



Indiana Department of Revenue

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Sales Tax Information Bulletin #29

Subject: Sales of Food

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References: IC 6-2.5-1-11; IC 6-2.5-1-11.5; IC 6-2.5-1-12; IC 6-2.5-1-16; IC 6-2.5-1-20; IC 6-2.5-1-26; IC 6-2.5-1-28; IC 6-2.5-4-15; IC 6-2.5-5-20; IC 6-2.5-5-21; IC 6-2.5-5-21.5; IC 6-2.5-5-22; IC 6-2.5-5-35; IC 6-2.5-8-1; IC 6-2.5-11-1

Replaces Bulletin #29, dated April 2023

Disclaimer: Information bulletins are intended to provide nontechnical assistance to the general public. Every attempt is made to provide information that is consistent with the appropriate statutes, rules, and court decisions. Any information that is not consistent with the law, regulations, or court decisions is not binding on either the department or the taxpayer. Therefore, the information provided herein should serve only as a foundation for further investigation and study of the current law and procedures related to the subject matter covered herein.

Summary of Changes

Apart from technical, nonsubstantive changes, this bulletin has been changed to address the taxability of heated bakery products.

Introduction

Generally, the sale of food and food ingredients for human consumption is exempt from Indiana sales tax. Primarily, the exemption is limited to the sale of food and food ingredients commonly referred to as "grocery" food. The purpose of this bulletin is to assist Indiana retailers in the proper application of this exemption.

Non-Taxable Food Items

Food is defined as substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and that are consumed for their taste or nutritional value. The term does not include tobacco, alcoholic beverages, candy, dietary supplements, or soft drinks.

The Indiana sales tax does not apply to the sale of food and food ingredients if they are sold unheated and without eating utensils provided by the seller. For a list of examples of taxable and non-taxable food items, please refer to "Appendix A."

Taxable Food Items

Candy

Candy is defined as preparations of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. The fact that these preparations contain ingredients that, if purchased separately, are considered exempt does not exempt these preparations. The term does not include any preparation that contains flour listed on the label or any preparation that requires refrigeration. Based on this definition, many items commonly considered to be candy, including many candy bars, are not classified as "candy" for Indiana sales tax purposes (for examples, please refer to "Appendix A").

Baking chocolate and similar products that are intended for use in cooking will be considered exempt food within the meaning of this information bulletin unless they are in the form of bars, drops, or pieces and are sweetened.

Soft Drinks

Soft drinks are defined as nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. The term does not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes or greater than 50 percent vegetable or fruit juice by volume. Additionally, beverages that are advertised as being greater than 50 percent juice but are made from concentrate through a water extraction method, such as prune juice, would be taxable if they contain natural or artificial sweeteners. Further, frozen or powdered drink mixes are not sold in a liquid beverage form, and therefore would not be considered a soft drink even if they contained sweeteners.

Dietary Supplements

Sales of dietary supplements are subject to Indiana sales tax. The term *dietary supplements* means any product other than tobacco that:

- (1) Is intended to supplement the diet;
- (2) Contains one or more of the following ingredients:
 - a. Vitamins
 - b. Minerals
 - c. Herbs or other botanicals
 - d. Amino acids
 - e. A dietary substance for use by humans to increase the total dietary intake
 - f. Concentrates, metabolites, constituents, extracts, or a combination of any of the above ingredients;

- (3) Is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in the above form, is not represented as a conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet;
- (4) Is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the "Supplemental Facts" box found on the label and as required under 21 CFR 101.36.

Sales of food prescribed as medically necessary by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Indiana are exempt from the sales tax if dispensed by a registered pharmacist or sold by a licensed physician.

Prepared Food

Prepared food is taxable. Prepared food means the following:

- Food sold with utensils
- Food sold in a heated state
- Food where two or more ingredients are mixed

However, prepared food does **not** include:

- Bakery items (including bagels, bars, biscuits, bread, buns, cakes, cookies, croissants, danishes, donuts, muffins, pastries, pies, rolls, tarts, tortes, and tortillas)
- Food items sold by a seller whose proper primary NAICS classification is 311 food manufacturing (except subsector 3118, bakeries)

Even though these categories include items in which two or more food ingredients are mixed or combined by the seller and then sold as a single food item, they are specifically excluded by statute from being considered prepared food. These items are not taxable unless they are sold with eating utensils provided by the seller. For example, if a bakery provides utensils, the bakery items it sells would be subject to sales tax (except in the case of "bulk items") depending on whether the bakery qualifies as a restaurant or combination business using the test outlined in "Appendix B."

Food Sold with Utensils

All food items sold with eating utensils provided by the seller. Eating utensils includes plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws (a plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food). Except as provided below, food shall be considered to be sold with eating utensils provided by the seller when utensils are given to the purchaser or made available for self-service by the purchaser on the seller's premises. The taxability of food sold by a restaurant or a combination business is determined as follows:

A restaurant is a business that sells prepared food such as meals, sandwiches, or other food for consumption on or off the premises and which provides utensils. A business is considered a restaurant if 75% or more of the business's sales are of prepared food, as determined by the formula in "Appendix B."

Because utensils are provided by a restaurant, this subjects all food items ready for immediate consumption on or off the premises sold by the restaurant to tax, regardless of the portion size. This includes self-service food such as salad bars or drink islands, bakery items, and other items normally considered non-taxable, including bottled water, fruit, and potato chips. However, food sold without eating utensils provided by the seller that ordinarily requires cooking (as opposed to just reheating) by the consumer prior to consumption is excluded from prepared food, and is, therefore, exempt (e.g., prepackaged baking mixes).

Additionally, items that contain four or more servings packaged as one item and sold for a single price (a "bulk serving") do **not** become prepared food because the restaurant has utensils available. This includes both prepackaged servings and servings individually selected by the purchaser.

The sale of a bulk serving item by a restaurant would therefore be exempt unless: (1) the restaurant physically gives utensils to the customer, such as placing utensils in a bag or other container with the packaged item that is then handed to the customer; or (2) the food item is considered prepared food for another reason (it is sold in a heated state or is a combination of two or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller and then sold as a single food item). In either of those situations, the bulk serving is prepared food and remains taxable. Whenever available, serving sizes will be determined based on a label on an item sold. If no label is available, a seller will reasonably determine the number of servings in an item.

Example #1: Casey's Coffee is considered a restaurant because 75% or more of their sales are prepared food. The sale of a box of a dozen donuts is not subject to sales tax, regardless of whether the donuts were prepackaged for sale or individually chosen by a customer and packaged together, because it is a package of four or more servings sold as one item for a single price. The sale of five individual donuts that are not packaged together as one item would not be exempt, as only packaged items sold as a single unit for a single price are an exception to the utensil rule. Furthermore, bags of whole bean or ground coffee would not be subject to sale tax, whether or not the coffee was prepackaged.

Example #2: Paula's Pizza is considered a restaurant because 75% or more of their sales are prepared food. They sell pizza baked in a brick oven that is cut into twelve slices. The pizza is still taxable because it is sold in a heated state, which makes it prepared food.

Example #3: Dave's Diner is considered a restaurant because 75% or more of the diner's sales are prepared food. The diner sells prepackaged twelve-inch pies that are not cut into slices but are also not sold in a heated state. The pies are exempt because each pie is more than four servings and sold as one item for one price. The diner also sells pie by the slice, which is a single serving and therefore taxable.

A combination business is a business that has both an area that is considered a restaurant and an area that is considered a store, and the business's sales of prepared food are less than 75% of the business's overall sales (i.e., grocery stores with a deli or cafeteria; convenience stores; farmer's markets; restaurants with a gift store or grocery), as determined by the formula in "Appendix B."

Sales of prepared food by a combination business are taxable. However, otherwise exempt food sold by a combination business, including bakery items and items ready for consumption at the time of sale, are only taxable if utensils are handed to the customer. This includes utensils that are placed by the seller in a bag or other container that is handed to the customer.

Food Sold in a Heated State

All food items sold in a heated state or heated by the seller and ready to eat without further cooking by the purchaser. There are some exceptions to this. Providing a microwave or toaster for customer usage to heat frozen or refrigerated items not previously heated by the seller would not make the items taxable.

Further, a bakery item warmed up by a retail merchant or that is sold right out of the oven does not automatically make the item "prepared food." As mentioned above, the merchant would have to provide utensils in order to make the bakery item subject to sales tax. In the context of determining whether the merchant is a restaurant using "Appendix B," the bakery items sold warmed up or hotly fresh from the oven are not counted toward the prepared food category. Consequently, most bakeries will not be restaurants for sales tax purposes, meaning that the sales of warmed up or freshly hot bakery items are not sales of prepared food unless the merchant physically gives the utensils to the customer. However, the bakery would still be required to collect sales tax on any taxable non-bakery items, and may be required to register for food and beverage taxes (if applicable to their location) for the sale of any non-bakery items.

Food Where Two or More Ingredients Are Mixed

All food items where two or more food ingredients are mixed or combined by the seller and then sold as a single food item. However, items in this category are not taxable if:

- (1) The item is both sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item and is sold without eating utensils (e.g., potato salad);
- (2) The item sold represents food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller (e.g., vegetable trays);
- (3) The item sold contains raw animal foods that require cooking (e.g. breaded or seasoned raw fish or meat); or
- (4) The item ordinarily requires additional cooking (e.g., take and bake pizza).

Bundled and Unitary Transactions

When a distinct, identifiable taxable item is sold with a distinct, identifiable non-taxable food item for one non-itemized price, it is a bundled transaction (e.g., a snack product that contains crackers, cheese, and candy, separated in a single container, and sold as one item). If the food item is 50 percent or less of the total purchase price, the entire purchase amount is subject to sales tax. The determination must be made on the basis of either individual item purchase prices or individual item sale prices. In the case of a unitary transaction, if multiple items are purchased under one order, as long as such items are separately priced and charged on the receipt, only the amount charged for the taxable item is subject to sales tax. For more information on bundled and unitary

transactions, please refer to [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #94](https://www.in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/), available online at [in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/](https://www.in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/).

Coupons, Redemption Certificates, and Bottle Deposits

Coupons or redemption certificates received by the seller as payment or partial payment of merchandise are considered as cash if such coupons are redeemable to the seller and were not extended by the seller.

Charges for bottle deposits are not subject to sales tax and should be removed from the total on which sales tax is computed. The refunds of bottle deposits are not deductible when computing taxable receipts.

Gross Retail Income

Sales tax is imposed on the gross retail income received by the retail merchant. Separately stated service charges are generally not included within the gross retail income and are not subject to sales tax unless they are services necessary to complete the sale. For instance, a fee charged for curbside pick-up of groceries is not subject to sales tax if separately stated. An exception is delivery charges, which are subject to sales tax whether they are separately stated or not. However, if the underlying transaction is exempt from sales tax, then the delivery charges related to that item also are not subject to sales tax. In the context of the delivery of food by a grocery store or a third party delivery service, if a sale includes both taxable and nontaxable goods, and delivery charges are a component of the selling price, retail sales tax applies to the percentage of delivery charges due on taxable goods. Retail sales tax is not due on delivery charges due on exempt goods. The seller may use either of the following percentages to determine the taxable portion of the delivery charges:

- A percentage based on the total sales price of the taxable goods compared to the total sales price of all the goods in the delivery.
- A percentage based on the total weight of the taxable goods compared to the total weight of all goods in the delivery.

When collected by a marketplace facilitator, the gross retail income from each transaction is the total amount of consideration paid by the purchaser, including the payment of any fee, commission or other charge by the marketplace facilitator, regardless of whether it is separately stated or not, except it does not include any taxes required to be collected on such transaction. Marketplace facilitators are businesses that connect sellers to purchasers by use of the business's marketplace and facilitate the sales of the seller's products in Indiana through the marketplace. In the context of grocery stores, combination businesses, and restaurants, a marketplace facilitator might connect sellers with supermarkets for the purpose of purchasing groceries or connect sellers with different restaurants for the purpose of purchasing meals. For more information on marketplace facilitators, please refer to [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #89](https://www.in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/), available online at [in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/](https://www.in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/sales-tax-information-bulletins/).

Food and Beverage Taxes

In Indiana, counties or municipalities that have been granted the necessary statutory authority may adopt a local food and beverage tax ("FAB" or "FAB tax"). With the exception of Marion County and the Historic Hotels (French Lick/West Baden Springs) FAB, the rate is 1% of the gross retail income received from taxable food and beverage transactions in which food or beverage is furnished, prepared, or served by a retail merchant for consumption at a location or on equipment provided by the retail merchant in a county or municipality that adopted the tax.

NOTE: In some instances where both a county and a municipality within the county have adopted a FAB, the total FAB tax rate for a taxable transaction inside the municipality is 2%.

FAB taxes and the sales tax operate in a similar manner with regard to how they are imposed on transactions involving food items. For instance, if a transaction is exempt from sales tax, then the transaction is also exempt from any FAB taxes. However, it is not the case that every transaction that is subject to sales tax will also be subject to a FAB. It is important to reiterate that FAB taxes are only imposed on transactions on food and beverages that are **sold for consumption at a location or on equipment provided by the retail merchant** (including where the food is sold with utensils, sold in a heated state, or is a combination of two or more ingredients). For most restaurants and other eating establishments, it is assumed that a FAB tax would apply to any transaction subject to sales tax because everything they sell is considered a prepared food item. This is true even if the customer was not dining-in because the food is still prepared on equipment provided by the retail merchant. In that vein, for convenience stores and groceries that meet the combination business test (see Appendix B), if an item is considered prepared food, it would be subject to FAB because it was prepared on equipment provided by the retail merchant, whereas the other food items sold by the merchant would not be subject to a FAB tax as it would not be assumed that the food was sold for consumption at the merchant's location.

For examples of how FAB taxes and sales tax would apply in various scenarios, please refer to Appendix E. Further guidance on local FAB taxes can be found in [General Tax Information Bulletin #203](#), available online at in.gov/dor/resources/tax-library/information-bulletins/general-tax-information-bulletins/.

Purchases by Retailers

Purchases by the retailer of merchandise for resale and of material for nonreturnable packaging of merchandise sold are exempt from sales tax.

Gifts and premiums given by a retailer are not purchases for resale, and such items are subject to the sales tax when purchased by the retailer. The retailer cannot purchase cash registers, equipment-cleaning supplies, cash register tapes, sales tickets, and other similar items exempt because the retailer is the final consumer of these items. The retail merchant must pay sales tax on all such items. Sales of merchandise to employees are subject to sales tax on the full final sales price.

Registration and Record Keeping Requirements

All grocers and other general merchandise retailers are required to file an application for a Registered Retail Merchant's Certificate (RRMC) for each location. Upon application with the Department of Revenue and the payment of a \$25 fee, a certificate will be issued that must be displayed on the premises at all times. The RRMC is valid for two years from the date of issue and will be renewed automatically if the retail merchant is not delinquent in remitting sales or withholding taxes. If the retail merchant's certificate is automatically renewed, there is no fee for the renewal.

The retail merchant is responsible for collecting and remitting sales tax as an agent for the state. If the retail merchant is delinquent in remitting sales or withholding taxes, the retail merchant will be notified by the department at least 60 days before the expiration of the retail merchant's certificate.

Indiana retail merchants are required to keep adequate books and records for both taxable and nontaxable sales for a period of at least three years, plus the current year.

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact the Tax Policy Division at taxpolicy@dor.in.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kevin Gulley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Kevin Gulley
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Revenue

Appendix A - Sales by Grocery Stores

A number of items sold by grocery stores, supermarkets, and similar type businesses are classified as “Non-taxable Food Items” and “Taxable Grocery Items.” These examples of items sold by grocery stores and the like are for illustrative purposes and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

NOTE: The list does **not** factor in whether the item was sold with utensils or any other circumstance which may make an item taxable.

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Alcoholic beverages (as defined in 6-2.5-1-11)	X		Specifically taxable per IC 6-2.5-5-20(c)(2)
Almond bark	X		Almond bark is a candy, as it is a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a bar form.
Baby food		X	
Bakery items (including bagels, bars, biscuits, bread, buns, cakes, cookies, croissants, Danishes, donuts, muffins, pastries, pies, rolls, tarts, tortes, and tortillas)		X	Specifically exempt per IC 6-2.5-5-20(b)(3)
Baking chocolate (whether liquid, powder, or solid)		X	
Baking soda or other forms of leavening agents		X	
BBQ potato chips, corn chips, or sunflower seeds		X	BBQ chips or seeds are not a candy, because potato chips are not commonly thought of as candy.
Beer nuts party mix	X		This mix would be considered a candy because it is a preparation of sweeteners, nuts and flavorings in the form of pieces.
Beverages containing at least 50% fruit or vegetable juice or containing milk, milk products, or milk substitutes		X	Specifically excluded from definition of soft drink per IC 6-2.5-1-26
Breath mints	X		Breath mints are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a drop or piece form.

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Broths and bouillons (whether liquid, instant, freeze dried, or cubes)		X	
Butterscotch chips	X		These chips are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a drop or piece form.
Cake decorations	X		Cake decorations are candy, as they are a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a drop or piece form.
Candy and confections	X		Specifically taxable per IC 6-2.5-5-20(c)(1)
Items commonly thought of as candy, but which contain flour (e.g., Kit-Kat Bar, Nestle Crunch, Twix Bar)		X	IC 6-2.5-1-12 provides that an item is not candy if it contains flour. This means that gluten-free candy is taxable if it does not contain flour. NOTE: licorice containing flour is exempt, while licorice which does not contain flour is taxable as a candy.
Items commonly thought of as candy, but which are not bars, drops, or pieces (e.g., Pixie Stix)		X	
Canned fruits and vegetables		X	
Caramel apples	X		
Cereal and cereal products		X	
Cereal bars w/o flour	X		These bars are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a bar form.
Chewing gum	X		Chewing gum is a candy because it is a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a bar or piece form.
Chocolate chips	X		These chips are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in a drop or piece form.

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Chocolate-covered nuts	X		Chocolate-covered peanuts are considered a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and other ingredients in a drop or piece form.
Chocolate-covered potato chips	X		
Cocktail mixes (dry or liquid)	X		
Cocoa		X	
Coconut (whether whole, shredded, processed, or raw)		X	
Coffee and coffee substitutes (beans, grounds, freeze dried, bags, and instant only)		X	
Condiments (such as ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise)		X	
Cotton candy not prepared by seller		X	
Cracker Jacks	X		This product would be considered a candy because it is a preparation of sweeteners, nuts and flavorings in the form of pieces.
Deli items when sold unheated by weight or volume as a single item		X	
Deli trays that contain only otherwise exempt items		X	
Dietary supplements	X		Specifically taxable per IC 6-2.5-5-20(c)(9)
Dried fruit w/ sweetener	X		Dried fruit with a sweetener are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and fruit in a drop or piece form.
Eggs and egg products or substitutes		X	
Extracts and flavorings intended as cooking ingredients		X	
Fish and fish products (including all other forms of seafood)		X	

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Flaked coconut w/sweetener	X		Flaked coconut with a sweetener is a candy because it is a preparation of sweeteners and fruit in a drop or piece form.
Flour (including barley, buckwheat, corn, rice, rye, soy, wheat, whole wheat, or other forms of milled grains or nuts)		X	
Food coloring		X	
Food sold by a seller whose primary NAICS classification is manufacturing in sector 311, except subsector 3118 (bakeries)		X	Specifically exempt per IC 6-2.5-5-20(b)(1)
Food sold by weight or volume as a single item		X	Specifically exempt per IC 6-2.5-5-20(b)(2)
Frosting in containers		X	Frosting is not a candy, because it is not in a bar, drop, or piece form.
Frozen juice bars		X	Frozen juice bars are not a candy, because they require refrigeration.
Fruit and fruit products (whether fresh, frozen, canned, or dehydrated)		X	NOTE: this excludes items on salad bars or where sweeteners are added
Fruit Roll-ups	X		Fruit Roll-ups are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners, fruit, and flavorings in a drop or piece form.
Gelatins (whether powdered or prepared)		X	
Gluten-free non-candy products		X	
Honey		X	
Honey-roasted peanuts	X		Honey roasted peanuts are considered a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners and other ingredients in a drop or piece form.
Ice		X	
Ice cream (including toppings and novelties)		X	

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Icing in tubes		X	
Jams and jellies (including marmalades and preserves)		X	
Lard		X	
Lightly salted rice cakes		X	
Liver oils	X		
Lozenges	X		
Marshmallow crème		X	
Marshmallows	X		This product would be considered a candy because it is a preparation of sweeteners and flavorings in the form of pieces.
Meat and meat products (whether fresh, frozen, cured, canned, or dehydrated)		X	
Milk and milk products		X	
Nuts (including salted, but not chocolate- or candy-coated nuts)		X	
Oleomargarine		X	
Olive oil		X	
Over-the-counter medicines	X		
Paper products	X		Paper products do not meet the definition of "food and food ingredients" in IC 6-2.5-1-20 because they are not sold for ingestion or chewing by humans.
Peanut butter		X	
Pepper		X	
Pet food	X		Pet food and supplies do not meet the definition of "food and food ingredients" in IC 6-2.5-1-20 because they are not sold for ingestion or chewing by humans.
Pickles		X	

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Popped kettle and caramel corns	X		Popped kettle and caramel corn are a candy because they are a preparation of sweeteners, ingredients, and flavorings in a drop or piece form.
Popsicles		X	
Powdered drink mixes (including sweetened)		X	Powdered drink mixes would not be considered a soft drink because it is not a liquid beverage.
Pudding or pudding mix (including Jell-O® pudding)		X	
Relishes		X	
Salad dressings and mixes		X	
Salt		X	
Sandwich spreads		X	
Sauces		X	
Sherbets and sorbets		X	
Shortenings		X	
Snack chips and pieces (including corn chips, pig skins, potato chips, pretzels, and trail mixes)		X	
Soap and soap products	X		Soap and soap products do not meet the definition of "food and food ingredients" in IC 6-2.5-1-20 because they are not sold for ingestion or chewing by humans.
Soft drinks (as defined in IC 6-2.5-1-26)	X		Specifically taxable per IC 6-2.5-5-20(c)(3)
Soups		X	
Spices		X	
Sugar, sugar products, and sugar substitutes		X	
Syrups (including molasses and dietetic syrups and similar products)		X	
Tea (bags, leaves, or instant only)		X	
Tobacco and tobacco products (as defined in IC 6-2.5-1-28)	X		Specifically taxable per IC 6-2.5-5-20(c)(8)

ITEM	SALES/USE TAX		COMMENTS
	YES	NO	
Tonics	X		
Toothpaste and mouthwash	X		Toothpaste and mouthwash do not meet the definition of "food and food ingredients" in IC 6-2.5-1-20 because they are not sold for ingestion or chewing by humans.
Trail mix		X	
Unpopped popcorn (regular, caramel, or kettle)		X	
Vegetable oils		X	
Vegetables and vegetable products (whether fresh, frozen, canned, or dehydrated)		X	NOTE: this excludes items on salad bars
Vitamins	X		
Water		X	NOTE: Water mixed with sweeteners would be considered a soft drink, and therefore taxable.

Appendix B - Formula for 75% Calculation

The below calculation is used to determine if the seller is considered a restaurant (75% or more of the business's sales are of prepared food) or a combination business (less than 75%). An example of a combination business is a grocery store that includes an eating establishment.

A single prepared food sales percentage will be determined annually, for all of the seller's establishments in a state. Seller may choose to base the below calculations on either the most recent tax year or business fiscal year. Calculations should be performed as soon as possible after accounting records are available and implemented not later than 90 days after the beginning of the tax or business fiscal year.

A new business will make a good faith estimate of their prepared food sales percentage for their first year. A new business should adjust its good faith estimate prospectively after the first three months of operation if actual prepared food sales percentages materially affect the 75% threshold test.

Numerator Calculations

		Sales in Dollars
a. Sales of food sold, other than bakery items ¹ :		
1. In a heated state or heated by the seller, or;		
2. Containing two (2) or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item, or;		
3. Where plates ² , bowls, glasses or cups are necessary to receive the food (e.g., dispensed milk, salad bar).		
b. Sales of bakery items in which plates or bowls are necessary to receive the food.	+	
c. Sales of alcoholic beverages, if included in (a) or (b) above.	-	
Numerator Total	=	0

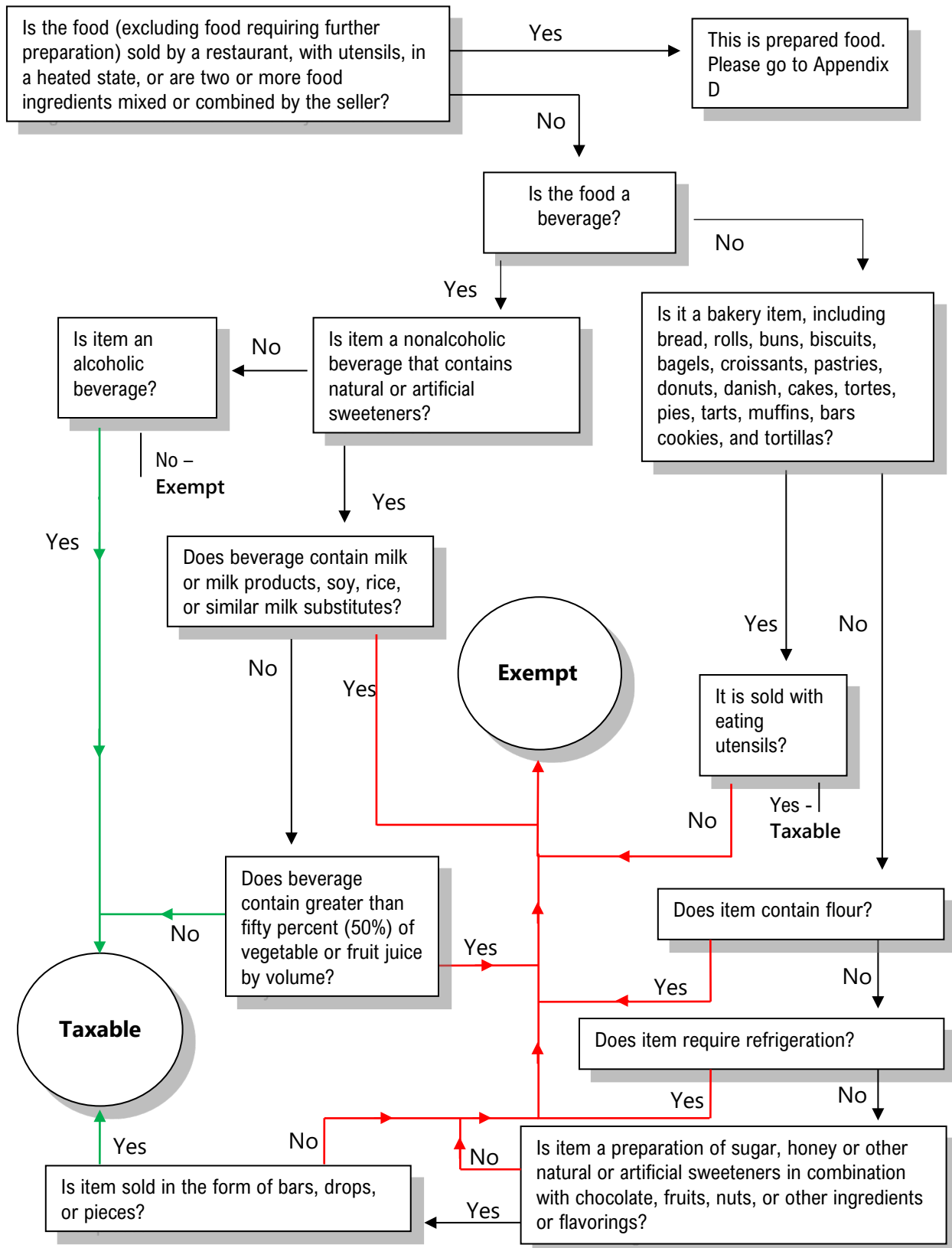
Denominator Calculations

a. Sales of all food and food ingredients, including prepared food, candy, dietary supplements, and soft drinks.		
b. Sales of alcoholic beverages, if included in (a) above.	-	
Denominator Total	=	0
Percentage of Prepared Food Sales to Total Food Sales (Numerator / Denominator)		

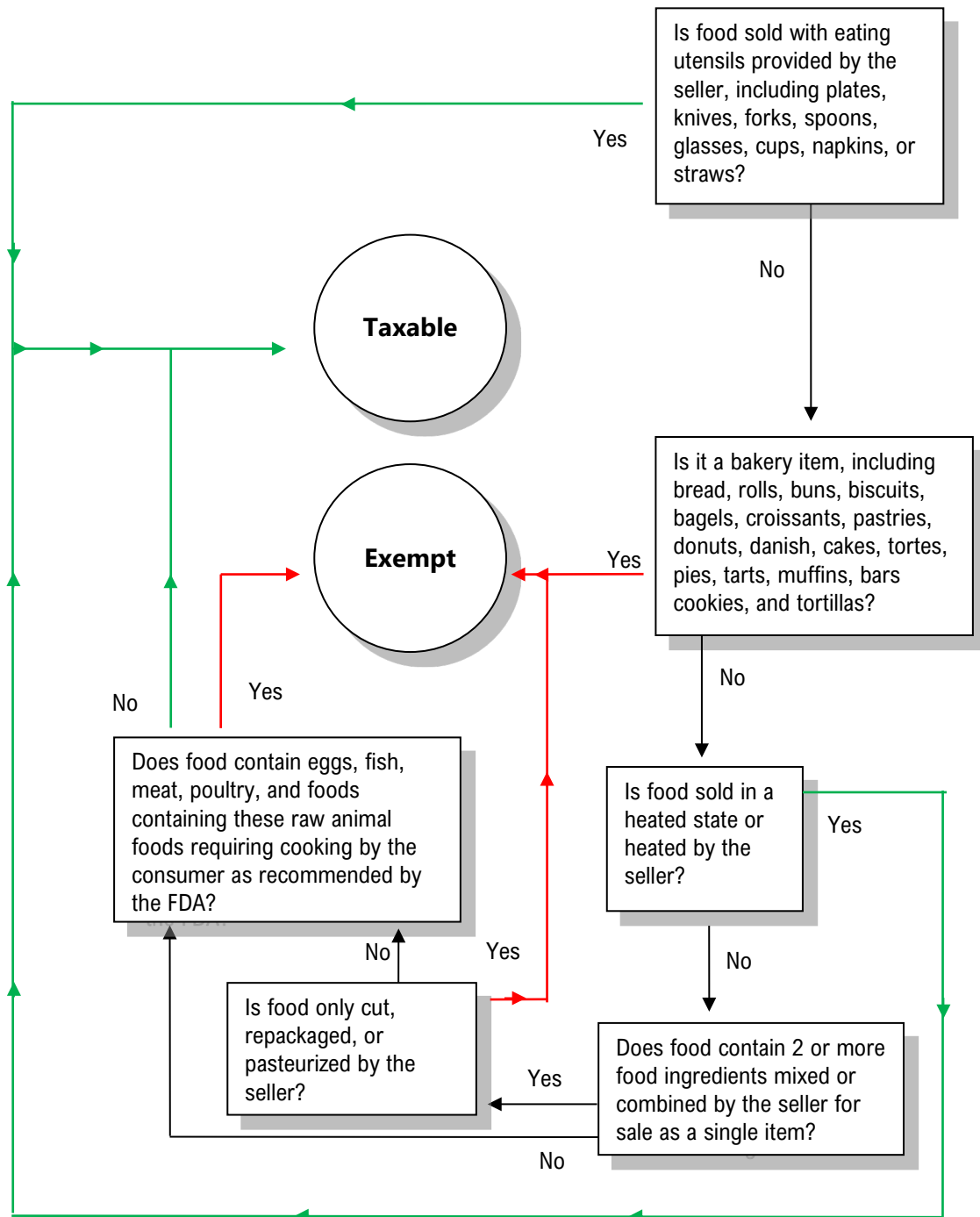
¹ Bakery items include bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, danishes, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, and tortillas.

² A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food.

Appendix C - Taxability of Food and Food Items Decision Tree



Appendix D - Taxability of Prepared Food Decision Tree



Appendix E – Food and Beverage Tax

Table 1 – Examples of FAB and Sales Tax as it Applies to Specific Items

Item		Restaurant		Convenience Store		Grocery		Comments
		Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	
Donuts or Cupcakes	Sold for dine in at retail location	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Prepared food for restaurants, but not for convenience/grocery stores as they are also bakery items
	Sold for take/carry out	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Same as above
	Packaged – four or more	No	No	No	No	No	No	No longer considered prepared food for restaurants, even if the seller has utensils available. However, if the seller <i>provides</i> utensils with the item, or it is sold in heated state, then the item is considered prepared food.
Salad Bar	Sold for dine in at retail location or for take/carry out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Soup	Sold for dine in at retail location or for take/carry out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Unopened To-Go Liquor or Beer		N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Not for consumption at merchant's location

Item		Restaurant		Convenience Store		Grocery		Comments
		Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	
Growler	Filled by restaurant for take/carry out	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not for consumption at merchant's location
Growler	Filled by brewery for take/carry out	Yes	No*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*Except if food is also sold, there needs to be a stated policy that growlers cannot be consumed on premises, otherwise FAB applies
	Filled by brewery for consumption at brewery	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	For consumption at merchant's location, so subject to FAB
Sandwich (Prepackaged)	Prepared by a third party and purchased for take/carry out	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No	Not considered prepared food
	Prepared by a third party and purchased for dine in at retail location	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No	Not considered prepared food
Sandwich (Made Order) to	Prepared at retail location for dine in	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
	Prepared at retail location for take/carry out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Chocolates and truffles	Purchased and eaten in chocolate or coffee shop	Yes	Yes	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	*If chocolate meets the definition of candy
	Chocolate packaged upon direction of customer for consumption off-premise	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Assuming this is a chocolate shop, not subject to FAB because not sold for consumption at merchant's location

Item		Restaurant		Convenience Store		Grocery		Comments
		Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	
Candy	No flour	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Prepared food or candy
Pizza	In heated state for take/carry out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
	Assembled by the store but not baked	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not considered prepared food
Rotisserie chicken	For take/carry out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Slice of cake or pie	Made on premise	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Bakery items not taxed at convenience and grocery stores
	Prepared by a third party but sold in restaurant or grocery	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Bakery items not taxed at convenience and grocery stores
Fountain Drink	Fountain Drink	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Canned Soda	Off the shelf or delivered to table	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Prepared food for restaurants; otherwise subject to sales tax as a soft drink
	Stored in cooler	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	Soft drink
Water	Stored in cooler	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No	Assuming restaurants don't sell water in a cooler
Bottled water	Bottled water	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Prepared food for restaurants
Bottled Cold Brew Coffee	Unsweetened, no cream	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Prepared food for restaurants; otherwise not taxable because not a soft drink
	Sweetened, no cream	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Adding sweeteners makes the coffee a soft drink

Item		Restaurant		Convenience Store		Grocery		Comments
		Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	Sales Tax	FAB Tax	
	Sweetened with cream	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	The coffee is not a soft drink with the addition of cream
Hot or Cold Lattes and Cappuccinos	Prepared on premise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Orange Juice	50% or more juice	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Prepared food for restaurants; otherwise not taxable because not a soft drink
Smoothies	Prepared on premise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food
Deli items	Unheated sold by weight e.g. meatloaf, potato salad	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	No	Because sales tax guidelines deem unheated foods sold by weight as unprepared, they are not subject to FAB or sales tax
Ice Cream or Frozen Yogurt	Served in a cone or cup and either self-serve or not	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prepared food

NOTE: The term “restaurant” means not only an eating establishment, but also specialty shops such as coffee shops, chocolate shops, ice cream shops, and so on, depending on the context of the item being discussed.

Table 2 – Examples of FAB and Sales Tax as it Applies to Different Merchants

Tax Type	Vending Machines*	Micro Market*	Food Truck	Farmers Markets	Public School 1-12 Lunch Program	Public Colleges and Universities	Fraternities /Sororities	Nonprofits (Colleges, Churches, Synagogues, etc.)**
Sales Tax	Depends on the item	Yes – Selling prepared foods and providing napkins and utensils	Yes – Selling prepared foods and providing napkins and utensils	Depends on what vendor is selling	No for students or school employees, but tax assessed on anyone else (until May 4, 2023, then all school sales are exempt)**	No for students, but tax assessed on anyone else	No for members only	Except for six nonprofit types, any sales over \$100,000 in a calendar year. Churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship are always exempt as excepted nonprofits.
FAB	No (Unless selling hot beverages or other items prepared by the merchant)	Yes, if selling prepared foods (either individual items such as coffee, sandwiches prepared by merchant, etc., or all items because the merchant provides napkins and utensils) or a seating area is provided by merchant (if it is provided by the unrelated business that hosts the market, then FAB would not apply)	Yes – Selling prepared foods and providing napkins and utensils	Depends on what vendor is selling	No for students or school employees, but tax assessed on anyone else (until May 4, 2023, then all school sales are exempt)**	No for students, but tax assessed on anyone else	No for members only	Except for six nonprofit types, any sales over \$100,000 in a calendar year. Churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship are always exempt as excepted nonprofits.

* For further information on vending machines and micro markets, please refer to [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #45](#).

** For further information on the tax collection responsibility of nonprofits, please refer to [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #10](#) (and [#32](#) as it pertains to schools).