



INTERNATIONAL SALES TAX REFUND

Important VAT information for Exhibitors at the ISMRM Convention 2007 in Berlin, Germany

General information about German VAT

In 2007 the standard VAT rate in Germany is 19%. There is a reduced rate of 7% on some goods and services. VAT is a sales tax and will be applied to most goods and services supplied in Germany. The German name for Value Added Tax is "Mehrwertsteuer" or "Umsatzsteuer" (abbreviation for VAT is MWSt or USt).

You may have received advance invoices in 2006 with a VAT rate of 16%; this was the standard VAT rate in 2006. Your final VAT invoices could include the 2007 standard VAT rate of 19% because the event takes place in 2007.

Additional information about VAT invoices from suppliers in other EC countries

If you purchase supplies or services from suppliers who are not registered in Germany for use at the Berlin Convention you may receive VAT invoices applicable for refund in other countries. You could also be asked to give your VAT ID number and provide it if you have one.

VAT processing for:

- Exhibiting companies that reside in Germany or are VAT registered

If you are a resident or are registered for VAT in Germany you will have a VAT ID number and you will know how to process VAT invoices from German or foreign suppliers. Any invoices from foreign suppliers with notes about REVERSE CHARGE of VAT (13b UStG) have to be declared and paid to the German VAT authorities. Your company's accounting or tax department will have no problem to include the applicable VAT amounts in the monthly or quarterly VAT return. If necessary, contact a tax professional (StB, RA, WP = CA, CPA, etc).

- Exhibitors/companies that reside or are registered in another EC member country

Any non-German VAT ID number should be offered to all suppliers and contractors before final payment. VAT invoices or invoices with a REVERSE CHARGE note should be given to your accounting or tax department or outside tax advisor for processing, filing and payment or VAT refund claims in the applicable countries.

- Exhibitors who are not residents or VAT registered in any EC member country

If you receive an invoice from a German or European supplier containing VAT you may be entitled to a VAT refund in the applicable country. VAT rates in Europe are often between 15% and 25%. If you receive an invoice with a REVERSE CHARGE note you must calculate, file and pay the applicable VAT amounts to the applicable VAT authority/district tax office. Not paying the REVERSE CHARGE VAT is a federal offense and may result in fines.

This information is provided as the sharing of publicly available VAT information, not as advising or consulting in any way and is not to be used as the basis for any action without consulting a tax professional or VAT service provider. Copies are restricted to ISMRM and the exhibitors at the ISMRM 2007 Berlin Convention.

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