



## Fast Track Proposed Regulation Agency Background Document

<b>Agency name</b>	Department of Taxation ("TAX")
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation</b>	23 VAC 10-350-50, 10-350-60, 10-350-90 and 10-350-100
<b>Regulation title</b>	Forest Product Tax Regulations
<b>Action title</b>	Repeal of selected Forest Products Tax regulations that are obsolete due to statutory changes.
<b>Document preparation date</b>	June 8, 2006

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 21 (2002) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

### Brief summary

*Please provide a brief summary (no more than 2 short paragraphs) of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes.*

As the result of a comprehensive review of all of its regulations, TAX has identified numerous regulations that were made obsolete by changes in state or federal law. House Bill 657 passed by the 1998 General Assembly provided alternative methods for the computation of the Forest Products Tax. As these regulations are obsolete, they are being repealed. Repeal of these regulations does not reflect a change in existing departmental policy.

23 VAC 10-350-50 and 23 VAC 10-350-60 Tax Rates and an Alternative for Rates: These regulations do not address an alternative method for computing the Forest Products Tax authorized by 1998's House Bill 657, rendering the existing regulations obsolete.

23 VAC 10-350-90 and 23 VAC 10-350-100 Payment, Collection & Disposition of Tax: Current regulations are silent regarding a modified standard, created by 1998's House Bill 657, for calculating the General Fund appropriation for reforestation, from estimated tax collections to actual tax collections, rendering the existing regulations obsolete.

### Statement of final agency action

*Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.*

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The Tax Commissioner approved the repeal of these regulations on October 14, 2005.

### Legal basis

*Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant law and/or regulation, including General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., the agency, board, or person. Describe the scope of the legal authority and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary.*

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Code of Virginia § 58.1-203 provides that the “Tax Commissioner shall have the power to issue regulations relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the laws of this Commonwealth governing taxes administered by the Department.” The authority for the current regulatory action is discretionary.

### Purpose

*Please explain the need for the new or amended regulation. Describe the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action. Detail the specific reasons the regulation is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Discuss the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.*

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As the result of a comprehensive review of all of its regulations, TAX has identified numerous regulations that have been made obsolete by changes in state or federal law. As these regulations are obsolete, they are being repealed. As these regulations are obsolete, their repeal will have no effect on the health, safety and welfare of citizens. Repeal of these regulations does not reflect a change in existing departmental policy.

### Rationale for using fast track process

*Please explain the rationale for using the fast track process in promulgating this regulation. Please note: If an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 60-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall (i) file notice of the objection with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register, and (ii) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.*

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As the regulations being repealed are obsolete, their repeal is not expected to be controversial.

**Substance**

*Please briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. (Provide more detail about these changes in the "Detail of changes" section.)*

This regulatory action will repeal four Forest Products Tax Regulations that are obsolete due to a statutory change.

**Issues**

*Please identify the issues associated with the proposed regulatory action, including:*

- 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions;*
- 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and*
- 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public.*

*If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please indicate.*

This regulatory action will ease voluntary taxpayer compliance and TAX's administration of the state tax laws by eliminating obsolete regulations that do not reflect the current law. As these regulations are obsolete their repeal will result in no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth.

**Economic impact**

*Please identify the anticipated economic impact of the proposed regulation.*

<b>Projected cost to the state to implement and enforce the proposed regulation, including (a) fund source / fund detail, and (b) a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures</b>	None.
<b>Projected cost of the regulation on localities</b>	None.
<b>Description of the individuals, businesses or other entities likely to be affected by the regulation</b>	As these regulations are obsolete, their repeal will have no economic impact on individuals, businesses or other entities.
<b>Agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Please include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected.</b> Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	As these regulations are obsolete, their repeal affects no individuals, businesses or other entities.
<b>All projected costs of the regulation for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities. Please be specific. Be sure to include the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses.</b>	As the regulations being repealed are obsolete, their repeal will result in no costs for individuals, businesses or other entities.

**Alternatives**

*Please describe any viable alternatives to the proposal considered and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action.*

The only alternative would be to keep the regulations. By keeping the regulations, TAX would continue to have obsolete regulations that conflict with statutory law.

**Family impact**

*Please assess the impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.*

As the regulations being repealed are obsolete, their repeal is not expected to have any significant impact on Virginia’s families.

**Detail of changes**

*Please detail all changes that are being proposed and the consequences of the proposed changes. Detail all new provisions and/or all changes to existing sections.*

*If the proposed regulation is intended to replace an emergency regulation, please list separately (1) all changes between the pre-emergency regulation and the proposed regulation, and (2) only changes made since the publication of the emergency regulation.*

As the result of a comprehensive review of all of its regulations, TAX has identified these selected regulations that have been made obsolete by changes in state and federal law. As the following regulations are obsolete, they are being repealed. Repeal of these regulations does not reflect a change in existing departmental policy.

<b>Current section number</b>	<b>Proposed new section number, if applicable</b>	<b>Current requirement</b>	<b>Proposed change and rationale</b>
10-350-50			Repeal: 1998 legislation added an alternative method for computing tax that’s not discussed in existing regulation, rendering it obsolete.
10-350-60			Repeal: 1998 legislation added an alternative method for computing tax that’s not discussed in existing regulation, rendering it obsolete.
10-350-90			Repeal: The General Fund appropriation for reforestation, changed from estimated tax collections to actual tax collections is not referenced, making existing regulation obsolete.
10-350-100			Repeal: The General Fund appropriation for reforestation, changed from estimated tax collections to actual tax collections is not referenced, making existing regulation obsolete.