

**Revenue Information Bulletin  
No. 05-008  
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Excise Taxes**

**Distribution of Available Cigarette Stamps**

During the 2005 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 437 was introduced proposing an increase in the cigarette taxes of one hundred-twentieths per cigarette or \$1 per package of twenty cigarettes. This instrument, if enacted as currently written, would become effective on July 1, 2005, and the increase would apply to products purchased by retail dealers and wholesale dealers on and after August 1, 2005. The increase would not apply to stamped products and unused tax stamps in the possession of wholesale dealers prior to August 1, 2005. The instrument does not require a floor stock tax and no inventory would be required other than the inventory indicated on Line 1 of the monthly tobacco tax return.

The Department is already receiving an increase in stamp orders. In order to facilitate the distribution of cigarette stamps contractually available to the Department of Revenue in an equitable manner, the Department will prioritize stamp sales in order to ensure every wholesaler's normal allotment. Each wholesaler's purchase of tobacco stamps will be limited to their "normal" volume based on historical data of purchases during the previous months. Wholesalers should contact their regional office prior to placing 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.

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