the shipment.

27 The seller must tax the percentage of the delivery charge allocated to the taxable property but
28 does not have to tax the percentage allocated to the exempt property.

29
30 **“Direct mail”** means printed material delivered or distributed by United States mail or other
31 delivery service to a mass audience or to addressees on a mailing list provided by the purchaser

1 or at the direction of the purchaser when the cost of the items are not billed directly to the
2 recipients. "Direct mail" includes tangible personal property supplied directly or indirectly by
3 the purchaser to the direct mail seller for inclusion in the package containing the printed material.
4 "Direct mail" does not include multiple items of printed material delivered to a single address.
5

6 **"Lease or rental"** means any transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property for
7 a fixed or indeterminate term for consideration. A lease or rental may include future options to
8 purchase or extend.

9 A. Lease or rental does not include:

- 10 1. A transfer of possession or control of property under a security agreement or deferred
11 payment plan that requires the transfer of title upon completion of the required
12 payments;
- 13 2. A transfer or possession or control of property under an agreement that requires the
14 transfer of title upon completion of required payments and payment of an option price
15 does not exceed the greater of one hundred dollars or one percent of the total required
16 payments; or
- 17 3. Providing tangible personal property along with an operator for a fixed or
18 indeterminate period of time. A condition of this exclusion is that the operator is
19 necessary for the equipment to perform as designed. For the purpose of this
20 subsection, an operator must do more than maintain, inspect, or set-up the tangible
21 personal property.

22 B. Lease or rental does include agreements covering motor vehicles and trailers where the
23 amount of consideration may be increased or decreased by reference to the amount
24 realized upon sale or disposition of the property as defined in 26 USC 7701(h)(1).

25 C. This definition shall be used for sales and use tax purposes regardless if a transaction is
26 characterized as a lease or rental under generally accepted accounting principles, the
27 Internal Revenue Code, the [state commercial code], or other provisions of federal, state
28 or local law.

29 D. This definition will be applied only prospectively from the date of adoption and will
30 have no retroactive impact on existing leases or rentals. This definition shall neither

1 impact any existing sale-leaseback exemption or exclusions that a state may have, nor
2 preclude a state from adopting a sale-leaseback exemption or exclusion after the
3 effective date of the Agreement.

4
5 **“Purchase price”** applies to the measure subject to use tax and has the same meaning as sales
6 price.

7
8 **“Retail sale or Sale at retail”** means any sale, lease, or rental for any purpose other than for
9 resale, sublease, or subrent.

10
11 **“Sales price”(Effective through December 31, 2007)** applies to the measure subject to sales
12 tax and means the total amount of consideration, including cash, credit, property, and services,
13 for which personal property or services are sold, leased, or rented, valued in money, whether
14 received in money or otherwise, without any deduction for the following:

- 15 A. The seller's cost of the property sold;
- 16 B. The cost of materials used, labor or service cost, interest, losses, all costs of
17 transportation to the seller, all taxes imposed on the seller, and any other expense
18 of the seller;
- 19 C. Charges by the seller for any services necessary to complete the sale, other than
20 delivery and installation charges;
- 21 D. Delivery charges;
- 22 E. Installation charges;
- 23 F. The value of exempt personal property given to the purchaser where taxable and
24 exempt personal property have been bundled together and sold by the seller as a
25 single product or piece of merchandise; and
- 26 G. Credit for any trade-in, as determined by state law.

27 States may exclude from “sales price” the amounts received for charges included in paragraphs
28 (C) through (G) above, if they are separately stated on the invoice, billing, or similar document
29 given to the purchaser.

30 “Sales price” shall not include:

- 1 A. Discounts, including cash, term, or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third
2 party that are allowed by a seller and taken by a purchaser on a sale;
- 3 B. Interest, financing, and carrying charges from credit extended on the sale of
4 personal property or services, if the amount is separately stated on the invoice,
5 bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser; and
- 6 C. Any taxes legally imposed directly on the consumer that are separately stated on
7 the invoice, bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser.

8

9 **“Sales price” (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)** applies to the measure subject to sales
10 tax and means the total amount of consideration, including cash, credit, property, and services,
11 for which personal property or services are sold, leased, or rented, valued in money, whether
12 received in money or otherwise, without any deduction for the following:

- 13 A. The seller's cost of the property sold;
- 14 B. The cost of materials used, labor or service cost, interest, losses, all costs of
15 transportation to the seller, all taxes imposed on the seller, and any other expense
16 of the seller;
- 17 C. Charges by the seller for any services necessary to complete the sale, other than
18 delivery and installation charges;
- 19 D. Delivery charges;
- 20 E. Installation charges; and
- 21 F. Credit for any trade-in, as determined by state law.

22 States may exclude from “sales price” the amounts received for charges included in paragraphs
23 (C) through (F) above, if they are separately stated on the invoice, billing, or similar document
24 given to the purchaser. States may exclude from (B) above, “telecommunications nonrecurring”
25 charges if they are separately stated on the invoice, billing, or similar documents. A state doing
26 so must define “telecommunications nonrecurring charges” as follows:

27

1 **“Telecommunications nonrecurring charges”** means an amount billed for the installation,
2 connection, change or initiation of “telecommunications service” received by the customer.

3
4 “Sales price” shall not include:

- 5 A. Discounts, including cash, term, or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third
6 party that are allowed by a seller and taken by a purchaser on a sale;
- 7 B. Interest, financing, and carrying charges from credit extended on the sale of
8 personal property or services, if the amount is separately stated on the invoice,
9 bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser; and
- 10 C. Any taxes legally imposed directly on the consumer that are separately stated on
11 the invoice, bill of sale or similar document given to the purchaser.

12
13 “Sales price” shall include consideration received by the seller from third parties if:

- 14 A. The seller actually receives consideration from a party other than the purchaser and the
15 consideration is directly related to a price reduction or discount on the sale;
- 16 B. The seller has an obligation to pass the price reduction or discount through to the
17 purchaser;
- 18 C. The amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is fixed and determinable by the
19 seller at the time of the sale of the item to the purchaser; and
- 20 D. One of the following criteria is met:
 - 21 1. The purchaser presents a coupon, certificate or other documentation to the seller to
22 claim a price reduction or discount where the coupon, certificate or documentation is
23 authorized, distributed or granted by a third party with the understanding that the third
24 party will reimburse any seller to whom the coupon, certificate or documentation is
25 presented;
 - 26 2. The purchaser identifies himself or herself to the seller as a member of a group or
27 organization entitled to a price reduction or discount (a “preferred customer” card that
28 is available to any patron does not constitute membership in such a group), or

1 3. The price reduction or discount is identified as a third party price reduction or discount
2 on the invoice received by the purchaser or on a coupon, certificate or other
3 documentation presented by the purchaser.
4

5 States may also exclude from “sales price” either employee discounts that are reimbursed by a
6 third party on sales of motor vehicles, or manufacturer rebates on motor vehicles, or both.
7

8 *Compiler’s note: On April 16, 2005 the following amendments were made to the definition of “Sales
9 Price”.*

10 *Deleting “F. The value of exempt personal property given to the purchaser where taxable and exempt
11 personal property have been bundled together and sold by the seller as a single product or piece of
12 merchandise;” and renumbering “G” to “F”.*

13 *Changing the cross reference to reflect the renumbering, inserting the second and third sentences in the
14 paragraph following (F), and inserting the definition of “telecommunications nonrecurring charges”.*

15 *Inserting all of the material starting with “Sales price” shall include consideration received by the seller
16 from third parties”.*

17 *Member states shall comply with the changes to this definition no later than January 1, 2008.*
18

19 **“Tangible personal property”** means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured,
20 felt, or touched, or that is in any other manner perceptible to the senses. “Tangible personal
21 property” includes electricity, water, gas, steam, and prewritten computer software.
22

23 **PART II**

24 **Product Definitions**

25 **CLOTHING**

26 **“Clothing”** means all human wearing apparel suitable for general use. The following list
27 contains examples and is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.
28

29 A. “Clothing” shall include:

- 30 1. Aprons, household and shop;
- 31 2. Athletic supporters;
- 32 3. Baby receiving blankets;

- 1 4. Bathing suits and caps;
- 2 5. Beach capes and coats;
- 3 6. Belts and suspenders;
- 4 7. Boots;
- 5 8. Coats and jackets;
- 6 9. Costumes;
- 7 10. Diapers, children and adult, including disposable diapers;
- 8 11. Ear muffs;
- 9 12. Footlets;
- 10 13. Formal wear;
- 11 14. Garters and garter belts;
- 12 15. Girdles;
- 13 16. Gloves and mittens for general use;
- 14 17. Hats and caps;
- 15 18. Hosiery;
- 16 19. Insoles for shoes;
- 17 20. Lab coats;
- 18 21. Neckties;
- 19 22. Overshoes;
- 20 23. Pantyhose;
- 21 24. Rainwear;
- 22 25. Rubber pants;
- 23 26. Sandals;
- 24 27. Scarves;
- 25 28. Shoes and shoe laces;
- 26 29. Slippers;
- 27 30. Sneakers;
- 28 31. Socks and stockings;
- 29 32. Steel toed shoes;
- 30 33. Underwear;

1 34. Uniforms, athletic and non-athletic; and

2 35. Wedding apparel.

3 B. "Clothing" shall not include:

4 1. Belt buckles sold separately;

5 2. Costume masks sold separately;

6 3. Patches and emblems sold separately;

7 4. Sewing equipment and supplies including, but not limited to, knitting needles,
8 patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and
9 thimbles; and

10 5. Sewing materials that become part of "clothing" including, but not limited to, buttons,
11 fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers.

12 **"Clothing accessories or equipment"** means incidental items worn on the person or in
13 conjunction with "clothing." "Clothing accessories or equipment" are mutually exclusive of and
14 may be taxed differently than apparel within the definition of "clothing," "sport or recreational
15 equipment," and "protective equipment." The following list contains examples and is not
16 intended to be an all-inclusive list. "Clothing accessories or equipment" shall include:

17 A. Briefcases;

18 B. Cosmetics;

19 C. Hair notions, including, but not limited to, barrettes, hair bows, and hair nets;

20 D. Handbags;

21 E. Handkerchiefs;

22 F. Jewelry;

23 G. Sun glasses, non-prescription;

24 H. Umbrellas;

25 I. Wallets;

26 J. Watches; and

27 K. Wigs and hair pieces.

28 **"Protective equipment"** means items for human wear and designed as protection of the wearer
29 against injury or disease or as protections against damage or injury of other persons or property
30 but not suitable for general use. "Protective equipment" are mutually exclusive of and may be

1 taxed differently than apparel within the definition of “clothing,” “clothing accessories or
2 equipment,” and “sport or recreational equipment.” The following list contains examples and is
3 not intended to be an all-inclusive list. “Protective equipment” shall include:

- 4 A. Breathing masks;
- 5 B. Clean room apparel and equipment;
- 6 C. Ear and hearing protectors;
- 7 D. Face shields;
- 8 E. Hard hats;
- 9 F. Helmets;
- 10 G. Paint or dust respirators;
- 11 H. Protective gloves;
- 12 I. Safety glasses and goggles;
- 13 J. Safety belts;
- 14 K. Tool belts; and
- 15 L. Welders gloves and masks.

16 **“Sport or recreational equipment”** means items designed for human use and worn in
17 conjunction with an athletic or recreational activity that are not suitable for general use. “Sport
18 or recreational equipment” are mutually exclusive of and may be taxed differently than apparel
19 within the definition of “clothing,” “clothing accessories or equipment,” and “protective
20 equipment.” The following list contains examples and is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

21 “Sport or recreational equipment” shall include:

- 22 A. Ballet and tap shoes;
- 23 B. Cleated or spiked athletic shoes;
- 24 C. Gloves, including, but not limited to, baseball, bowling, boxing, hockey, and golf;
- 25 D. Goggles;
- 26 E. Hand and elbow guards;
- 27 F. Life preservers and vests;
- 28 G. Mouth guards;
- 29 H. Roller and ice skates;
- 30 I. Shin guards;

- 1 J. Shoulder pads;
- 2 K. Ski boots;
- 3 L. Waders; and
- 4 M. Wetsuits and fins.

5

6

COMPUTER RELATED

7 **“Computer”** means an electronic device that accepts information in digital or similar form and
8 manipulates it for a result based on a sequence of instructions.

9 **“Computer software”** means a set of coded instructions designed to cause a “computer” or
10 automatic data processing equipment to perform a task.

11 **“Delivered electronically”** means delivered to the purchaser by means other than tangible
12 storage media.

13 **“Electronic”** means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical,
14 electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

15 **“Load and leave”** means delivery to the purchaser by use of a tangible storage media where the
16 tangible storage media is not physically transferred to the purchaser.

17 **“Prewritten computer software”** means “computer software,” including prewritten upgrades,
18 which is not designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a
19 specific purchaser. The combining of two or more “prewritten computer software” programs or
20 prewritten portions thereof does not cause the combination to be other than “prewritten computer
21 software.” “Prewritten computer software” includes software designed and developed by the
22 author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser when it is sold to a person
23 other than the specific purchaser. Where a person modifies or enhances “computer software” of
24 which the person is not the author or creator, the person shall be deemed to be the author or
25 creator only of such person’s modifications or enhancements. “Prewritten computer software” or
26 a prewritten portion thereof that is modified or enhanced to any degree, where such modification
27 or enhancement is designed and developed to the specifications of a specific purchaser, remains
28 “prewritten computer software;” provided, however, that where there is a reasonable, separately
29 stated charge or an invoice or other statement of the price given to the purchaser for such

1 modification or enhancement, such modification or enhancement shall not constitute “prewritten
2 computer software.”

3 A member state may exempt “prewritten computer software” “delivered electronically” or by
4 “load and leave.”

5

6 **FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTS**

7 **“Alcoholic Beverages”** means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain
8 one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume.

9 **“Candy”** means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in
10 combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars,
11 drops, or pieces. “Candy” shall not include any preparation containing flour and shall require no
12 refrigeration.

13 **“Dietary supplement”** means any product, other than “tobacco,” intended to supplement the
14 diet that:

15 A. Contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients:

- 16 1. A vitamin;
- 17 2. A mineral;
- 18 3. An herb or other botanical;
- 19 4. An amino acid;
- 20 5. A dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total
21 dietary intake; or
- 22 6. A concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredient
23 described in above; and

24 B. Is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not
25 intended for ingestion in such a form, is not represented as conventional food and is not
26 represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and

27 C. Is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the "Supplemental Facts"
28 box found on the label and as required pursuant to 21 C.F.R § 101.36.

29 **“Food and food ingredients”** means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen,
30 dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed
31 for their taste or nutritional value. “Food and food ingredients” does not include “alcoholic

1 beverages” or “tobacco.” A member state may exclude “candy,” “dietary supplements” and
2 “soft drinks” from this definition, which items are mutually exclusive of each other.
3 Notwithstanding the foregoing requirements of this definition or any other provision of the
4 Agreement, a member state may maintain its tax treatment of food in a manner that differs from
5 the definitions provided herein, provided its taxation or exemption of food is based on a
6 prohibition or requirement of that state’s Constitution that exists on the effective date of the
7 Agreement.

8 **“Food sold through vending machines”** means food dispensed from a machine or other
9 mechanical device that accepts payment.

10 **“Prepared food”** means:

- 11 A. Food sold in a heated state or heated by the seller;
- 12 B. Two or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item;
- 13 or
- 14 C. Food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller, including plates, knives, forks,
15 spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws. A plate does not include a container or
16 packaging used to transport the food.

17 “Prepared food” in B does not include food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the
18 seller, and eggs, fish, meat, poultry, and foods containing these raw animal foods requiring
19 cooking by the consumer as recommended by the Food and Drug Administration in chapter 3,
20 part 401.11 of its Food Code so as to prevent food borne illnesses.

21

22 The following items may be taxed differently than “prepared food” and each other, if sold
23 without eating utensils provided by the seller, but may not be taxed differently than the same
24 item when classified under “food and food ingredients.”

- 25 1. Food sold by a seller whose proper primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in
26 sector 311, except subsector 3118 (bakeries).
- 27 2. Food sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item.
- 28 3. Bakery items, including bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries,
29 donuts, danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, tortillas.

1 Substances within “food and food ingredients” may be taxed differently if sold as “prepared
2 food.” A state shall tax or exempt from taxation “candy,” dietary supplements,” and “soft
3 drinks” that are sold as “prepared food” in the same manner as it treats other substances that are
4 sold as “prepared food.”

5 *Compiler’s note: The Governing Board issued an interpretation of the definition of “prepared food” on April 18,*
6 *2006. That interpretation can be found in the Library of Interpretations.*

7
8 **“Soft drinks”** means non-alcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. “Soft
9 drinks” do not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice or similar milk
10 substitutes, or greater than fifty percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

11 **“Tobacco”** means cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other item that contains
12 tobacco.

13 14 **HEALTH-CARE**

15 **“Drug”** means a compound, substance or preparation, and any component of a compound,
16 substance or preparation, other than “food and food ingredients,” “dietary supplements” or
17 “alcoholic beverages:”

- 18 A. Recognized in the official United State Pharmacopoeia, official Homeopathic
19 Pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, and supplement to
20 any of them; or
21 B. Intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease; or
22 C. Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body.

23 A member state may independently:

- 24 A. Limit the definition of “drug” to human use (as opposed to both human and animal use)
25 in the administration of its exemption;
26 B. Draft its exemption for “drug” to specifically add insulin and/or medical oxygen so that
27 no prescription is required, even if a state requires a prescription under its exemption for
28 drugs;
29 C. Determine the taxability of the sales of drugs and prescription drugs to hospitals and
30 other medical facilities;
31 D. Determine the taxability of free samples of drugs; and

1 E. Determine the taxability of bundling taxable and nontaxable drug, if uniform treatment
2 of bundled transactions is not otherwise defined in the Agreement.

3 **“Durable medical equipment” (Effective through December 31, 2007)** means equipment
4 including repair and replacement parts for same, but does not include “mobility enhancing
5 equipment,” which:

- 6 A. Can withstand repeated use; and
- 7 B. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; and
- 8 C. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and
- 9 D. Is not worn in or on the body.

10 A member state may limit its exemption to “durable medical equipment” used for home use only.

11 A member state may limit the application of this definition by requiring a “prescription,” or limit
12 an exemption based on Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursements.

13

14 **“Durable medical equipment” (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)** means equipment
15 including repair and replacement parts for same, but does not include “mobility enhancing
16 equipment,” which:

- 17 E. Can withstand repeated use; and
- 18 F. Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; and
- 19 G. Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and
- 20 H. Is not worn in or on the body.

21 A member state may limit its exemption to “durable medical equipment:”

- 22 A. By requiring a prescription;
- 23 B. Based on Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursement; or
- 24 C. For home use.

25 A member state may limit the exemption using any combination of the above but in no case shall
26 an exemption certificate be required.

27

28 *Compiler’s note: On October 1, 2005 the durable medical equipment definition was amended by deleting: “A*
29 *member state may limit its exemption to “durable medical equipment” used for home use only. A member state*
30 *may limit the application of this definition by requiring a “prescription,” or limit an exemption based on*
31 *Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursements” after D and inserting:*

1 "A member state may limit its exemption to "durable medical equipment:"

2 A. By requiring a prescription;

3 B. Based on Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursement; or

4 C. For home use.

5 A member state may limit the exemption using any combination of the above but in no case shall an exemption
6 certificate be required."

7 *Member states shall adopt and utilize this definition no later than January 1, 2008.*

8
9 **"Grooming and hygiene products"** are soaps and cleaning solutions, shampoo, toothpaste,
10 mouthwash, antiperspirants, and sun tan lotions and screens, regardless of whether the items
11 meet the definition of "over-the-counter-drugs."

12 **"Mobility enhancing equipment"** means equipment including repair and replacement parts to
13 same, but does not include "durable medical equipment," which:

14 A. Is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the ability to move from one
15 place to another and which is appropriate for use either in a home or a motor vehicle;
16 and

17 B. Is not generally used by persons with normal mobility; and

18 C. Does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor vehicle normally provided
19 by a motor vehicle manufacturer.

20 A member state may limit the application of this definition by requiring a "prescription," or limit
21 an exemption based on Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursements.

22 **"Over-the-counter-drug"** means a drug that contains a label that identifies the product as a drug
23 as required by 21 C.F.R. § 201.66. A member state may exclude "grooming and hygiene
24 products" from this definition. The "over-the-counter-drug" label includes:

25 A. A "Drug Facts" panel; or

26 B. A statement of the "active ingredient(s)" with a list of those ingredients contained in the
27 compound, substance or preparation.

28 **"Prescription"** means an order, formula or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic,
29 or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of the
30 member state.

1 **“Prosthetic device”** means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device including repair and
2 replacement parts for same worn on or in the body to:

- 3 A. Artificially replace a missing portion of the body;
- 4 B. Prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction; or
- 5 C. Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

6 A member state may exclude any or all of the following from the definition of “prosthetic
7 device:”

- 8 A. Corrective eyeglasses;
- 9 B. Contact lenses;
- 10 C. Hearing aids; and
- 11 D. Dental prosthesis.

12 A member state may limit the application of this definition by requiring a “prescription,” or limit
13 an exemption based on Medicare or Medicaid payments or reimbursements.

14

15 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Effective on and after January 1, 2008)**

16 **Tax Base/Exemption Terms**

17

18 **“Ancillary services”** means services that are associated with or incidental to the provision of
19 “telecommunications services”, including but not limited to “detailed telecommunications
20 billing”, “directory assistance”, “vertical service”, and “voice mail services”.

21

22 **“Conference bridging service”** means an “ancillary service” that links two or more participants
23 of an audio or video conference call and may include the provision of a telephone number.

24 “Conference bridging service” does not include the “telecommunications services” used to reach
25 the conference bridge.

26 **“Detailed telecommunications billing service”** means an “ancillary service” of separately
27 stating information pertaining to individual calls on a customer’s billing statement.

28 **“Directory assistance”** means an “ancillary service” of providing telephone number
29 information, and/or address information.

1 **“Vertical service”** means an “ancillary service” that is offered in connection with one or more
2 “telecommunications services”, which offers advanced calling features that allow customers to
3 identify callers and to manage multiple calls and call connections, including “conference
4 bridging services”.

5 **“Voice mail service”** means an “ancillary service” that enables the customer to store, send or
6 receive recorded messages. “Voice mail service” does not include any “vertical services” that
7 the customer may be required to have in order to utilize the “voice mail service”.

8 **“Telecommunications service”** means the electronic transmission, conveyance, or routing of
9 voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals to a point, or between or among
10 points. The term “telecommunications service” includes such transmission, conveyance, or
11 routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code or protocol
12 of the content for purposes of transmission, conveyance or routing without regard to whether
13 such service is referred to as voice over Internet protocol services or is classified by the Federal
14 Communications Commission as enhanced or value added. “Telecommunications service” does
15 not include:

- 16 A. Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated, acquired,
17 stored, processed, or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to a purchaser
18 where such purchaser’s primary purpose for the underlying transaction is the processed
19 data or information;
- 20 B. Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer’s premises;
- 21 C. Tangible personal property;
- 22 D. Advertising, including but not limited to directory advertising.
- 23 E. Billing and collection services provided to third parties;
- 24 F. Internet access service;

1 G. Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the medium,
2 including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance and routing of such services by the
3 programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video programming
4 services shall include but not be limited to cable service as defined in 47 USC 522(6) and
5 audio and video programming services delivered by commercial mobile radio service
6 providers, as defined in 47 CFR 20.3;

7 H. “Ancillary services”; or

8 I. Digital products “delivered electronically”, including but not limited to software, music,
9 video, reading materials or ring tones.

10 **“800 service”** means a “telecommunications service” that allows a caller to dial a toll-free
11 number without incurring a charge for the call. The service is typically marketed under the name
12 “800”, “855”, “866”, “877”, and “888” toll-free calling, and any subsequent numbers designated
13 by the Federal Communications Commission.

14 **“900 service”** means an inbound toll “telecommunications service” purchased by a subscriber
15 that allows the subscriber’s customers to call in to the subscriber’s prerecorded announcement or
16 live service. “900 service” does not include the charge for: collection services provided by the
17 seller of the “telecommunications services” to the subscriber, or service or product sold by the
18 subscriber to the subscriber’s customer. The service is typically marketed under the name “900”
19 service, and any subsequent numbers designated by the Federal Communications Commission.

20 **“Fixed wireless service”** means a “telecommunications service” that provides radio
21 communication between fixed points.

22 **“Mobile wireless service”** means a “telecommunications service” that is transmitted, conveyed
23 or routed regardless of the technology used, whereby the origination and/or termination points of
24 the transmission, conveyance or routing are not fixed, including, by way of example only,
25 “telecommunications services” that are provided by a commercial mobile radio service provider.

1 **“Paging service”** means a “telecommunications service” that provides transmission of coded
2 radio signals for the purpose of activating specific pagers; such transmissions may include
3 messages and/or sounds.

4 **“Prepaid calling service”** means the right to access exclusively “telecommunications services”,
5 which must be paid for in advance and which enables the origination of calls using an access
6 number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed, and that is sold in
7 predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

8 **“Prepaid wireless calling service”** means a “telecommunications service” that provides the
9 right to utilize “mobile wireless service” as well as other non-telecommunications services
10 including the download of digital products “delivered electronically”, content and “ancillary
11 services”, which must be paid for in advance that is sold in predetermined units of dollars of
12 which the number declines with use in a known amount.

13 **“Private communications service”** means a “telecommunications service” that entitles the
14 customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between
15 or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which such channel or channels are
16 connected, and includes switching capacity, extension lines, stations, and any other associated
17 services that are provided in connection with the use of such channel or channels.

18 **“Value-added non-voice data service”** means a service that otherwise meets the definition of
19 “telecommunications services” in which computer processing applications are used to act on the
20 form, content, code, or protocol of the information or data primarily for a purpose other than
21 transmission, conveyance or routing.

22 **Modifiers of Sales Tax Base/Exemption Terms**

23 The following terms can be used to further delineate the type of “telecommunications service” to
24 be taxed or exempted. The terms would be used with the broader terms and subcategories
25 delineated above.

26 **“Coin-operated telephone service”** means a “telecommunications service” paid for by inserting
27 money into a telephone accepting direct deposits of money to operate.

1 **“International”** means a “telecommunications service” that originates or terminates in the
2 United States and terminates or originates outside the United States, respectively. United States
3 includes the District of Columbia or a U.S. territory or possession.

4 **“Interstate”** means a “telecommunications service” that originates in one United States state, or
5 a United States territory or possession, and terminates in a different United States state or a
6 United States territory or possession.

7 **“Intrastate”** means a “telecommunications service” that originates in one United States state or
8 a United States territory or possession, and terminates in the same United States state or a United
9 States territory or possession.

10 **“Pay telephone service”** means a “telecommunications service” provided through any pay
11 telephone.

12 **“Residential telecommunications service”** means a “telecommunications service” or “ancillary
13 services” provided to an individual for personal use at a residential address, including an
14 individual dwelling unit such as an apartment. In the case of institutions where individuals
15 reside, such as schools or nursing homes, “telecommunications service” is considered residential
16 if it is provided to and paid for by an individual resident rather than the institution.

17 The terms “ancillary services” and “telecommunications service” are defined as a broad range of
18 services. The terms “ancillary services” and “telecommunications service” are broader than the
19 sum of the subcategories. Definitions of subcategories of “ancillary services” and
20 “telecommunications service” can be used by a member state alone or in combination with other
21 subcategories to define a narrower tax base than the definitions of “ancillary services” and
22 “telecommunications service” would imply. The subcategories can also be used by a member
23 state to provide exemptions for certain subcategories of the more broadly defined terms.

24 A member state that specifically imposes tax on, or exempts from tax, local telephone or local
25 telecommunications service may define “local service” in any manner in accordance with
26 Section 327 of the Agreement, except as limited by other sections of this Agreement.

- 1 *Compiler's note: On April 16, 2005 the telecommunications definitions were added to the Agreement. Member*
- 2 *states shall adopt and utilize these definitions no later than January 1, 2008.*

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PART III

Sales Tax Holiday Definitions

The definitions in this Part are only applicable for the purpose of administration of a sales tax holiday, as defined in Section 322 (A).

"Eligible property" means an item of a type, such as clothing, that qualifies for a sales tax holiday exemption in a member state.

"Layaway sale" means a transaction in which property is set aside for future delivery to a customer who makes a deposit, agrees to pay the balance of the purchase price over a period of time, and, at the end of the payment period, receives the property. An order is accepted for layaway by the seller, when the seller removes the property from normal inventory or clearly identifies the property as sold to the purchaser.

"Rain check" means the seller allows a customer to purchase an item at a certain price at a later time because the particular item was out of stock.

"School supply" is an item commonly used by a student in a course of study. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms "school art supply," "school instructional material," and "school computer supply," and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:

- A. Binders;
- B. Book bags;
- C. Calculators;
- D. Cellophane tape;
- E. Blackboard chalk;
- F. Compasses;
- G. Composition books;
- H. Crayons;
- I. Erasers;
- J. Folders; expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila;
- K. Glue, paste, and paste sticks;
- L. Highlighters;

- 1 M. Index cards;
- 2 N. Index card boxes;
- 3 O. Legal pads;
- 4 P. Lunch boxes;
- 5 Q. Markers;
- 6 R. Notebooks;
- 7 S. Paper; loose leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila
- 8 paper, colored paper, poster board, and construction paper;
- 9 T. Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes;
- 10 U. Pencil sharpeners;
- 11 V. Pencils;
- 12 W. Pens;
- 13 X. Protractors;
- 14 Y. Rulers;
- 15 Z. Scissors; and
- 16 AA. Writing tablets.

17 **“School art supply”** is an item commonly used by a student in a course of study for artwork.
18 The term is mutually exclusive of the terms “school supply,” “school instructional material,” and
19 “school computer supply,” and may be taxed differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:

- 20 A. Clay and glazes;
- 21 B. Paints; acrylic, tempera, and oil;
- 22 C. Paintbrushes for artwork;
- 23 D. Sketch and drawing pads; and
- 24 E. Watercolors.

25 **“School instructional material”** is written material commonly used by a student in a course of
26 study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught. The term is mutually exclusive of the
27 terms “school supply,” “school art supply,” and “school computer supply,” and may be taxed
28 differently. The following is an all-inclusive list:

- 29 A. Reference books;
- 30 B. Reference maps and globes;

1 C. Textbooks; and

2 D. Workbooks.

3 **“School computer supply”** is an item commonly used by a student in a course of study in which
4 a computer is used. The term is mutually exclusive of the terms “school supply,” “school art
5 supply,” and “school instructional material,” and may be taxed differently. The following is an
6 all-inclusive list:

7 A. Computer storage media; diskettes, compact disks;

8 B. Handheld electronic schedulers, except devices that are cellular phones;

9 C. Personal digital assistants, except devices that are cellular phones;

10 D. Computer printers; and

11 E. Printer supplies for computers; printer paper, printer ink.

1 Appendix D

2 LIBRARY OF INTERPRETATIONS

3
4 **Interpretation 2006-01**
5 **(Adopted April 18, 2006)**

6
7 **STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT**
8 **COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND INTERPRETATIONS COMMITTEE**
9

10
11 This Interpretation Recommendation is made to the Governing Board by the Compliance Review
12 and Interpretations Committee this 2nd day of February, 2006 in accordance with Article IX, Rule
13 902 of Rules and Procedures adopted by the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.

14
15 The party requesting the interpretation is RSM McGladrey, Inc. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The
16 request was made by letter dated November 23, 2005, and was made pursuant to the provisions
17 for expedited consideration contained in Rule 902 at subsection H.

18
19 **Issue**

20 The issue presented is an interpretation of Agreement section 402 pertaining to amnesty. The
21 specific question presented was whether amnesty is available to a seller for tax not collected, if
22 the seller has collected an amount of tax in a state, but failed to remit it. The seller otherwise
23 meets the qualifications prescribed in section 402. The issue was presented with an
24 acknowledgement that tax collected must be remitted with applicable penalties and interest as a
25 precondition to receiving amnesty.

26
27 **Public Comment**

28 No written public comments were received.
29

30 **Recommendation**

31 By unanimous consent the Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee submits to the
32 Governing Board a recommendation that a seller who has collected tax in a member state may
33 obtain amnesty for taxes not collected in that state or any member state in accordance with the
34 terms of Agreement section 402. The Committee further recommends that tax collected from
35 purchasers in a member state must be remitted with applicable penalty and interest to that
36 member state as a condition of receiving amnesty. This condition is in addition to those
37 conditions specifically enumerated in section 402 of the Agreement.
38

39 **Rationale**

40 A plain reading of Agreement section 402 requires a state to provide amnesty for “uncollected or
41 unpaid sales or use tax”. A similar plain reading of the disqualifying language contained in
42 subsection 402C limits disqualification to “sales or use taxes already paid or remitted to the state
43 or **to taxes collected by the seller.**” As the seller has not collected the taxes at issue, amnesty is

1 available despite the fact that the seller collected taxes on other sales which will not qualify for
2 amnesty.

3
4 **Committee Members**

5 Larry Wilkie, Committee Chair; Myles Vosberg, Andy Sabol, Tony Mastin, Dan Noble, Tom
6 Conley representing Joseph Van Devender, and Dale Vettel.

7
8 **Interpretation 2006-02**
9 **(Adopted April 18, 2006)**

10
11 **STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT**
12 **COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND INTERPRETATIONS COMMITTEE**
13

14 This Interpretation Recommendation is made to the Governing Board by the Compliance Review
15 and Interpretations Committee this 2nd day of February 2006 in accordance with Article IX, Rule
16 902 of the Rules and Procedures adopted by the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.

17
18 The party requesting the interpretation is Department of Treasury, State of Michigan, of Lansing
19 Michigan. The request was made by letter dated January 4, 2006, and was made pursuant to the
20 provisions for expedited consideration contained in Rule 902 H.

21
22 **Issue**

23 The issue presented is an interpretation of Agreement section 402 pertaining to amnesty. The
24 questions presented related to when a seller is considered registered under the Agreement for
25 purposes of eligibility for amnesty when a seller has registered through the central registration
26 system and indicated that it will make use of a model 1 or model 2 seller for those periods when
27 a certified service provider (CSP) or a certified automated system (CAS) have not been deemed
28 available by the Executive Committee of the Governing Board. The specific questions presented
29 are as follows:

- 30 (1) When will a model 1 or model 2 seller be deemed to have “registered under the
31 Agreement” as provided in Section 211 of the Agreement?
32 (2) When will a model 1 or model 2 seller be required to begin collecting and remitting sales
33 or use taxes to member states as provided in Section 401(B) of the Agreement?
34 (3) When will a model 1 or model 2 seller be denied amnesty because they have received a
35 notice of the commencement of an audit as provided in Section 402(B) of the
36 Agreement?
37

38 **Public Comment**

39 No written public comments were received.
40

41 **Recommendation**

42 By unanimous consent the Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee submits to the
43 Governing Board the following recommendations:

- 44 (1) A model 1 or model 2 seller will be “registered under the Agreement”:

1 (a) on a date that follows the act of making application for registration through the
2 central registration system, and

3 (b) the date that they begin, or are required to begin, collecting a member state's sales
4 or use tax.

5 (2) A model 1 or model 2 seller will be required to begin collecting and remitting sales or use
6 taxes in a member state on the first day of the calendar month after 60 days notice that
7 adequate CSP or CAS services are available as determined by the Executive Committee
8 of the Governing Board.

9 (3) A model 1 or model 2 seller will be denied amnesty in a member state pursuant to
10 Section 402(B) as having received a notice of audit only if that notice of audit is received
11 on a date that precedes the date the seller made application for registration through the
12 central registration system.

13
14 **Rationale**

15 The basis for the recommended interpretations is the inability of a model 1 or model 2 seller to
16 collect and remit sales and use taxes until these technology models are deemed to be available
17 for use by the Executive Committee of the Governing Board. A registration through the central
18 registration system should not be considered complete until a model 1 or model 2 seller begins to
19 collect or is required to begin to collect a member states' sales or use tax. These interpretations
20 are consistent with the Position on Amnesty adopted by the Governing Board on November 9,
21 2005.

22
23 **Committee Members**

24 Larry Wilkie, Committee Chair, Tom Conley, representing Joe Van Devender, Tony Mastin,
25 Dan Noble, Andy Sabol, Dale Vettel, and Myles Vosberg

26
27
28 **Interpretation 2006-03**
29 **(Adopted April 18, 2006)**

30
31 **STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT**
32 **COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND INTERPRETATIONS COMMITTEE**
33

34 This Interpretation Recommendation is made to the Governing Board by the Compliance Review
35 and Interpretations Committee this 16th day of February 2006 in accordance with Article IX,
36 Rule 902 of the Rules and Procedures adopted by the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board,
37 Inc.

38
39 The party requesting the interpretation is the State of Indiana, Tom Conley, Indiana Delegate,
40 State and Local Advisory Council. The request was made by letter dated January 5, 2006, and
41 was made pursuant to the provisions for expedited consideration contained in Rule 902 H.
42

1 **Issue**

2 The issue presented is an interpretation of Agreement Article III, Section 310, Subsection C,
3 Clause 1 pertaining to sourcing of initial lease payments made to dealers. The quoted section of
4 the agreement reads as follows:

5
6 For a lease or rental that requires recurring periodic payments, each periodic payment is
7 sourced to the primary property location. The primary property location shall be as
8 indicated by an address for the property provided by the lessee that is available to the
9 lessor from its records maintained in the ordinary course of business, when use of this
10 address does not constitute bad faith. This location shall not be altered by intermittent
11 use at different locations.

12
13 Indiana is requesting an interpretation on the sourcing of initial payments (down payments,
14 rebates or other potentially taxable receipts) paid to the seller at the time the lease is negotiated
15 between the seller and purchaser. Are these payments considered a recurring periodic payment
16 and sourced in accordance with Section 310(C)?

17
18 **Recommendation**

19 By unanimous consent the Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee submits to the
20 Governing Board the following recommendation:

21
22 Article III, Section 310, Subsection C, of the Agreement should be interpreted to include
23 payments received at the inception of a lease (down payments, rebates or other potentially
24 taxable receipts) as periodic payments and sourced to the primary property location consistent
25 with the sourcing of the remaining periodic payments.

26
27 **Rationale**

28 The committee contacted the automobile associations of their various states. The associations
29 reported that their leasing organizations vary in the way that the receipts collected at the
30 inception of the lease are currently sourced. Some source the receipts to the primary property
31 location while others source the receipts to the dealer's location. The committee believed that
32 the intent of the original sourcing rule was to establish a single location for sourcing all
33 payments. The proposed interpretation would be consistent with what we believed to be the
34 intent of the rule. The interpretation would also eliminate the confusion that currently seems to
35 exist related to this issue.

36
37 **Committee Members**

38 Cathy Wicks representing Larry Wilkie, Tom Conley, representing Joe Van Devender, Tony
39 Mastin, Dan Noble, Andy Sabol, Dale Vettel, Acting Committee Chair, and Myles Vosberg.

40
41 **Interpretation 2006-04**
42 **(Adopted April 18, 2006)**

43
44 **STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT**
45 **COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND INTERPRETATIONS COMMITTEE**

1
2 This Interpretation Recommendation is made to the Governing Board by the Compliance Review
3 and Interpretations Committee this 13th day of April 2006 in accordance with Article IX, Rule
4 902 of Rules and Procedures adopted by the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Inc.

5
6 The party requesting the interpretation is Brinker International on behalf of the National
7 Association of Convenience Stores, Council on State Taxation, Darden Restaurants, Food
8 Marketing Institute, Indiana Grocery & Convenience Store Association, Marathon Petroleum
9 Company, Marsh Supermarket Pharmacy, Minnesota Grocers Association, Speedway, Starbucks
10 Coffee, Target, Utah Food Industry Association and Yum! Brands, Incorporated. The request
11 was made by letter dated January 9, 2006, and was made pursuant to the provisions for expedited
12 consideration contained in Rule 902 at subsection H.

13 14 **Issue**

15 The issue presented is an interpretation of definition of “food sold with eating utensils provided
16 by the seller” found in section C of the prepared food definition found in Appendix C, Part II.

17 18 **Public Comment**

19 Public comments were received from both industry and state agencies.
20

21 **Recommendation**

22 The Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee submits to the Governing Board a
23 recommendation that the definition of “food sold with eating utensils” be interpreted as specified
24 in the State and Local Advisory Council paper on “Prepared Food Re-Visited Updated April 13,
25 2006.” This paper was distributed with Diane Hardt’s e-mail dated April 13, 2006 with revised
26 documents for the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana on
27 April 18, 2006. Committee members have agreed, by a vote of five to one, that they can support
28 the proposal as presented, provided states are given adequate time to promulgate regulations,
29 make legislative changes, or prepare other published guidance as each state determines is
30 necessary to adopt the language proposed.

31 32 **Rationale**

33 The Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee finds itself in a difficult situation with
34 this request for interpretation and its subsequent determination of support of the proposal.

35
36 All members recognize the need to come to agreement on how to interpret the subject language.
37 Committee members, as well as other states and business representatives involved in the
38 discussions, have indicated support for the proposal. The Committee commends business
39 members and state members for their diligent efforts in bringing this proposal to the table.

1 Concern was expressed by some Committee members that the language in the proposal goes
2 beyond an interpretation of the existing language in the definition and, in some states, would
3 require legislative changes. Committee member, Tony Mastin, noted that using the Black's Law
4 Dictionary definition of the word "provided" would be an allowable interpretation of the current
5 language. Business representatives expressed concern that using a dictionary definition would
6 not provide the necessary guidance to administer the provision and would result in states
7 adopting different interpretations of the meaning of the phrase.

8
9 The Committee is seeking advice from the Governing Board on whether this interpretation goes
10 beyond the scope of an interpretation of the current definition. If so, the Committee asks for
11 advice from the Governing Board on how to proceed. The options discussed, if this is not an
12 interpretation, were either an amendment to the Agreement or a rule.

13 14 **Committee Members**

15 Larry Wilkie, Committee Chair; Myles Vosberg, Andy Sabol, Tony Mastin, Dan Noble, Tom
16 Conley representing Joseph Van Devender, and Dale Vettel.

17
18 State and Local Advisory Council
19 Prepared Food Re-Visited
20 Updated April 13, 2006
21
22

23 SSTP approved several interpretations of the food definitions at its meeting on January 6, 2005.
24 The approved interpretations are included in an Issue Paper titled "Food Definition Issues" on
25 the Streamlined web site at www.streamlinedsalestax.org. SSTP interpreted "provided by the
26 seller" with respect to utensils as:

- 27
28 1. Utensils need only be made available to purchasers if a seller's sales of prepared
29 food in A and B of the definition (except items 1 through 3 that a state chooses to
30 exclude), soft drinks, and alcohol beverages at an establishment are more than
31 75% of the seller's total sales at the establishment.
32
- 33 2. For sellers other than in 1., the seller's customary practice is to give the utensil to
34 the purchaser, except that plates, glasses, or cups necessary for the purchaser to
35 receive the food or food ingredients need only be made available.
36

37 Also, SSTP addressed utensils provided by persons other than the seller and resold by a seller as
38 follows:

39
40 Although a person other than the seller may have originally placed the utensil in
41 the package, the seller provides it to the purchaser when it transfers the package to
42 the purchaser. Therefore, in the examples provided (caterer sells a boxed lunch
43 with utensils to a concessionaire who sells the boxed lunch; food manufacturer
44 packages ready-to-eat lunch with utensils and sells to a grocer who sells the
45 lunch), utensils are provided by the seller.

1
2 The Food Marketing Institute and a number of interested parties submitted a request for
3 interpretation to the Compliance Review and Interpretations Committee (CRIC) on January 6,
4 2006. CRIC has requested the State and Local Advisory Council (SLAC) of the Streamlined
5 Governing Board to further address the prepared food interpretation issue.

6
7 At the SLAC meeting on January 7-8, 2006, a work group discussed concerns about the SSTP
8 approved interpretation and identified solutions. Business representatives reviewed those
9 solutions and recommended minor changes. The proposed interpretation is as follows:

- 10
11 I. We will maintain the 75% test for sellers but modify how the numerator and
12 denominator are calculated so that like businesses (single purpose coffee shop v.
13 coffee shop in a bookstore) are treated the same.
14
15 II. The numerator would include sales of (a) prepared food if under A and B of the
16 definition of prepared food; and (b) food where plates, bowls, glasses or cups are
17 necessary to receive the food (e.g., dispensed milk, salad bar). Alcoholic
18 beverages are not included in the numerator.
19
20 III. The denominator would include sales of all food and food ingredients, including
21 prepared food, candy, dietary supplements, and soft drinks. Alcoholic beverages
22 are not included in the denominator.
23
24 IV. For sellers with a sales percentage of 75% or less, utensils are provided by the
25 seller if the seller's practice for the item (as represented by the seller) is to
26 physically give or hand the utensil to the purchaser, except that plates, bowls,
27 glasses, or cups necessary for the purchaser to receive the food (e.g., dispensed
28 milk, salad bar) need only be made available.
29
30 V. For sellers with a sales percentage greater than 75%, utensils are provided by the
31 seller if they are made available to purchasers.
32
33 VI. For sellers with a sales percentage greater than 75% and who sell items that
34 contain four (4) or more servings packaged as one item sold for a single price, an
35 item does not become prepared food due to the seller having utensils available.
36 However, if the seller provides utensils for the item as in 4 above, then the item is
37 considered prepared food. Whenever available, serving sizes will be determined
38 based on a label on an item sold. If no label is available, a seller will reasonably
39 determine the number of servings in an item.
40
41 VII. When a seller sells food items that have a utensil placed in a package by a person
42 other than the seller, and that person's NAICS classification code is that of
43 manufacturers (sector 311), the seller shall not be considered to have provided the
44 utensil except as provided in 4-6 above . For any other packager with any other

1 NAICS classification code (e.g., sector 722 for caterers), the seller shall be
2 considered to have provided the utensil.

3
4 VIII. The prepared food sales percentage will be calculated by the seller for each tax
5 year or business fiscal year, based on the seller's data from the prior tax year or
6 business fiscal year, as soon as possible after accounting records are available, but
7 not later than 90 days after the beginning of the tax or business fiscal year.

8
9 IX. A single prepared food sales percentage will be determined annually, for all of the
10 seller's establishments in a state.

11
12 X. A new business will make a good faith estimate of their prepared food sales
13 percentage for their first year. A new business should adjust its good faith
14 estimate prospectively after the first three months of operation if actual prepared
15 food sales percentages materially affect the 75% threshold test.

16
17 If states concur that the above interpretation of "food sold with eating utensils provided by the
18 seller" requires an amendment to the Agreement or time to implement the interpretation, then a
19 temporary interpretation must be offered now so that sellers of prepared food can determine tax
20 treatments under laws enacted by states that are in compliance with the Streamlined Sales and
21 Use Tax Agreement. The Governing Board states will be surveyed to determine if they can or
22 cannot support the following uniform interpretation. If a Governing Board state cannot support
23 this interpretation, the Governing Board state will be asked to explain its interpretation. The
24 results of the survey will be presented to the Governing Board at its meeting in April.

25
26 "Food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller" means the seller's practice for
27 the item is to physically give or hand the utensil to the purchaser.

28
29 Note: Black's Law Dictionary defines "*provide*" as to make, procure, or furnish for future use,
30 prepare. To supply; to afford; to contribute.