

Washington Cigarette Wholesaler Information

Licensing:

A cigarette wholesaler is any person who purchases, sells, or distributes cigarettes to retailers for the purpose of resale. A cigarette wholesaler is required to have:

- A business license.
- A cigarette wholesaler license.
- A \$5,000 proper performance surety bond.
- Complete a personal/criminal history statement.

The appropriate forms and additional information are available on the [Cigarette, Tobacco, and Vapor webpage](#).

Additional bonding:

A **Deferred Purchase Bond** is optional. This bond allows a cigarette wholesaler to defer payments for purchases of cigarette tax stamps for up to 30 days. Otherwise, payment is due at time of purchase.

An **Unstamped Cigarette Bond** is required of all in-state cigarette wholesalers who possess unstamped cigarettes for longer than 72 hours.

Purchasing cigarette tax stamps:

For authorization to purchase Washington cigarette tax stamps, contact the Department of Revenue (department) at 360-705-6219.

To affix cigarette tax stamps to packages, you will need cigarette tax stamping equipment. Two companies that provide stamping equipment are:

1. United Silicone – stamping equipment

716-681-8222

ustaxstamping.com

2. R.E.D. Stamp Inc

877-RED-STAMP

redstampinc.com

Reporting interstate and tax-exempt sales of cigarettes:

Interstate sales and tax exempt sales of cigarettes must be reported monthly to the department on form [Schedule C1 \(Cigarettes\)](#).

Reporting sales of cigarettes manufactured by non-participating manufacturers (NPM):

As part of the Master Settlement Agreement between certain cigarette manufacturers and the state of Washington, the department is required to collect information about cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco sold in Washington. These sales are reported monthly on the [NPM Reporting form](#).

Sales to Indian tribes with a cigarette tax contract are reported monthly on the [NPM Supplemental Reporting Form](#).

A list of approved cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco certified for sale into Washington state is available from the [Washington State Office of the Attorney General website](#). Wholesalers who offer cigarettes and roll-your-own for sale in this state, must check the Washington Certified Tobacco Products Directory to see if the product may be sold in this state.

Shipments of unstamped cigarettes:

Pre-notification to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board is required for all shipments of unstamped cigarettes into Washington unless delivery is in the licensed cigarette wholesaler's own vehicle. Shipments are reported on the [Liquor and Cannabis Board pre-notification form](#).

Sales to Indian tribes with a cigarette tax compact

Under [RCW 43.06.450](#), Indian tribes may contract with the state to enact a tribal cigarette tax in lieu of all state cigarette and state and local sales and use taxes. Cigarette tax compacts provide that all cigarettes possessed or sold by a tribal retailer bear a state or tribal cigarette stamp. For more information on sales to tribes that have signed a Cigarette Tax Compact, please contact the department.

Sales to Indian tribes without a cigarette tax compact

Approval prior to delivery

For each delivery of tax-exempt cigarettes to a tribal retailer, the wholesaler must obtain approval in **advance of tax exempt stamping and delivery**. The department will verify that the number of cartons to be sold is within the annual allocation of tax-exempt cigarettes available to that tribe or tribal retailer. The department will also verify that the tribal retailer is authorized by the tribe to participate in the tribe's allocation process.

Stamps

Cigarettes sold to Indians and Indian tribes must bear a Washington cigarette stamp.

Cigarettes sold to tribal retailers within the tribe's annual allocation of tax-exempt cigarettes must have Washington's tax-exempt stamp affixed. Tax-exempt stamps are available from the department at no cost. Sales to tribal retailers beyond the tribe's annual cigarette allocation must have the Washington tax-paid stamp affixed.

A stamping allowance is paid to cigarette wholesalers for the tax-exempt stamps they have affixed. Wholesalers must file the [Stamping Allowance Computation Worksheet](#).

Delivery

Tax-exempt cigarette sales to tribal retailers must be delivered by a bonded carrier or in the wholesaler's own vehicle to the Indian reservation.

Reports required

Sales of tax-exempt cigarettes are reported monthly to the department on [Schedule C1 \(Cigarettes\)](#).

Applicable laws & rules

[Chapter 82.24 RCW](#) – Tax on Cigarettes

[Chapter 82.26 RCW](#) – Tax on Tobacco Products

[Chapter 70.155 RCW](#) – Tobacco – Access to Minors

[Chapter 70.157 RCW](#) – National Uniform Tobacco Settlement – Nonparticipating Tobacco Product Manufacturers

[WAC 458-20-185](#) – Tax on Tobacco Products

[WAC 458-20-186](#) – Tax on Cigarettes

[WAC 458-20-192](#) – Indians – Indian Country

[WAC 458-20-264](#) – National Uniform Tobacco Settlement

Contact us

Laws, rules, and forms are available on the department's home page at dor.wa.gov/contactus.

If you have additional questions, please call 360-705-6219 or write to:

Department of Revenue
Taxpayer Account Administration Division
PO Box 47476
Olympia WA 98504-7476