INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE
OF EXEMPT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATES

1. Good Faith - In general, a seller or lessor who accepts an exemption certificate in "good faith" is relieved of liability for collection or payment of tax upon transactions covered by the certificate. The question of "good faith" is one of fact and depends upon a consideration of all the conditions surrounding the transaction. A vendor is presumed to be familiar with the law and the regulations pertinent to the business in which he deals.

In order for "good faith" to be established, the following conditions must be met:

(a) The certificate must contain no statement or entry which the seller or lessor knows, or has reason to know, is false or misleading.
(b) The certificate must be an officially promulgated certificate form or a proper reproduction thereof.
(c) The certificate must be dated and executed in accordance with the published instructions, and must be complete and regular in every respect and may not be altered by the purchaser in any way.

The vendor may, therefore, accept this "good faith" Exempt Organization Certificate as a basis for exempting sales to the signatory purchaser provided that:

(d) The purchaser's Exempt Organization Permit number, indicating that the purchaser is registered with the New Jersey Division of Taxation, is entered on the face of the Certificate.
(e) The purchaser has entered all other information required on the form.
(f) The vendor has no reason to believe that the property to be purchased is of a type not ordinarily used by the purchaser for the purpose described in this Certificate.

2. Improper Certificate - Sales transactions which are not supported by properly executed exemption certificates shall be deemed to be taxable retail sales. The burden of proof that the tax was not required to be collected is upon the vendor.

Exempt Organization Certificates (ST-5) may be used only when an exempt organization is the direct purchaser and payer of record. Any bill, invoice or receipt given by the vendor must show the exempt organization as the purchaser. Payment must be from the funds of the exempt organization.

The exemption from sales and use tax does not extend to officers, members or employees of the organization. Personal purchases made by such individuals are subject to sales tax. An organization's exemption does not extend to its subordinate or affiliated units. When making purchases, subordinate units may not use the exemption number assigned to the parent organization. Such misuse may result in the revocation of the exemption granted.

3. Correction of Certificate - In general, vendors have 60 days after date of sale to obtain a corrected certificate where the original certificate lacked material information required to be set forth in said certificate or where such information is incorrectly stated.

4. Additional Purchases by Same Purchaser - This Certificate will serve to cover additional purchases by the same purchaser of the same general type of property. However, each subsequent sales slip or purchase invoice based on this Certificate must show the purchaser's name, address and Exempt Organization Permit number for purposes of verification.

5. Retention of Certificates - Certificates must be retained by the vendor for a period of not less than three years from the date of the last sale covered by the certificate. Certificates must be in the physical possession of the vendor and available for inspection on or before the 60th day following the date of the transaction to which the certificate relates.

Rules permit exempt organizations to use Form ST-5 when purchasing meals through a restaurant or caterer and when renting rooms in hotels or motels. (N.J.A.C. 18:24-9.12) Only Certificates bearing the Director's signature will be honored.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF TAXATION
CN-269, Trenton, N.J. 08646-0269
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REPRODUCTION OF THIS CERTIFICATE MAY ONLY BE MADE BY THE EXEMPT ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ISSUED WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE DIVISION OF TAXATION.