



---

**STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

February 17, 1967

Dear Mr. ---:

This is in answer to your letter of February 15 concerning the status of two publications, Oceanic Index and Oceanic Abstracts, for sales tax purposes under Ruling 50, Newspapers and Periodicals, copy enclosed.

Concerning the Oceanic Index, you state:

“The Oceanic Index is produced every two months and is cumulative at the end of each year. It includes up-to-date references to currently published literature that is marine oriented. Users are charged \$300.00 per year as an annual subscription fee.”

Concerning the Oceanic Abstracts, you state:

“The Oceanic Abstracts, State of the Art-Instrumentation, Vol. 1, is our first publication of abstracts and is bound. Similar publications will be produced and offered to the public at irregular intervals.”

You state that you have advised your Sales and Accounting Department that there is no sales tax liability under category A, but that under category B, the tax applies and a seller's permit is required which will be obtained from the Board. We concur in this advice which you have given to your Sales and Accounting Department.

By way of further explanation, the subscription charge for the Oceanic Index is not subject to tax. The purchase of the printing of this publication is also tax exempt and an exemption certificate, as explained in Ruling 50, can be furnished to the printer. In the event you do your own printing, you could purchase without tax any property becoming an ingredient or component part of the publication, but tax would apply to your purchase of any other property used in producing the publication but not becoming a physical part thereof.

With respect to the Oceanic Abstracts, you can also purchase the printing or components without tax because they are a part of the publication which you sell at retail and on which you will pay tax measured by the retail sales price.

Very truly yours,

E. H. Stetson  
Tax Counsel