



# Indiana Food & Beverage Tax

## Local Government Guide



*Updated March 2023*

**Indiana Department of Revenue**

Welcome to the Indiana Department of Revenue's (DOR) Local Government Guide to Food and Beverage (FAB) tax. This document is intended to provide guidance to our local government partners for implementing and managing local food and beverage taxes. The document includes the following topics:

- What is FAB?
- How Does My County/Municipality Enact a FAB?
- When to Contact DOR for Implementation
- What are DOR's Responsibilities?
- What Responsibilities Do Counties/Municipalities Have?
- What are the Steps After Passing a FAB Ordinance?
- How to Use the FAB Payee Report
- Additional Resources
- DOR Contact Information

## **What is FAB?**

FAB applies to transactions, in counties/municipalities that have enacted this tax type, in which food or beverages are furnished, prepared or served by a retail merchant for consumption at a location or on equipment provided by a retail merchant for consideration (payment). This includes food sold in a heated state or heated by the retail merchant or if two or more food ingredients are mixed or combined by a retail merchant for sales as a single item. It also includes food or beverages served by a retail merchant off the merchant's premises.

A transaction involving food sold with eating utensils provided by the retail merchant, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins or straws, is subject to FAB.

### **Taxable transactions include:**

- Food sold and served by a retail merchant performing catering activities;
- Food sold at a deli counter in a grocery store that is cooked or heated on the premises of the retail merchant; and
- Where the seller provides eating utensils, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins or straws.

### **Transactions not subject to tax include:**

- Sales of food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller.
- Sales of eggs, fish, meat, and poultry requiring cooking by the consumer. FAB does not apply if the transaction is exempt from sales tax.

For more information on what qualifies for FAB and sales tax, refer to [General Tax Information Bulletin #203](#) and [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #29](#).

For catering: FAB is based on where the food is provided, not the business location of the caterer.

Marketplace facilitators that facilitate the sale of food or beverages by connecting sellers of those items with purchasers on an online marketplace must register to collect FAB in all adopting jurisdictions from which they facilitate such sales. A marketplace is generally considered any forum that connects buyers and sellers for the purpose of making retail transactions (IC 6-2.5-1-21.7).

A marketplace facilitator is generally considered to be a person that operates a marketplace and collects payments or provides access to payment services (IC 6-2.5-1-21.9). For more information, see [Market Facilitators](#).

Taxable transactions of marketplace facilitators are sourced to the location of the seller, not the location where the food is delivered.

For example: A meal delivery company with a popular app that connects several different restaurants in Marion County and Hamilton County with customers in those counties is a marketplace facilitator. A customer orders food on the app from a restaurant in Marion County to be delivered to Hamilton County. FAB would need to be collected by the meal delivery company at the Marion County rate (where the restaurant is located).

Counties can choose to administer FAB themselves. Most counties have chosen to delegate FAB administration to DOR. Currently, all tax returns and remittances for FAB are filed with DOR with the exception of Johnson County. *Tax returns and remittances for FAB in the City of Greenwood, which is within Johnson County, are required to be filed with DOR effective March 1, 2020.*

Marketplace facilitators *are required* to submit FAB directly to DOR.

### **How Does My County/Municipality Enact a FAB?**

Once the county/municipality decides the need for additional funding through FAB, they will need the support of their local legislator. The county/municipality will also need to have documentation to display the need for additional funding.

The legislator will then introduce a bill for consideration during the legislative session. Legislation may include requirements for the county/municipality to pass an ordinance or specify the duration FAB will be collected.

After legislation supporting a county/municipality FAB has passed through the legislative process and been signed into law, the local government entity needs to pass an ordinance to adopt the tax.

It is helpful to reach out to DOR early in the process to ask any questions and ensure proper passage of the ordinance.

### **When to Contact DOR for Implementation**

According to IC 6-9-27-3, the fiscal body of the county/municipality which adopts FAB must immediately send a certified copy of the ordinance to DOR. DOR's setup process takes approximately 120 days. See "What are the Steps After Passing a FAB Ordinance?" for more information.

## What are DOR's Responsibilities?

When administering FAB, DOR assumes the following responsibilities:

- Maintaining FAB guidance and resources for taxpayers and counties on [DOR's FAB webpage](#).
- Providing tools for businesses to register and assist with registration questions. More information is available in the [Business Guide to FAB](#).
- Ensuring that the FAB registration process is followed by businesses.
- Assisting with educational seminars for counties and municipalities.
- Providing a detailed report or portal access to retrieve data to counties on a regular basis if a confidentiality agreement is in place.
- Monthly tax collection and enforcement efforts to ensure a registered business is paying FAB tax.

## What Responsibilities Do Counties/Municipalities Have?

- Properly adopt FAB and notify DOR immediately. To ensure smooth implementation, local government must provide notification to businesses no less than 120 days prior to implementation.
- Execute data sharing documents and provide financial and contact information as needed.
- Identify businesses that are not properly registered and/or remitting FAB by accessing county records or industry codes through DOR.
- Notify businesses of their filing and registration requirements.
- Provide preliminary information to taxpayers and direct them to DOR for additional information.
- Continue to inform new and existing businesses of their FAB obligations and direct them to DOR's FAB resources, as needed, for more information.
- If you have an active confidentiality agreement, use the FAB Payee Report provided biannually by DOR to see businesses registered for and paying FAB.
- Keep the county assessor information on parcel addresses and municipality boundaries current and accurate. Submit any changes to the State immediately to ensure businesses are registered for the proper tax rates.

## What are the Steps After Passing a FAB Ordinance?

**Step 1:** Contact DOR's FAB administrator to get the process started. A completed confidentiality agreement is required to receive tax data.

**Step 2:** Provide funding information to DOR to ensure funds are allocated properly.

**Step 3:** Contact the State Comptroller to set up a FAB account where funds will be deposited.

**Step 4:** Once the FAB local ordinance has passed, work with the FAB administrator and DOR to notify affected businesses that will collect FAB — a sample letter is attached. Businesses will be able to register for FAB via INTIME, DOR's e-services portal, beginning on the enactment date.

**Step 5:** Compare the DOR-provided FAB Payee Report against other business lists (i.e., health department) to confirm businesses are registering correctly.

**Step 6:** After FAB is enacted, notify the Indiana Department of Local Government and Finance to update all Geographic Information System (GIS) data when annexations or any changes to boundaries occur.

## How to Use the FAB Payee Report

Compare the FAB Payee Report to your business lists or data to look for non-filers, which can assist with:

- Contacting these businesses to give them the tools to be compliant;
- Developing a plan to reassess businesses that are not compliant after contact; or
- Contacting DOR for enforcement requests with non-compliant businesses that are registered.

## **How to Obtain and Use the FAB Payee Report**

The fiscal officer and individuals designated by the officer may obtain access to payment information for the individual businesses subject to FAB in their jurisdiction. This information can be used to assist DOR with contacting the businesses to give them the tools to be compliant, developing a plan to assess businesses that are not compliant after contact, and contacting DOR with enforcement requests with non-compliant businesses. To access this information, the fiscal officer must enter into a confidentiality agreement with DOR.

For more information, contact 317-234-5436, Ext. 78320.

## **Additional Resources**

- [General Tax Information Bulletin #203](#) – Food and Beverage Tax
- [INTIME User Guide for Business Customers](#)
- [Sales Tax Information Bulletin #11](#) – Application of Sales Tax to Restaurant Owners Including Fast Food Operations and Caterers
- [Sales Tax Information Bulletin # 29](#) – Sales of Food
- [Subscribe](#) to DOR for email updates.

## **DOF Contact Information**

If you have additional questions about FAB, contact DOR by:

- Email: [BusinessTaxCompliance@dor.in.gov](mailto:BusinessTaxCompliance@dor.in.gov)
- Phone: 317-232-3425, Option 5
- Postal service:  
Indiana Department of Revenue  
Audit Division/Business Tax Compliance  
100 N. Senate Ave., N241  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**(For COUNTY FAB implementation)**

**HEADER HERE**

DATE

TO:    <<CustomerName>>  
      <<Address>>  
      <<City>>, <<State>> <<ZipCode>>

Dear Business Owner,

Effective {DATE}, businesses that furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverages within {County Name} are required to implement a (X%) food and beverage tax as a result of {LOCAL ORDINACE}, passed by the {GOVERNMENT ENTITY} on {DATE}. To implement necessary changes, {County Name} is reaching out to all businesses identified as having one or more establishments located in {County Name} which may be subject to food and beverage tax.

If any of your {COUNTY NAME} establishments furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverage products for consumption, the {X%} food and beverage tax must be applied and collected as of {EFFECTIVE DATE}. If your municipality has implemented a separate FAB tax, the total rate that applies to a transaction is the county rate *plus* the municipal rate. Please contact your municipality if you have any questions regarding local FAB tax.

To register your new business for food and beverage tax, you must do so through INBiz at [inbiz.in.gov](http://inbiz.in.gov). To remit the food and beverage tax collected, you must register and pay through the Indiana Taxpayer Information Management Engine (INTIME), DOR's e-services portal, at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

To add food and beverage tax to your existing account, you may register and pay through INTIME at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). If needed, an INTIME Guide for Business Customers is available at [dor.in.gov/files/intime-business-guide.pdf](http://dor.in.gov/files/intime-business-guide.pdf). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

Food and beverage taxes, for {MONTH EFFECTIVE, YEAR}, are due on {DATE}. The filing of the return and the remittance of the tax collected are due 30 days after the end of the month in which the transactions occur. However, if your monthly average FAB tax collected is \$1000 or greater, your filing is due on the 20th of the month following the month in which the transactions occur. For example, if your average FAB tax collected is \$1200, you have until July 20 to file for June; if your average FAB tax collected is \$400, you have until July 30. If the due date falls on a weekend, federal or state holiday, the payment is due on the next business day. More information on filing deadlines is available at [in.gov/dor/individual-income-taxes/filing-my-taxes/tax-filing-deadlines/](http://in.gov/dor/individual-income-taxes/filing-my-taxes/tax-filing-deadlines/).

If you have any questions or concerns about this tax, see DOR's Food and Beverage Tax webpage and the *Business Guide to Food and Beverage Tax* at [in.gov/dor/business-tax/food-and-beverage-tax/](http://in.gov/dor/business-tax/food-and-beverage-tax/) or contact {COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION}.

For help with INBiz, contact customer service at 317-234-9768.

Sincerely,

{COUNTY NAME}

**(For COUNTY FAB implementation with pre-existing municipal FAB) HEADER HERE**

DATE

TO: <<CustomerName>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<ZipCode>>

Dear Business Owner,

Effective {DATE}, businesses that furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverages within {County Name} are required to implement a (X%) food and beverage tax (FAB) as a result of {LOCAL ORDINACE}, passed by the {GOVERNMENT ENTITY} on {DATE}. To implement necessary changes, {COUNTY NAME} is reaching out to all businesses identified as having one or more establishments located in {COUNTY NAME} which may be subject to food and beverage tax.

If any of your {COUNTY NAME} establishments furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverage products for consumption, the {X%} county food and beverage tax must be applied and collected as of {EFFECTIVE DATE}.

*If your municipality has implemented a separate FAB tax, the total rate that applies to a transaction is the county rate plus the municipal rate.* As of today, we are aware that the following municipalities in {COUNTY NAME} have implemented a separate FAB tax.

**{LIST OF KNOWN MUNICIPALITIES AND RATES}**

For example, as of {DATE} the total FAB for a transaction occurring in {MUNICIPALITY NAME} is {Z%}. The rate is based on the {COUNTY NAME} rate of {X%} plus the {MUNICIPALITY NAME} rate of {Y%}. Please contact your municipality if you have any questions regarding local FAB tax.

To register your new business for food and beverage tax, you must do so through INBiz at [inbiz.in.gov](http://inbiz.in.gov). To remit the food and beverage tax collected, you must register and pay through the Indiana Taxpayer Information Management Engine (INTIME), DOR's e-services portal, at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

To add food and beverage tax to your existing account, you may register and pay through INTIME at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). If needed, an INTIME Guide for Business Customers is available at [dor.in.gov/files/intime-business-guide.pdf](http://dor.in.gov/files/intime-business-guide.pdf). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

Food and beverage taxes, for {MONTH EFFECTIVE, YEAR}, are due on {DATE}. The filing of the return and the remittance of the tax collected are due 30 days after the end of the month in which the transactions occur. However, if your monthly average FAB tax collected is \$1000 or greater, your filing is due on the 20th of the month following the month in which the transactions occur. For example, if your average FAB tax collected is \$1200, you have until July 20 to file for June; if your average FAB tax collected is \$400, you have until July 30. If the due date falls on a weekend, federal or state holiday, the payment is due on the next business day. More information on filing deadlines is available at [in.gov/dor/individual-income-taxes/filing-my-taxes/tax-filing-deadlines/](http://in.gov/dor/individual-income-taxes/filing-my-taxes/tax-filing-deadlines/)

If you have any questions or concerns about this tax, see DOR's Food and Beverage Tax webpage and the *Business Guide to Food and Beverage Tax* at [in.gov/dor/business-tax/food-and-beverage-tax/](http://in.gov/dor/business-tax/food-and-beverage-tax/) or contact {COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION}.

For help with INBiz, contact customer service at 317-234-9768.

Sincerely,

{COUNTY NAME}

**(For LOCAL/MUNICIPAL FAB implementation when there is no county FAB)**

**HEADER HERE**

DATE

TO: <<CustomerName>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<ZipCode>>

Dear Business Owner,

Effective {DATE}, businesses that furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverages within {MUNICIPALITY NAME} are required to implement a {X%} food and beverage tax as a result of {LOCAL ORDINACE}, passed by the {GOVERNMENT ENTITY} on {DATE}. To implement necessary changes, we are reaching out to all businesses identified as having one or more establishments located in {MUNICIPALITY NAME} which may be subject to food and beverage tax.

If any of your {MUNICIPALITY NAME} establishments furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverage products for consumption, the local food and beverage tax must be applied and collected as of {EFFECTIVE DATE}.

To register your new business for food and beverage tax, you must do so through INBiz at [inbiz.in.gov](http://inbiz.in.gov). To remit the food and beverage tax collected, you must register and pay through the Indiana Taxpayer Information Management Engine (INTIME), DOR's e-services portal, at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

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Sincerely,

{MUNICIPALITY NAME}

**(For LOCAL/MUNICIPAL FAB implementation with pre-existing county FAB )**

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DATE

TO: <<CustomerName>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<ZipCode>>

Dear Business Owner,

Effective {DATE}, businesses that furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverages within {MUNICIPALITY NAME} are required to implement a {X%} food and beverage tax as a result of {LOCAL ORDINACE}, passed by the {GOVERNMENT ENTITY} on {DATE}. To implement necessary changes, {MUNICIPALITY NAME} is reaching out to all businesses identified as having one or more establishments located in {COUNTY NAME} which may be subject to food and beverage tax.

If any of your {MUNICIPALITY NAME} establishments furnish, prepare or serve any food and/or beverage products for consumption, the local food and beverage tax must be applied and collected as of EFFECTIVE DATE}.

The total rate that applies to a transaction is the county rate plus the municipal rate. *As of {DATE}, the total FAB for a transaction occurring in {MUNICIPALITY NAME} is {Z%}. The rate is based on the {COUNTY NAME} rate of {Y%} plus the {MUNICIPALITY NAME} rate of {X%}.*

To register your new business for food and beverage tax, you must do so through INBiz at [inbiz.in.gov](http://inbiz.in.gov). To remit the food and beverage tax collected, you must register and pay through the Indiana Taxpayer Information Management Engine (INTIME), DOR's e-services portal, at [intime.dor.in.gov](http://intime.dor.in.gov). The return for FAB (FAB-103) is separate from the sales and use tax return.

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For help with INBiz, contact customer service at 317-234-9768.

Sincerely,

{MUNICIPALITY NAME}