

**Revenue Information Bulletin
No. 02-011
July 1, 2002
Excise Taxes**

Cigarette Tax Increase and the Distribution of Available Cigarette Stamps

Act 19 (HB 157) of the 2002 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature increased the tax on cigarettes by twelve-twentieths of one cent (12 cents per pack of twenty cigarettes). The Act becomes effective on July 1, 2002, and the increase applies to products purchased by retail dealers and wholesale dealers on and after August 1, 2002. The increase does not apply to stamped products and unused tax stamps in the possession of wholesale dealers prior to August 1, 2002. Act 19 does not require a floor stock tax. No inventory is required other than the inventory indicated on Line 1 of the monthly tobacco tax return.

In order to facilitate distribution of available cigarette stamps in an equitable manner, the Department of Revenue will prioritize stamp sales in order to ensure every wholesaler's normal allotment during the month of July. Requests for excess orders will be filled on a pro-rata basis using historical purchases as a base. Wholesalers should contact their regional office prior to placing July stamp orders for information regarding availability.

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to the Taxpayer Services Division in Baton Rouge at 225-219-7656 or to any of the Department's regional offices.

Cynthia Bridges
Secretary

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