Sales and Use Tax Exemption Expanded to Include Trucks Used Out-of-State or in Interstate or Foreign Commerce

Beginning January 1, 2020, Assembly Bill (AB) 321 amends Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) section 6388.5 to also apply to certain new, used, and remanufactured trucks. The exemption applies to trucks delivered to both California residents and non-residents in California and that are removed from the state within a specified time and thereafter, exclusively used out-of-state or in interstate or foreign commerce. The expanded sales and use tax exemption will be operative from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023.

Documentation requirements
To meet the requirements of R&TC 6388.5, purchasers must do all of the following:

- Provide the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer an affidavit attesting they purchased the truck or trailer for exclusive use outside of California or in interstate or foreign commerce.
- Remove the truck or trailer from California within 30 days from the date of delivery if the truck or trailer was manufactured or remanufactured outside of California, or remove the truck or trailer from California within 75 days from the date of delivery, if the truck or trailer was manufactured or remanufactured in California.
- Provide the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer an affidavit that the vehicle has been removed from California within the appropriate period from the date of delivery.
- Provide the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer written evidence of out-of-state license and registration within 60 days of providing the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer an affidavit, or
- With regard to a trailer registered in-state under the Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) program, provide written evidence of registration including a copy of the purchaser's U.S. Department of Transportation number or current Single State Registration System filing with the Department of Motor Vehicles within 60 days of providing the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer an affidavit for exemption, as applicable.

To meet the documentation requirements outlined above, a purchaser may use CDTFA-837, Affidavit for Section 6388 or 6388.5 Exemption from California Sales and Use Tax, or an alternative acceptable affidavit that includes all of the essential elements outlined above. The purchaser must provide a CDTFA-837, or an acceptable alternative, to the manufacturer, remanufacturer, or dealer of the truck or trailer no later than 30 days from the date the truck or trailer is taken outside California. Both the seller and the purchaser must retain these documents in their records for four years from the date of sale. The updated CDTFA-837 containing the new provisions of R&TC section 6388.5 will be available on the CDTFA website beginning January 1, 2020.

Please note: A section 6388 or 6388.5 exemption is not lost if the purchaser carries a load in the new vehicle or trailer when removing it from the state.

The CDTFA-447, Statement Pursuant to Section 6247 of the California Sales and Use Tax Law, and CDTFA-448, Statement of Delivery Outside of California, are for use to relieve a seller from the obligation to collect sales or use tax when the property is delivered outside of California. They should not be used to substantiate the exemption provided by R&TC section 6388.5 for a truck or trailer delivered in California.

For more information
If you have additional questions regarding this notice, you may call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711). Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.