

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE

Category: Engineering Firms	Tax Type: Sales & Use Tax
Brief Description: Engineering Firms Tax Matrix	Effective Date: 7-19-2023

The taxability of sales and purchases of tangible personal property and labor services by engineering firms are summarized below. While this document provides general information as to the taxability of sales and purchases of tangible personal property and labor services by businesses in the engineering industry, it may not necessarily cover every situation as the taxability may depend on facts and circumstances around the specific transaction. Should a more definitive determination be desired, businesses may request a letter ruling from the Department. [MODOR Letter Ruling Page](#)

This list is not all-inclusive.

Missouri sales or use tax applies to those purchases identified or designated as taxable in the chart below. The applicable Missouri sales or Missouri consumer’s use tax must be paid to the vendor or accrued and remitted directly to the Missouri Department of Revenue. Purchases from Missouri vendors may be reported using the retailer’s sales tax return. Purchases from outside this state which are delivered to this state are to be reported on the Missouri consumer’s use tax return.

Note: In the purchases section below, there are some references to whether or not the business is an “Engineering Firm Headquartered in this State”. That phrase is found in an exemption, Section 144.030.2(28), for purchases of computers, computer software, and computer security systems by architectural or engineering firms “headquartered in this state”.

The phrase “headquartered in this state” is defined to mean the office for the administrative management of at least four integrated facilities operated by the taxpayer is located in Missouri.

In counting the facilities to reach or exceed the number of four, the following criteria should be kept in mind.

- Do not count temporary sites set up at customers’ locations.
- Adjacent buildings count as one location, even if they have two or more separate addresses.
- Employees who work from home would not count as a separate location.

Sales by Engineering Firms including but not limited to: Electrical, Mechanical, Automotive, Aerospace, Chemical, Mining, Civil Engineering etc.

Sales by Engineering Firms:	Taxable/Exempt
Sales of engineering services and reports	Exempt
Drafting and design services	Exempt

AUDIT SERVICES

**ENGINEERING
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Sales by Engineering Firms (continued):	Taxable/Exempt
Forensic engineering	Exempt
Consulting services	Exempt
Construction management	Exempt
Simulation & testing	Exempt
Expert witness testimony	Exempt

Purchases by Engineering Firms:	Taxable/Exempt
Items purchased for resale	Exempt
Computers (except for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Taxable
Computers (for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Exempt
Computer peripherals such as keyboards, external monitors, printers, speakers, microphones, external expansion memory, etc.	Taxable
Computer security systems (except for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Taxable
Computer security systems (for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Exempt
Security equipment other than computer (real property installed by seller)	Exempt
Security equipment other than computer (tangible personal property)	Taxable
Security cameras & other security related equipment	Taxable
Security monitoring services	Exempt
Canned software and software upgrades to maintain or update software delivered via CD Rom (except for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Taxable
Canned software and software upgrades to maintain or update software delivered via CD Rom (for engineering firms headquartered in this state)	Exempt
Canned software provided via electronic download through the internet	Exempt
Custom software and software upgrades to maintain or update software developed for a single end user	Exempt
Office supplies such as office forms, staplers, paper, pens, pencils, labels, business cards, ink, toner, ribbon cartridge, etc.	Taxable
Shelving, display racks, display cases, suction tables, checkout counters, cash registers and supplies, storage cabinets, etc.	Taxable
Cleaning materials such as gloves, chemicals, waxes, etc.	Taxable

AUDIT SERVICES

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Purchases by Engineering Firms (continued):	Taxable/Exempt
Furniture and fixtures, including but not limited to: desks, lamps, tables, chairs, artwork, signs, plants and planters, shelving, etc.	Taxable
Promotional items including but not limited to: calendars, mugs, clothing, balloons, etc.	Taxable
Complimentary bottled water, coffee, soft drinks, creamer, sugar, cups and stir sticks, candy, etc.	Taxable
Break room supplies such as microwaves, refrigerators, tables, chairs and paper products	Taxable
Books, newspaper, and magazine subscriptions	Taxable
Educational materials such as posters, printed materials and literature, etc.	Taxable
Computer & internet equipment	Taxable
Donations of tangible personal property	Taxable
Specialty advertising	Taxable
Media advertising	Exempt
Continuing education courses	Exempt
Utilities	Taxable
Shipping, delivery, freight, and postage charges	Exempt
Handling charges	Taxable
Combined shipping & handling	Taxable
Streaming music services	Exempt
Janitorial supplies	Taxable
Trash & cleaning services	Exempt
Pest control services	Exempt
Uniforms	Taxable
Repairs, maintenance, and remodeling services to existing structure/facility through a hired contractor	Exempt
Warranty or service agreements for tangible personal property such as computers, printers, copiers, security equipment, etc.	Exempt