



**STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

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August 7, 1998

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS,  
COUNTY COUNSELS,  
ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARDS,  
AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

E L SORENSEN, JR.  
*Executive Director*

No. 98/43

PROPERTY TAX RULE 202  
ALLOCATION OF AIRCRAFT OF CERTIFICATED  
AIR CARRIERS AND SCHEDULED AIR TAXI OPERATORS

Following a scheduled public hearing on February 25, 1998, the State Board of Equalization adopted amendments to Property Tax Rule 202, Allocation of Aircraft of Certificated Air Carriers and Scheduled Air Taxi Operators. The rule as amended became effective June 12, 1998.

Enclosed for your information is a final printed copy of the rule.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this rule, please contact Mr. Lawrence A. Augusta, Assistant Chief Counsel, at (916) 445-6493. If you wish extra copies of the rule, please write to State Board of Equalization, Supply Publications, 3920 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Sincerely,

Janice Masterton, Chief  
Board Proceedings Division

JM:MAS

State of California  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
PROPERTY TAX RULES

Chapter 1. State Board of Equalization — Property Tax  
Subchapter 2. Assessment  
Article 5. Situs

**Rule 202. ALLOCATION OF AIRCRAFT OF CERTIFICATED AIR CARRIERS AND SCHEDULED AIR TAXI OPERATORS.**

*Reference:* Sections 1150-1156, Revenue and Taxation Code.  
Section 15606, Government Code.

**(a) AIR TAXIS.** An aircraft whose owner on the lien date used it in scheduled air taxi service at any time during the representative period selected pursuant to subsection (f), or which has been purchased for scheduled air taxi service but not yet put into such service and not yet used in any other service, is assessable under sections 1150 to 1156 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and not under Part 10, Division 1, or under other situs provisions of Part 2, Division 1, of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

**(b) SITUS.** Aircraft of United States registry operated by certificated air carriers (within the meaning of section 1150 of the Revenue and Taxation Code) or scheduled air taxis (within the meaning of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 1154 of the Revenue and Taxation Code) and flown in intrastate, interstate, or foreign commerce shall be deemed to be situated only in those taxing agencies (within the meaning of section 404 of the Revenue and Taxation Code) in which the aircraft normally make physical contact. The physical contact must be intentional rather than by accident or as the result of an emergency, and it must involve embarking or disembarking of crew, passengers, or freight.

(1) Aircraft flying over the state without landing do not acquire situs for property tax purposes. Conversely, the situs of aircraft that depart from a taxing agency within the state, fly out of the state, and return to the same or another taxing agency within the state without landing outside the state is within the state's taxing jurisdiction throughout the flight.

(2) Situs for property tax purposes is not affected by the legal or commercial domicile of the operator of the aircraft, except that foreign-owned and -based aircraft operated solely in foreign commerce do not acquire a situs within the state for property tax purposes.

**(c) ALLOCATION FORMULA.** The allocation formula to be used by each assessor is composed of two factors: (1) ground and flight time and (2) aircraft arrivals and departures.

(1) The ground and flight time factor is the ratio of time allocable to an airport during a representative period to the total time during the representative period.

(A) Time allocable to an airport is the amount of time a certificated aircraft (or scheduled air taxi) is on the ground at the airport, plus the portion of incoming and outgoing flight time computed pursuant to subsection (d). In computing the time allocable to the airport, the following shall be excluded: (1) all ground and flight time prior to the aircraft's first entry into the revenue service of the air carrier in control of the aircraft on the current lien date; and (2) all ground time in excess of 168 hours during each period the aircraft spent 720 or more consecutive hours on the ground.

(B) Total time is the sum of the time allocable to the airport and the time allocable elsewhere during the representative period. In computing the total time, the following shall be excluded: (1) all ground and flight time prior to the aircraft's first entry into the revenue service of the air carrier in control of the aircraft on the current lien date. The ground and flight time factor shall be multiplied by 75 percent to obtain a weighted ground and flight time factor.

(2) The aircraft arrivals and departures factor is the ratio of the number of arrivals at and departures from an airport during a representative period to the total number of arrivals at and departures from all airports during the representative period. This factor shall be multiplied by 25 percent to obtain a weighted arrivals and departures factor.

**RULE 202. (Continued)**

(3) The weighted ground and flight time factor shall be added to the weighted arrivals and departures factor. The sum of the two weighted factors yields the allocation ratio to be applied to the full cash value of the aircraft to determine the full cash value allocable to the airport.

**(d) ALLOCATION OF FLIGHT TIME.** For aircraft flying from one California airport to another California airport, the flight time attributable to each airport is one-half the flight time between the airports. For aircraft arriving from an airport outside the state or leaving for an airport outside the state, the flight time from or to the state boundary shall be allocated to the California airport in which the aircraft first lands or last takes off, as the case may be. The flight time to the state boundary shall be computed as follows: (1) determine the mileage from the airport to the state boundary crossing point on a great circle flight to the first landing point outside the state; (2) divide this mileage by the total great circle mileage from the airport to the first landing point outside the state; (3) multiply this percentage by the total flight time from the airport to the first landing point outside the state. The same procedure shall be used for inbound flights from outside the state. To allow for differences in take-off, landing, and cruising speeds and for varying take-off and landing patterns, the time allocated to an airport shall not be less than five minutes for an incoming or an outgoing flight. In lieu of the actual flight time for a single flight, the average flight time between two ports, or between a port and the state line, for two or more flights of a single carrier or of more than one carrier shall be used when such an average is promulgated by the board unless the assessor has documented evidence which justifies departure from such average time.

**(e) SOURCES OF ALLOCATION DATA.** For scheduled operations, arrivals and departures and ground and flight time shall be derived from the carrier's operating schedules. For nonscheduled operations, including, but not limited to, overhaul, pilot training, charter, military contract flights, and standby services, ground and flight time and arrivals and departures shall be derived from the carrier's recorded operations.

**(f) REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD.** Annually, on or before December 20, the board shall consult with the assessors of the counties in which air carriers' aircraft normally make physical contact. On or before January 15, the board shall designate a representative period to be used by all assessors in assessing the aircraft of each carrier for the forthcoming fiscal year.

**(g) APPLICATION OF ALLOCATION FORMULA.** The aircraft of certificated air carriers and scheduled air taxi operators shall be segregated by type, and a separate allocation ratio shall be computed for each type which has established a tax situs within the state, excluding those makes within a type which have not established a tax situs within the state. Each allocation ratio shall then be applied to the total value of the carrier's aircraft of each type to which the allocation ratio applies, excluding those makes within a type which have not established a tax situs within the state. Annually, the types shall be designated by the board in the same manner and at the same time the representative period is designated. Examples of the types are as follows:

- (1) Piston-powered
- (2) Turboprop-powered
- (3) Helicopter
- (4) Turbojet and Turbofan powered
  - (A) Two engine
  - (B) Three engine
  - (C) Four engine
  - (D) DC-8-60 series
  - (E) Two engine widebody
  - (F) Three engine widebody
  - (G) Four engine widebody

*History:* Adopted March 9, 1967, effective March 10, 1967.  
Amended January 8, 1969, effective February 12, 1969.  
Amended December 12, 1969, effective January 11, 1970  
Amended February 16, 1970, effective March 26, 1970.  
Amended December 15, 1971, effective January 19, 1972.  
Amended February 21, 1974, effective February 26, 1974  
Amended December 17, 1975, effective January 25, 1976.  
Amended July 31, 1980, effective November 19, 1980.  
Amended July 27, 1982, effective February 10, 1983.  
Amended September 26, 1983, effective October 31, 1983.  
Amended February 25, 1998, effective June 12, 1998.