



Delivery Charges

Provincial Sales Tax Act

Latest Revision: *This bulletin has been rewritten and replaces the previous version dated December 2016. For a summary of the key changes, see Latest Revision at the end of this document.*

This bulletin explains how PST applies to delivery and other transportation charges (referred to in this bulletin as delivery charges), and to goods that are damaged, destroyed or lost in transit.

This bulletin does not apply to ready-mixed concrete (see [Bulletin PST 136](#), *Concrete*).

This bulletin does not provide information on containers, labels and packaging materials that are included at the time goods are sold or are used during delivery (see [Bulletin PST 305](#), *Containers and Packaging Materials*).

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Delivery Charges.....	2
Goods that are Damaged, Destroyed or Lost in Transit.....	6

Overview

PST must be calculated on the **total purchase price** paid by the purchaser for taxable goods. The total purchase price includes:

- The value of any services accepted by the seller on account of the purchase price
- Any charges for financing, interest, customs and excise
- Any delivery charges (including shipping and handling) incurred at or before the time that title to the goods transfers to the purchaser

In most cases, delivery charges are incurred at or before the time title to the goods transfers. As a result, you generally charge PST on delivery charges as they form part of the taxable purchase price of the goods.

Incurring Delivery Charges and Transfer of Title

Delivery charges are considered to be incurred at the time the contract for delivery is entered into and your customer agrees to pay the charges. The charges do not have to be invoiced or paid to be incurred.

When Title Transfers

Generally, when goods are sold and delivered, title transfers when:

- the sales contract is entered into, **and**
- the specific good being purchased under that contract is identified and in a state ready to be delivered or transported.

Transferring title can also occur at a later time if set out in the contract (e.g. at the time the goods are delivered).

If you have questions on when title transfers in your situation, including other types of sales (e.g. sales of future goods), please contact us at CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca

Delivery Charges

Taxable Delivery Charges

You must charge PST on delivery charges that form part of the purchase price for taxable goods in the following situations:

- The goods are delivered from within BC and the delivery charges are incurred at or before the time title to the goods transfers
- The goods are delivered from outside BC to a purchaser in BC

The following examples assume that title transfers based on the general rule above.

Example 1:

Ash purchases a sofa from a used furniture store. He asks for the sofa to be delivered to his home and arranges for delivery at the time of sale. The furniture store must charge Ash PST on the delivery charge because the charge was incurred at the time the sales contract was made and at the same time title transferred.

Example 2:

Gary purchases an electric bicycle from a bicycle shop and asks for fenders to be added and have the bicycle delivered to his home. The bicycle shop installs the fenders the next day and later calls Gary to inform him that the electric bicycle is ready for delivery. The bicycle shop must charge Gary PST on the delivery charge because the charge was incurred at the time the sales contract was made and before title transferred.

Example 3:

Jessie orders a dress from a clothing store that has eight of those dresses in stock. She completes the bill of sale online that includes delivery. The clothing store must charge Jessie PST on the delivery charge because the charge was incurred at the time the bill of sale was completed online and before title transferred.

Example 4:

Ritchie purchases a blender online from a retailer located in Alberta and requests that the blender be delivered to his home in Castlegar. If the online retailer is a PST collector, the online retailer must charge Ritchie PST on the delivery charge because the blender is delivered from outside BC into BC. In this situation, for the purposes of the PST, it does not matter when title to the blender transfers. If the online retailer is not a PST collector, Ritchie must self-assess (pay directly to us) the PST on the blender and the delivery charge.

Non-Taxable Delivery Charges

Exempt Goods

You do not charge PST on delivery charges for goods that are exempt from PST (e.g. goods purchased for resale).

Example:

James orders a non-motorized bicycle over the Internet that includes delivery. The bicycle shop does not charge James PST on the delivery charge because non-motorized bicycles are specifically exempt from PST.

Delivery in BC – Delivery Charges After Title Has Passed (Customer Owned Goods)

You do not charge PST on delivery charges for taxable goods if:

- the goods are delivered from within BC, and
- at the time the delivery charges are incurred, title to the goods has already passed to the purchaser (the goods are “customer owned goods”). See section above, When Title Transfers.

The following example assumes that title transfers based on the general rule above.

Example:

Misty orders a custom door from a building centre in BC and is immediately invoiced by the seller. Three weeks later, the building centre makes the door and contacts Misty to let her know the door is ready for pickup.

Misty intended to pick the door up from the building centre. However, when the building centre called to let her know the door was ready, she decided to have them deliver the door. A new invoice is drawn up for the delivery charges. The delivery charge does not form part of the purchase price for the door and the building centre does not charge Misty PST on the delivery charge because the charge was incurred after title transferred.

Goods Shipped Outside BC by the Seller

You do not charge PST on the purchase price or the delivery charges of goods you ship outside BC if:

- the goods are to be shipped or delivered to a location outside BC, and
- no use is to be made by the purchaser of the goods while the goods are in BC (other than storage by the seller).

To show why you did not collect PST on these sales, you must retain evidence that the goods were shipped or delivered to an out-of-province location (e.g. bills of lading, shipping invoices or similar documentation).

Taxable and Non-Taxable Goods Included in Same Delivery

If both taxable and non-taxable goods are included in the same delivery, and the delivery charge is incurred at or before the time that title to the goods transfers, PST applies to the portion of the delivery charge that can be reasonably attributed to the taxable goods. The following are examples of how delivery charges can be reasonably attributed for PST purposes.

Example 1:

Brock purchases a \$20 book (exempt) and a \$10 toy (taxable) from an online book store. The goods are shipped together from a fulfillment centre in BC. The delivery charge is incurred at the time of sale and is separately stated on the sales invoice. The online book store charges Brock \$9 for expedited shipping and attributes the delivery charge to each item based on purchase price. The online book store charges PST on \$13.00 (the \$10 price for the toy and 1/3 of the \$9 charge for delivery).

Example 2:

Tracey purchases 4 books for \$40 (exempt) and a video game for \$60 (taxable) from an online book store in BC. The goods are shipped together from the book store's location in BC. The delivery charge is incurred at the time of sale and is separately stated on the sales invoice. The book store charges Tracey \$10 for shipping and attributes the delivery charge equally to each item based on the number of items. The online book store charges PST on \$62.00 (the \$60 price for the video game and 1/5 of the \$10 charge for delivery).

In addition to the methods described in the above examples, it may be reasonable to allocate delivery charges based on the weight or size of the items. Other methods may also be reasonable.

Delivery Charges Related to the Lease of Taxable Goods

Taxable Delivery Charges

You charge PST on delivery charges that are mandatory under a lease agreement. In addition, optional delivery charges are taxable when taxable goods are leased outside BC and are shipped to the lessee in BC. You charge PST even if these charges are separately stated on the invoice because the charges form part of the lease price for the goods.

Non-Taxable Delivery Charges

You do not charge PST on optional delivery charges, except when taxable goods are leased outside of BC and are shipped to the lessee in BC (see above).

Delivery Without a Sale or Lease of Goods

Goods Delivered within BC, or from BC to Outside BC

You do not charge PST on delivery charges not related to the sale or lease of taxable goods, provided the goods are transported between locations within BC, or from a location in BC to outside BC (e.g. PST does not apply to charges for transporting a customer's furniture from Victoria to Vancouver, from Kamloops to Moose Jaw or from Chilliwack to Spokane).

Goods Delivered from Outside BC into BC

When taxable goods are brought, sent or received into BC for use from outside BC (e.g. machinery brought into the province for use), PST applies to the purchase price of the goods. In this case, PST applies to the purchase price of the goods including delivery charges and any other expenses (e.g. service, customs and excise) incurred before the taxable goods are used in BC.

However, PST does not apply to delivery charges related to goods brought into the province by new residents of BC if the goods qualify for the exemption for new residents.

For more information, see [Bulletin PST 310](#), *Goods Brought into BC* and [Bulletin PST 306](#), *Goods Brought into BC by New Residents*.

Delivery Charges and Related Services

Related services are services provided to goods, or services provided to install goods. Generally, if a good is taxable when purchased (e.g. a motor vehicle), services provided to that item (e.g. vehicle repair and maintenance) are also taxable unless a specific exemption applies.

You do not charge PST on delivery charges for your customer's goods to which a related service has been provided when such charges are separately stated on the sales invoice.

For more information, see [Bulletin PST 301](#), *Related Services*.

Delivery Charges on Taxable Repair Parts and Taxable Replacement Parts

PST applies to delivery charges related to taxable repair or taxable replacement parts as follows.

- You charge PST on delivery charges related to the purchase of repair parts and replacement parts, as the charges are part of the purchase price paid to obtain the parts.
- If repair is undertaken by a mechanic at the location of your customer's equipment and repair or replacement parts are delivered directly to that location, PST applies to the full amount charged for the repair and replacement parts, including charges for freight to the location of repair, as this is the point of sale.

Goods that are Damaged, Destroyed or Lost in Transit

Replacement Goods

How PST applies to goods damaged, destroyed or lost in transit depends on whether you or the purchaser is responsible for replacement of the goods. Responsibility for replacement depends on whether you or the purchaser had title to the goods at the time they were damaged, destroyed or lost.

- If the goods are damaged, destroyed or lost **before** title passes to the purchaser and you are responsible for replacing the goods at no additional charge to the purchaser, you do not pay PST on either the goods damaged, destroyed or lost, or on the replacement goods.
- If the goods are damaged, destroyed or lost **after** the transfer of title and the purchaser is responsible for replacing the goods, the purchaser must pay PST on the purchase price of the replacement goods. PST paid on the original purchase is **not** refundable.
- You do not charge PST if the replacement goods are provided free of charge.

Sales of Damaged Goods

You must charge PST on taxable goods sold at a reduced purchase price, such as damaged goods, demo models and goods sold as “open box” items (there is no exemption for these types of sales).



Need more info?

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The information in this bulletin is for your convenience and guidance and is not a replacement for the legislation.

Latest Revision

March 2018

- This bulletin has been rewritten to correct errors in the bulletin as to when PST applies to delivery charges.
- The previous version of this bulletin incorrectly stated that delivery charges were not subject to PST for goods delivered in BC, where title to the goods passed at the seller's premises. If you did not charge PST on delivery charges, as in the above scenario, on or before March 31, 2018, you will not be subject to a penalty. For more information, see Regulation 48/2018.

References: *Provincial Sales Tax Act*, sections 1 “use” and 10; Provincial Sales Tax Exemption and Refund Regulation, section 26.