CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE CIGARETTE TAX RULING

Pursuant to Sections 2-80-040, 3-4-040, 3-4-150 and 3-42-030, of the Chicago Municipal Code, I, Bea Reyna-Hickey, as Director of the City of Chicago Department of Revenue, do hereby adopt and promulgate Cigarette Tax Ruling #3 as set forth below effective May 15, 2005.

Bea Reyna-Hickey Director Department of Revenue Dated: May _, 2005

Cigarette Tax Ruling #3

Subject: May 31, 2005 Deadline for Discontinued Tax Stamps

Effective date: May 15, 2005

Cigarette Tax Ruling #2, effective November 1, 2004, established a deadline of May 31, 2005 for displaying for sale in the City cigarette packages bearing the discontinued tax stamp. The purpose of the ruling was to give parties a significant period of time to sell cigarettes bearing the discontinued stamp before the Department of Revenue required the new stamp with improved security features. The ruling allowed for redemption of the discontinued stamps that are properly affixed to cigarette packages unsold as of the deadline.

As the May 31 deadline approaches, it is apparent that certain parties still have in their possession a significant amount of product containing the discontinued stamp. It also is apparent that given the volume of product that would be subject to the redemption process and the inherent delays in providing letters of credit, the institution of a redemption process at this time would create significant administrative difficulties.

As an alternative, the Department will allow a reasonable extension of the deadline upon the timely and supported request of any party who has product bearing the old stamp in its possession. Such requests must identify the exact:

- location of all such product
- quantities of all such product
- description of the brands of all such product
- dates of expected final disposal of all such product

All such requests shall be directed to the following address:

Chicago Department of Revenue Compliance Analysis Section Refunds and Exemptions Unit 333 S. State Street Chicago, IL 60604-3977

The Department will review and approve all reasonable and supported requests for extensions. If a dispute exists as to the reasonableness of an extension request, the matter will be resolved by the Department's Problems Resolution Committee, as provided for in Chicago Municipal Code ("Code") Section 3-4-152. Appeals of those decisions will be governed by the procedures set forth in Code Section 3-4-100(I), for the appeal of the denial of a refund claim.

Any cigarette packages improperly displayed for sale after May 31, 2005, by a party who has not requested an extension of the initial May 31, 2005 deadline, and any cigarette packages improperly displayed for sale after a Department-approved extension, shall be subject to seizure, as per Code Section 3-42-110.

Questions about this ruling should be directed to the Department's Customer Service Unit at (312) 747-4747.