



NEWS NOTES

2022 Quarter 2

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS!



Cruise ships transiting in and out of Juneau

Photo courtesy of Kara Johnson

Alaska is in full summer mode! The fishing fleets are out, subsistence nets and hooks are in the water, we are gathering the first wave of berries (salmonberries), and the tourists are back after the COVID-19 hiatus. Over 2 million tourists come to Alaska annually – many make the trip of their lifetime via cruise ships. In Juneau, the state capitol and where AMSTP is located, we can have up to six cruise ships a day. We welcome these visitors which support 10% of Alaska's jobs, provide over \$100 million in state revenue and \$88 million in municipal revenue. If a visit to Alaska is in your future, let us know and we can provide suggestions for the best crab cakes! (source: Alaska Resource Development Council)

Food is Taxable in Alaska

In many ways, sales tax in Alaska is simple compared to the Lower 48 – pretty much everything is taxed. Unlike other states, most Alaskan communities do not exempt tax collection for grocery food, prepared food, non-prepared food, nutritional supplements, vitamins, and other edible products. Per federal rules, all WIC and SNAP food purchases are tax exempt. We have four jurisdictions that have limited exemptions for food products. Aleknagik and Selawik exempt groceries purchased outside the city for personal consumption, not for resale. Homer and Kenai Peninsula Borough have a seasonal sales tax exemption for non-prepared food, effective September 1 – May 31.

Please visit our website for a summary of tax rules for food products: <https://arsstc.org/exemption-summaries/>

GovOS Notifications

AMSTP recently implemented an automatic notification system for the GovOS sales tax filing platform.



Every Tuesday, you will receive an email letting you know of any open tasks on your account. An open task can be for a tax filing, amended return, or account balance. The notification will state the due date and amount of time past the due date. The system does not distinguish between an account credit or balance due. If you use a third party to file on your behalf, just review the email to make sure there are no delinquent filings and take no further action. If you think you are getting notified about incorrect filings, please contact one of our staff at AMSTP@akml.org.

AMSTP is hiring! If you or someone you know wants to join our team as a tax technician, please consider [applying here](#).

Sales Tax Jurisdiction	Effective Date
Excursion Inlet	5/1/2022
City of Quinhagak	5/1/2022
City of Pelican	2/1/2022
City of Kotzebue	1/1/2022
City of Aniak	10/1/2021
City of Nenana	10/1/2021
City of Selawik	8/1/2021
City of Ouzinkie	7/1/2021
City of Aleknagik	5/1/2021
City of North Pole	4/1/2021
City of Houston	11/1/2020
City of Ketchikan	11/1/2020
City of Saxman	11/1/2020
City of Bethel	10/1/2020
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9/1/2020
City of Thorne Bay	9/1/2020
City of Mountain Village	8/1/2020
City of Saint Paul	8/1/2020
City of Togiak	8/1/2020
City of Toksook Bay	8/1/2020
City of Craig	7/1/2020
City of Dillingham	7/1/2020
City of Tenakee Springs	7/1/2020
City & Borough Yakutat	7/1/2020
City of Cordova	6/1/2020
City of Gustavus	6/1/2020
City of Kodiak	6/1/2020
Petersburg Borough	6/1/2020
City & Borough Sitka	6/1/2020
City of Unalaska	6/1/2020
City of Adak	5/1/2020
City & Borough Haines	5/1/2020
City of Nome	5/1/2020
City of Palmer	5/1/2020
City of Homer	4/1/2020
City & Borough Juneau	4/1/2020
City of Kenai	4/1/2020
Kenai Peninsula Borough	4/1/2020
City of Seldovia	4/1/2020
City of Seward	4/1/2020
City of Soldotna	4/1/2020
City of Wasilla	4/1/2020
City & Borough Wrangell	4/1/2020

Alcoholic Beverage Jurisdiction	Effective Date
City of Dillingham	5/1/2021
City of Bethel	5/1/2021
City of North Pole	4/1/2021
Municipality of Anchorage	2/1/2021
City of Craig	2/1/2021
City Borough Juneau	2/1/2021

AMSTP Administering Local Sales Tax Collection

The Alaska Municipal Sales Tax Program (AMSTP) has expanded to include collection of local sales tax for a handful of Alaskan communities. These include Angoon (starting in September 2022), Selawik, and Thorne Bay. If your company has physical presence in any of these communities, you should have received a paper notification with your log-in information. Filers in these communities are now required file the local collection through the AMSTP sales tax filing portal. Note – [this is a different website than the ARSSTC remote sales tax filing portal](#). Questions? Please contact one of our staff at AMSTP@akml.org.



ARSSTC Setup in Avalara Tax Compliance Software

We have worked with Avalara to create a guide for setting up your remote seller business in the Avalara tax collection software system ([instructions here](#)). There are two interfaces to set up. The first is for taxing jurisdictions – you need to select the member communities (list of [ARSSTC members is here](#)). You are responsible for selecting new communities when we notify you that they have adopted the remote sales tax rules. The second interface is for the tax form. Add only the single US-AK-RSR form. Do not add individual jurisdictions unless you have physical presence there.

Payment Types and Fees

Remote sellers can pay sales tax three different ways. The system defaults to e-check: you are prompted for bank routing and account numbers. **The system does not save this payment information.** Double check the numbers you enter each time! The main reason for e-check bounces is a typo. The second main reason for an e-check bounce is our debit block id is not set up on your end of the transfer. The ARSSTC debit block id is 9000099340. **There is a \$25 fee for e-check bounces.** Alternately, you can pay via ACH Credit which requires you to send us the money from your bank. Contact us if you need our bank information. Please do not send a wire transfer. **There is a \$10 fee for a wire transfer.** Thirdly, you can pay with a credit/debit card – **there is a three percent charge.** These fees cover the processing fees we are charged.



WE DO NOT ACCEPT PAPER CHECKS OR PAPER RETURNS FOR REMOTE SELLERS.

If we receive a paper filing, we will contact you to arrange to return or shred the documents.



Salmonberries

Photo courtesy of KTOO