



# DIPLOMATIC TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



These are samples of the tax exemption cards issued by the U.S. Department of State to certain foreign government personnel and offices. The plastic cards, which are the size of credit cards and have a hologram, are valid nationwide and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Cards are used at the point of sale for exemption from state and local sales, restaurant, lodging, and similar taxes normally charged to customers. Some cards have restrictions on tax-free purchases. See explanations below. Tax exemption cards are not valid for exemption from taxes on telephones, other utilities, gasoline purchases or automobile purchases. Cards are not transferable; only the person whose photograph appears on the front side of card may use it.

## Tax Exemption Cards for Personal Purchases



### Blue Stripe

Full tax exemption on all personal and official purchases.



### Yellow Stripe

Full tax exemption on all personal purchases and official purchases except restricted category(ies) identified on the face of the card.

## Tax Exemption Cards for Mission (Official) Business



## Reverse of both Mission and Personal Tax Exemption Cards



Mission tax exemption cards are issued to embassies, consulates, and international organizations for official purchases only and for the sole benefit of the mission identified on the face of the card. All purchases must be made in the name of the mission and paid for by mission check or credit card (not cash or personal check). Personal purchases prohibited.

For questions regarding the tax exemption program, contact your State Tax Authority. You may also contact the regional office of the Office of Foreign Missions located nearest you.

|             |                |                |                |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Chicago     | (312) 353-5762 | New York       | (212) 826-4500 |
| Honolulu    | (808) 522-8125 | San Francisco  | (415) 744-2910 |
| Los Angeles | (310) 235-6292 | Washington, DC | (202) 895-3563 |
| Miami       | (954) 630-1146 |                |                |

OFM's mailing address (which will be reflected on future editions of the card):

Office of Foreign Missions  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20522-3303

Under the authority of the Foreign Missions Act, (22 USC 4301 et seq.), Tax Exemption Cards are issued to certain official personnel from foreign countries who are stationed in the United States while working as diplomats, consular officers, or staff members at foreign embassies and consulates, and other organizations such as the United Nations.

Tax exemption is a treaty obligation of the United States under Article VI of the Constitution. The United States is a party to various treaties and agreements which recognize diplomats as official, duly accredited representatives of foreign sovereign countries. Under international law, sovereign countries cannot impose certain taxes on accredited diplomats or other representatives of foreign countries.