



State of Washington  
Department of Revenue

# Excise Tax Advisory

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Excise Tax Advisories (ETA) are interpretive statements issued by the Department of Revenue under authority of RCW 34.05.230. ETAs explain the Department's policy regarding how tax law applies to a specific issue or specific set of facts. They are advisory for taxpayers; however, the Department is bound by these advisories until superseded by Court action, Legislative action, rule adoption, or an amendment to or cancellation of the ETA.

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NUMBER: 387.08.156

CONVERSION DATE: July 1, 1998

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**This ETA is cancelled effective January 29, 2009. There is no need for this document as WAC 458-20-156 explains that retail sales tax applies to purchase of supplies by abstract, title insurance, and escrow businesses.**

## TITLE INSURANCE COMPANIES RETAIL SALES TAX LIABILITY UPON SUPPLIES

Issued June 19, 1970

Are title insurance companies required to pay the retail sales tax on supplies and materials purchased in connection with the business?

The department holds that persons engaged in the title insurance business are consumers of all materials and supplies used in connection therewith and must pay the retail sales tax upon all such purchases. A title insurance business is the "consumer" of all tangible personal property purchased as it is a service business as opposed to a business which vends tangible personal property in the regular course of business. The fact that the legislature classifies title insurance services as Retailing does not change this basic distinction.

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***ETBS have been made Excise Tax Advisories, and have retained their old number. Advisories with a 2 (plus three digits) are new advisories, ETBs that have been revised and readopted after review under the Department's regulatory improvement program, or advisories that have been revised and/or readopted.***

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