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Aug. 01, 2009

*From the August 2009 Review of [Sales](#)
& Use Tax Programs*

For

businesses doing business in California, Florida and Illinois, eFileSalesTax.com offers a bilingual after-the-fact, web-based solution that can be used to file sales and use tax returns for each of these states and all of their taxing counties, municipalities and taxing districts. For California filers, forms include 401-EZ, 401-A, 401-ASR (formerly Sch. T) and sales tax pre-payments. Florida returns include the DR-15 and DR-15SW (solid waste and surcharge). Illinois forms include ST-1, ST-1-X, ST-2 and ST-2-X. Pricing for the CA and FL versions of eFileSalesTax.com

is based on a per-use basis for \$6.95 for a single return. Discounts are available for businesses pre-paying for return filing, with 12 returns costing \$72.95.

CA and FL unlimited return filing for 12 months costs \$199, which could be useful to entrepreneurs or professionals filing returns for multiple entities in these states. The Florida version costs \$29 per year for single companies, \$99 per year for consolidated filers and \$99 per year for multi-company use. These fees allow electronic filing and remittance of liabilities or print-based filing of returns.

NAVIGATION & DATA ENTRY:

Users log into the secure eFileSalesTax system using their web browser, which brings up a main page for the state they have selected. A business/client list allows users to easily start new returns or look up historical returns, and any number of businesses can be managed through the program. Returns are

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automatically performed by the program. Most standard business filer information is transferred automatically to forms to speed entry. eFileSalesTax's entry fields also provide links from each line to the official form directions. All three state versions of the system are available in English and Spanish. As an alternative to manual data entry, users can import sales data from QuickBooks.

The system includes a Reminders feature that can be set up to send an email or cell phone text message reminding users of specific filing dates or other actions for specific businesses. The reminders can be set to occur monthly, quarterly or yearly, and on specific days. eFileSalesTax also offers a few other tools, including a cover letter manager that allows users to create custom templates that can be attached to returns, and returns are automatically stored in PDF format, allowing them to be easily printed or e-mailed.

FILING, ELECTRONIC COMPLIANCE & PAYMENT:

Users have the choice of e-filing and electronically paying their tax liabilities or to print returns, and the system provides ample warning before any submissions are made and processed electronically. It also offers a "test" option for the user to verify they are using correct banking information. Users can also print out a summary accountant review copy of the sales tax data prior to completing a return. E-filing and payment processing is included in the per-use pricing.

RATE UPDATES:

Because the program is web-based, all rate tables are updated and maintained on the backend by eFileSalesTax.com. The system also provides guidance on some tax issues, including recently changed rates and taxability.

HELP/TRAINING:

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provides a simple solution that can be used on an as-needed basis with no major technology investment. As an after-the-fact system, it provides the basics of what these businesses need, plus a few nice features such as the email and text reminders. It can also be useful to accounting services providers with clients needing assistance with sales tax compliance.

2009 OVERALL RATING:

Technology

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