



## INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

### ■ Chicago Boat Mooring Tax

**TO: All Chicago  
Marinas and  
Docking  
Facilities**

The purpose of this informational bulletin is to discuss certain issues pertaining to the Chicago Boat Mooring Tax, Chicago Municipal Code Chapter 3-16.

#### General Information

The Boat Mooring tax is imposed on the mooring (docking) of any watercraft in a body of water located within the corporate limits of the City of Chicago for a fee. The tax became effective on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1984 but has undergone some recent changes.

#### What is the current tax rate?

The current Boat Mooring tax rate is 7% of the mooring or docking fee. This rate became effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Prior to this date the tax was 25% of the mooring or docking fee.

#### What is a mooring or docking fee?

Mooring or Docking fee means the consideration paid for the mooring or docking or the right to the mooring or docking of any watercraft, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise, determined without any deductions whatsoever, but not including any consideration paid for the mooring or docking of a watercraft in the loading or unloading of goods or materials, or the boarding or unboarding of passengers, in the conduct of an interstate transportation business.

#### What is a watercraft?

Watercraft means any boat, vessel, or other craft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

#### Who is responsible for payment of the tax?

The individual being charged a mooring or docking fee is responsible for payment of the tax to the marina or docking facility.

#### Who is responsible for collection of the tax?

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, all Chicago mooring and docking facilities are responsible for collecting and remitting the tax to the Department. The tax must be collected at the time the fee is collected.

#### Is there a commission granted for collecting and remitting the tax?

Yes, the collector is allowed a commission of 1% of the tax collected and timely remitted to the Department. To be considered timely, the remittance and return must be physically received or received in an envelope postmarked by the United States Postal Service on or before the due date. Per chapter 3-4 of the Municipal Code, late payments incur interest at a rate of 12% per annum simple interest, calculated daily, based on a 365 day calendar year and a late penalty rate of 5% of the tax due.

#### How often is the Boat Mooring Tax remitted and when are returns due?

The tax is to be remitted monthly with taxes collected in one month payable by the last day of the subsequent month. The tax return for periods commencing on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and ending on June 30 of the subsequent year, is filed annually and is due by August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

#### Questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please write us. Our address is:

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