

AIRCRAFT AND CALIFORNIA TAX

Publication 79A • October 2018



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION**

Under California law, sales or use tax and personal property tax generally apply to the sale, purchase, or ownership of an aircraft located in this state. This publication provides a brief overview of the sales and use tax.

If you would like more information, please contact the appropriate state or county agency. Please do not call the Federal Aviation Administration.

For Information

Internet

www.cdtfa.ca.gov

Customer Service Center

1-800-400-7115

TTY:711

Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.

Consumer Use Tax Section

For questions about reporting use tax on your aircraft, call the Consumer Use Tax Section.

1-916-445-9524

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate

For information about your rights under the Sales and Use Tax Law, call the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA)

[Taxpayers' Rights Advocate](tel:1-888-324-2798) at 1-888-324-2798 or send a fax to 1-916-323-3319.

Personal Property Tax

Call your [local county assessor](#).

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

Use Tax Payment on the Purchase of an Aircraft

NAME

ADDRESS

DAYTIME PHONE

()

EMAIL ADDRESS

DATE OF PURCHASE

PURCHASE PRICE

COUNTY WHERE HANGARED

YEAR

MAKE

MODEL

SERIAL NUMBER

TAIL NUMBER

AMOUNT PAID \$

Please detach this panel and mail it, along with your payment, to the address below. Include a copy of the bill of sale that verifies the total purchase price and the date of the sale. To verify the location of the aircraft, please also include copies of hangar or tie-down receipts or a copy of the county personal property tax assessment on the aircraft.

Make your check payable to the "California Department of Tax and Fee Administration." Write the aircraft tail number on your check. Enclose your reply in an envelope and mail to:

Consumer Use Tax Section
California Department of
Tax and Fee Administration
P.O. Box 942879,
Sacramento, CA 94279-8001



SALES AND USE TAXES

Is my purchase of an aircraft subject to sales or use tax?

Unless an exemption applies, either sales or use tax must be reported on aircraft purchased for use in California (including aircraft that are purchased out of state).

The law allows several exemptions. For example, tax may not apply to your purchase if the aircraft:

- Was purchased for use outside California,
- Will be used in interstate or foreign commerce,
- Will be used as a common carrier, or
- Was purchased from a qualified family member as specified in section 6285 of the Sales and Use Tax Law.

Also, tax does not apply if you received the aircraft as a gift.

For more information on aircraft acquisitions that are not subject to use tax, please call the Consumer Use Tax Section at 1-916-445-9524.

If tax is due, who reports it?

- **If you purchase the aircraft from a California dealer engaged in the business of selling aircraft**

The dealer must report sales tax on the sale unless he or she is acting as a broker.

- **If you purchased the aircraft through a California licensed aircraft broker**

The broker may, but is not required to collect and report the use tax. If the broker did not collect use tax, you are required to report it to the CDTFA, as explained in the next column (see *"If I am required to report use tax, how do I do it?"*)

If the broker collects and reports the correct amount of tax, you have no additional use tax liability. However, if the CDTFA determines that insufficient tax has been collected and reported, you will be billed for the additional tax.

If the broker collects an amount for use tax but fails to report it to the CDTFA, you may be billed for the amount due. However, if you

purchased the aircraft on or after January 1, 1996, and have documentation showing you paid the use tax to the broker, you will be credited for the amount of tax paid to the broker.

- **If you purchase the aircraft from another seller**

If you purchase the aircraft from someone other than a California aircraft dealer (for example, from a private party or an out-of-state retailer who does not have an outlet or agents in this state), you are generally required to report use tax to the CDTFA.

If I am required to report use tax, how do I do it?

To calculate the amount due, multiply the use tax rate in effect on the date of purchase by the purchase price of the aircraft. The use tax rate is the same as the sales tax rate and is based on where you principally hangar the aircraft. For example, if you reside in Orange County but keep the aircraft in Los Angeles County, you must pay tax at the rate charged in Los Angeles County. If you need information regarding the tax rate, please call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711).

- **If you hold a valid seller's permit or consumer's use tax account**

If you are a registered seller and have purchased the aircraft for purposes other than for resale, you should report the tax on your sales and use tax return for the reporting period in which you purchased the aircraft. List the amount of the purchase on your return, under purchases subject to use tax.

- **If you do not hold a valid seller's permit or consumer's use tax account**

You must report and pay the use tax due on an aircraft directly to the CDTFA. You can report your purchase(s) subject to use tax on our website at www.cdtfa.ca.gov, by selecting **Register**, and then select *Pay Use Tax or File an Exemption for a Vehicle, Vessel, Aircraft, or Mobile Home* or *Request Use Tax Clearance for DMV/House and Community Development*. Once you have registered, you may pay any use tax due on aircraft by filing your return. You can also register to report use tax in person at any of the **CDTFA offices**.

For further assistance, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711). Please have the following information available at the time of registration:

- Name and address of both the purchaser and seller
- Identification number of the property purchased such as the tail number, documentation number, or serial number
- Make, model, and year of property
- Date of Purchase
- Total Purchase Price
- Location where property will be used, stored, or registered, or

If you do not have access to the Internet, please complete the panel on the left, and mail it with a check for the amount due.

Your tax payment is due on or before the last day of:

- The month following the month you were mailed a return by the CDTFA, or
- The twelfth month following the month in which you purchased the aircraft, if you did not receive a return from the CDTFA, whichever period expires first.

Penalty and interest charges will begin to accrue once the due date has passed.

Statute of limitations. The CDTFA, through regular audits and other sources, locates information on and investigates sales of aircraft on which tax has not been reported and paid. If a taxpayer has not filed a return, the CDTFA generally has eight years from the due date of the return in which to issue a billing. If a taxpayer has filed a return but has not reported the tax due, the CDTFA generally has three years after the due date of the return in which to issue a billing.



PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

In addition to sales or use tax, personal property tax may be due. Please contact your [local county assessor's office](#) for more information.