



BELIZE TAX SERVICE DEPARTMENT (BTSD)

The Temporary Zero-Rate of GST for Eligible Goods

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDANCE NOTE:

This Guidance Note explains the **temporary** changes in the General Sales Tax (“GST”) treatment of certain supplies on the following days **December 14th, 15th, 21st, and 22nd, 2024**, as well as the treatment of ham and imported turkey for the period of **December 1st to December 31st, 2024**.

The Note, therefore, provides a general outline of goods that will **temporarily** ascribe a GST rate of zero percent and indicates the filing and reporting obligations for GST registrants that may be affected by the **temporary** change.

WHO IT APPLIES TO:

The **temporary** change in the GST treatment of certain goods applies to: GST-registered companies or businesses that supply eligible goods, and consumers.

AFFECTED SUPPLIES:

On the GST free-days the affected supplies all goods save as not eligible below.

The zero-rating of such goods is not absolute, and therefore companies and businesses **MUST** comply with the following -

The **following goods are not eligible:**

- Goods imported at the time of importation – i.e. GST remains payable to Customs on goods at time of importation;
- Goods on consignment or other sold on a wholesale basis;
- The supply of goods on credit, credit instalment, and hire purchase;
- Orders for goods that are not in stock;
- The supply of motor vehicles, gasoline, LPG and diesel, guns, ammunition, cigarettes, and alcoholic beverages.

In short only local retail immediate and final sales of goods available for immediate delivery are eligible.

This **temporary** zero rating **does not apply to the supply of services** not ordinarily zero-rated. Mobile phone top-ups and plans are classified as services.

ALSO Picnic Shoulder Ham, Smoked Ham Leg, and Imported Turkey are **temporarily** zero-rated for the **month of December**.

HOW IT APPLIES:

GST Registrants utilizing a POS system or programable cash register will not have to re-program their systems as the zero-rate can be applied using a discount of 12.5% on the goods purchased. The GST Registrants who utilize cash registers that add the GST to the sale will simply not add GST on sales on the specified dates.

A reminder that prices displayed, marked or quoted are the GST inclusive prices. The following example illustrates how to calculate the price before GST when starting with a GST inclusive price:

Selling price of TV = \$1,000.00

GST at 12.5% = \$125.00

Total selling price on shelf = \$1,125.00

Price consumer will pay $\$1,125.00 / 1.125 = \$1,000.00$.

FILING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The obligation to file a GST Return is not affected by the **temporary** change. As such, GST registrants will file their GST Return in accordance with Section 30 of the General Sales Tax Act, Cap. 63.

When filing December 2024 GST Return, the ensuing guidelines **MUST** be followed:

1. To record the zero-rated supplies from Saturday, December 14, Sunday December 15th, Saturday, December 21st, and Sunday, December 22nd, 2024, the GST registrant will enter the items on their GST Return form as zero-rated sales at line 110.
2. To record the zero-rated picnic shoulder ham, smoked ham leg, and imported turkey for the month of December the GST registrant will enter the items on their GST Return form as zero-rated sales at line 110.

3. *The GST registrant must provide the sales data (including invoices) specifically for the GST Free days.*

RECOVERABILITY OF INPUT TAX

GST registrants will be permitted to recover input tax paid in respect of the said goods.

REPORT OF ABUSE

Shoppers are advised to check their receipts at the time of purchase to ensure GST is not incorrectly applied and to report any abuse to the Belize Tax Services Department at Cell#: /613-2773/613-8375/614-5731/613-2840.

**ISSUED BY:
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DECEMBER 9th, 2024**