

Information Notice

NOTICE
The Retail Sales Tax Act
Issued March 2009

EXEMPTION FOR EDUCATIONAL WORKBOOKS

The 2009 Budget announced that effective May 1, 2009 the retail sales tax exemption for books will be expanded to include educational workbooks.

Educational workbooks are publications, either in print or electronic format, which contain practice problems or questions and space for the user to provide answers. Educational workbooks may also contain space for activities that assist in the development of conceptual understanding, cognitive abilities and motor skills. Examples include:

- workbooks used in conjunction with an educational course
- workbooks designed to encourage the development of reading, writing, speaking or arithmetic skills
- workbooks used in preparation for an exam, such as the General Educational Development Tests, or for admission to a university or college faculty, such as the Law School Admission Test, Medical College Admission Test or the General Management Admission Test
- children's activity books, such as colouring books, connect the dots and sticker books

To qualify for exemption, an educational workbook must meet the 4 exemption conditions required for a book, including, produced for use by the general public, published solely for educational, technical, cultural or literary purposes, contain no advertising and be bound with a cover.

The following are examples of publications that do not qualify for exemption:

- organizational training manuals
- books of blank pages
- work schedule/completion log books
- logic puzzle books or magazines (i.e. crosswords, word searches and sudokus)

Vendors are to adjust their point of sale systems to exempt educational workbooks effective May 1, 2009. Further information may be obtained from:

Winnipeg Office

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Taxation Division
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Westman Regional Office

Manitoba Finance
Taxation Division
314, 340 - 9th Street
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