



FUBA i s s u e s

Florida United Businesses Association

OUR BUSINESS IS SMALL BUSINESS

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ATTENTION RETAILERS: TAX-FREE DAYS ARE AUGUST 12th – AUGUST 14th

If your business sells books, clothing, footwear, certain accessories, or certain school supplies in Florida, the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday may impact you. For 3 days in mid-August, these items will not be subject to state sales tax (if they meet certain price restrictions).

Here are some details about this year's tax-free shopping days:

- The tax-free days will run from 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 12th through midnight on Sunday, August 14th. Please note: there are only 3 tax-free days this year; prior tax holidays were 10 days long.
- Tax-free items are clothing and footwear selling for \$75 or less. Also exempt are school supplies selling for \$15 or less.
- Please note: This year, books are NOT included in the sales tax holiday. This is a change from previous years.
- To be tax-free, **clothes and shoes** must sell for \$75 or less. "Clothing" does not include watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, or sporting equipment. These items are taxable.
- To be tax-free, **school supplies** must sell for \$15 or less each. "School supplies" means pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, notebooks, notebook filler paper, legal pads, composition books, poster papers, scissors, tape, glue or paste, rulers, computer disks, protractors, compasses, and calculators.

Retailers are not required to keep additional or special records for the tax-free days. Simply continue the sales tax records that you normally would keep. Sales of eligible items that are sold tax-free from August 12th through the 14th should be reported as exempt sales on your sales tax return for that period. The Florida Department of Revenue has mailed a detailed Tax Information Publication to all active registered sales tax dealers explaining:

- A detailed list of items that are tax-free and which ones are taxable
- What to do when a product contains both exempt and taxable items
- How to deal with gift certificates
- How to handle exchanges of tax exempt purchases after the tax-free days are over
- How to do refunds during/after the tax-free days
- How to handle coupons, rebates, discounts, rain checks and layaways
- How to handle tax-free sales in Bay County

If you would like a copy of the Department's Taxpayer Information Publication on the sales tax holiday, please visit the FUBA website at www.FUBA.org and click on *Small Business Alert* on the left-hand side. Also on our website is a detailed, alphabetized list of items and whether they will be tax-free or not. If you have questions about the sales tax holiday, call the Department of Revenue's toll-free Taxpayer Assistance line at 800-352-3671 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Or, you can visit the Department's website at myflorida.com/dor.

REGISTERED CONTRACTORS: STATE LICENSES HAVE TO BE RENEWED BY AUGUST 31ST

Registered contractors are contractors who hold a local contractor's license issued by a city or county (not the state of Florida) that must be registered with the state. If you have a locally-issued license in any of the following categories, you must register your local license with the state:

- General contracting
- Building
- Residential contracting
- Sheet metal
- Roofing
- Air-conditioning
- Mechanical
- Swimming pool/spa
- Plumbing
- Underground utility and excavation
- Solar
- Pollutant storage
- Glass and glazing

After receiving their state registration, locally-licensed contractors may perform construction work only in the cities or counties where they hold a license and in any adjoining locale that will accept their registration. They are not allowed to work statewide.

The state registration of your local license is good for 2 years and expires at the end of August in odd-numbered years. If you are a registered contractor, you have until August 31st to complete your continuing education requirements and pay the \$209 license renewal fee.

Please note: If you hold a locally-issued license in a field not listed above, such as cabinets, countertops, flooring, paint, wallpaper or window treatments, **you do not have to register your license with the state** and this article does not apply to you.

If you are a state-certified contractor, which means you have passed the Florida contractor's exam and hold statewide contractor's license in one of the fields in the

bulleted list, your license is good through August 31st of 2012. This article does not apply to state-certified contractors.

You can renew the registration of your local contractor's license through the Department of Business & Professional Regulation's website. Go to **www.myfloridalicense.com** and click on *Renew/Maintain a License*. If you have any questions about what type of work requires a license in Florida, please call the FUBA offices at 800-262-4483 and ask for Karen or Lance.

TWO NEW STATE CONTRACTOR'S LICENSES NOW AVAILABLE

Glass and Glazing Contractors:

The state has established a glass and glazing contractor's license, which is now required to perform window installation and replacement. If you don't have the glass and glazing license and you want to perform this type of work, you will need either a general, building or residential contractor's license or a local license which includes window installation and replacement in its scope of work.

If you obtain the certified glass and glazing license from the state, cities and counties cannot require you to get a local license to perform this type of work.

Tower Specialty Contractors:

The Construction Industry Licensing Board has developed a new specialty license for the construction of cell and energy towers. Previously contractors constructing cell and energy towers had to qualify as general contractors. Most contractors with tower construction experience lacked the substantive building construction experience required for a general contractor's license. Tower Specialty license applicants may utilize their tower construction experience, but are still required to pass the general contractor examinations.

For more information about these licenses, please contact the Department of Business & Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395 or visit **www.MyFloridalicense.com**>**Doing Business With Us>Construction Industry.**