

Excise Tax Advisory

Excise Tax Advisories are interpretive statements authorized by RCW 34.05.230.

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How are Port Charges for Dockage, Berthage, and Moorage of Ocean Vessels Taxed?

Question

What tax classifications apply to a Washington port's income from dockage, berthage, and moorage of ocean vessels when the activity is part of the port's functions?

Reporting income

Ports assess charges for ocean vessel accommodations for docking, berthing, and mooring. These charges are taxable under the Stevedoring Business & Occupation Tax classification when the vessel accommodation is provided for the purpose of conducting activities pertinent to the movement of goods and commodities in waterborne interstate or foreign commerce as provided in RCW 82.04.260. When ocean vessels are docked for other purposes, such as repair or lay berth, the income to the port is subject to the Public Utility Tax. RCW 82.16.010 and 82.16.020.

Recreational moorage

For reporting instructions for income derived from moorage charges for vessels docked at port recreational facilities please see WAC 458-20-118 *Sale or rental of real estate, license to use real estate* and 458-20-189 *Sales to and by the state of Washington, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and fire districts*.

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