

Diplomatic Exemption

Pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982, certain foreign diplomats or missions may make certain purchases and sales without incurring any sales or use tax liability. The Office of Foreign Missions issues tax exemption cards to eligible foreign missions, mission personnel and their eligible family members. Mission tax exemption cards are issued to designated representatives of embassies, consulates, and international organizations for use when making official purchases, while personal tax exemption cards are issued to individuals. By presenting these cards, qualified individuals and entities may make certain purchases exempt of the Virginia Retail Sales and Use Tax. 23 VAC 10-210-694 provides that the individual cards bear a photograph and name of the diplomat eligible for exemption, as well as an explanation as to the extent of the cardholder's exemption. Tax exempt information is now contained on the reverse side of tax exemption cards, rather than the front.

FAQs:

What is the diplomatic exemption?

The United States Department of State grants a diplomatic exemption from the Retail Sales and Use Tax to certain foreign diplomats or missions on their purchases and sales.

How is the diplomatic exemption granted?

Exemption cards are issued by the United States Department of State to eligible foreign missions, mission personnel and their eligible family members, through an application process.

How does a cardholder determine the extent of the exemption granted by the card?

The extent to which an individual or mission is exempt from the tax is illustrated on the reverse of the cardholder's exemption card.

For more information on the diplomatic tax exemption program, see www.state.gov/ofm.