

Re: "Order by" clause

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.mseq/2007-03/msg00000.html>

- *From:* Steve Kass <skass@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 04 Mar 2007 23:22:28 -0500
-

While there is no actual ambiguity, the parser is not so sure. Your select list contains the STATE column twice: once explicitly as the first column and once again in the *. The parser does not know whether you want to sort on the source column sop30200.STATE or on the output column STATE. They are the same in this query, but there are queries where they could be different because some output expression or column is aliased as STATE. The parser does not try to figure out the meaning of the query.

There are two solutions. One is to specify

```
ORDER BY sop30200.STATE
```

and the other is to list all the columns you want in the output separately and one each, not using the * notation. The second solution is the better one, at least in production, because neither * nor duplicate columns in the output are typically a good idea. But if this is just a quick ad hoc query, the first solution is fine.

— Steve Kass
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chas2006 wrote:

I run the script below in sql2005 and am receiving the error msg 209. Do I need a prefix to order by either STATE, TAXAMNT, or SUBTOTAL because I want them displayed in front.

Thank you.

Charlie

```
select STATE, TAXAMNT, SUBTOTAL, * from sop30200 where state
in('NJ','NY','WA','CO','CA','ME','OK','VA','PA','TN')
AND SOPTYPE IN (3,4)
```

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```
AND DOCDATE between '2007-02-01 00:00:00.000' and '2007-02-28 00:00:00.000'  
--AND TAXEXMT1 = ''  
AND SUBTOTAL <> 0  
--AND SOPNUMBE LIKE 'NCINV%'  
AND VOIDSTTS = 0  
AND SOPNUMBE NOT IN  
(SELECT INVNO FROM VERTEX..REGPRERETURNSTBL  
WHERE COMPCD = 'ABS'  
and invno between '20070201' and '20070228')  
--AND SHIPTOGEOCODE LIKE '31%')  
ORDER BY STATE DESC
```

Msg 209, Level 16, State 1, Line 1
Ambiguous column name 'STATE'.