

Reverse charge mechanism

Among taxable purchases made domestically, "Provision of B2B electronic services" and "Provision of specified services" rendered by foreign businesses, are called "Specified taxable purchases," and the "specified taxable purchases" are subject to filing tax returns under a reverse charge mechanism. Businesses whose taxable sales rate is less than 95% are required to file tax returns through the reverse charge mechanism in the case of filing tax returns under the standard taxation during a taxable period that "specified taxable purchases" take place in.

- *1. Even for businesses that file tax returns under the standard taxation, it will be deemed for the time being that specified taxable purchases were not made in a taxable period in which the taxable sales rate is 95% or more or in which the simplified tax system is adopted. Since tax-exempt businesses are also exempt from the obligation to pay consumption tax on specified taxable purchases, it is not required to file tax returns through the reverse charge mechanism.
- *2. Both "Provision of B2B electronic services" and "Provision of specified services," rendered by foreign businesses, which are tax-exempt, fall under "specified taxable purchases."

What are provision of electronic services?

"Provision of electronic services" means the provision of services via electronic and telecommunication networks (e.g. the internet), such as distribution of e-books, music and advertisements.

Since the criterion for determining whether the provision of services is a domestic transaction that is subject to consumption taxation (criterion for determining either domestic or foreign transactions) is the "address, etc. of the service recipients," the "provision of electronic services" is subject to taxation in principle regardless of being provided domestically or from overseas if such services are provided to those who have a domestic address, etc. In respect of the "Provision of B2B electronic services" by foreign businesses, domestic businesses that receive the relevant services are required to file tax returns and pay the tax (The reverse charge mechanism).

What are provision of specific services?

The "Provision of specified services" means the provision of services of entertainment, sports, etc. that foreign businesses conduct domestically and that the relevant foreign businesses offer to other businesses.

In respect of the "Provision of specified services," businesses that receive the relevant services are required to file tax returns and pay the tax (A reverse charge mechanism).

For details, please access the website of the National Tax Agency (www.nta.go.jp) to see various brochures, Q&A, etc. that post "About the tax implication of consumption tax related to the cross-border provision of services."

If you wish to know how to fill in a return form for the reverse charge mechanism, please see "Procedures for preparing a return (where there are specified taxable purchases)" in "Guide to Prepare Consumption and Local Consumption Taxes Return Form (General Form)" for corporations.