CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING TAX STAMP AND TRACEABILITY STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

ACT AS AN AUTHORITATIVE VOICE FOR GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN TAX STAMP ISSUANCE

ADVANCE THE BENEFITS OF TAX STAMP PROGRAMMES
BACKGROUND

Founded in November 2015, ITSA was formed as a voice for the tax stamp industry to advance the benefits and evolving role of tax stamp programmes in a growing industry that is becoming ever more complex.

In an era where tax stamps are more sophisticated with expanding roles in production authentication, supply chain control and enforcement, ITSA is becoming increasingly well-known to government regulators and tax issuing authorities at national and regional level and recognised as an authoritative voice for the tax stamp community.

From its original 10 founding members, ITSA has grown to an association of 23 leading providers of tax stamps and their associated components and features, advocating the use of tax stamps as carriers of unique identifiers for secure track and trace as required by international protocols and frameworks.
CURRENT PROJECTS

- Advocate the use of tax stamps as carriers of the unique identifier for secure track and trace required under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and its Illicit Trade Protocol. The FCTC is a global treaty, ratified by 180 countries, and represents the first ever internationally agreed framework for governments and industry to create standardised tobacco control measures, including a global track and trace system. The Protocol gives detailed provisions of such a system, including details of the unique identifier. ITSA is working to ensure that the important role that high-security tax stamps can play within a track and trace regime is recognised in the technical standards of the Protocol — which are yet to be defined.

- Conduct educational and promotional seminars for revenue authorities and other stakeholders, on the subject of high-quality tax stamps and secure track and trace systems, using ISO 22382 (the ‘tax stamp standard’) as a foundation.

- Issue white papers and position statements, and deliver presentations and case studies targeted to the informational needs of national and international regulators, covering topics that include: tax stamps as part of a comprehensive system for production monitoring, authentication and track and trace systems; the impact of the FCTC and EU Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) on tobacco tax programmes; the importance of using physical/digital combinations for high-security solutions; enabling legal frameworks for secure tax stamps and traceability; how to write an RFP for a tax stamp, production monitoring and traceability programme.

- Maintain and nurture the current ITSA membership base by continuing to strengthen internal communication, member benefits and governance of the association.

WHAT WE’VE ACHIEVED SO FAR

1. Contributed to the funding, drafting and promotion of guidance standard ISO 22382 — Requirements for the content, security, issuance and examination of excise tax stamps — published in November 2018.

2. Have become more recognised by government and non-government authorities as an expert source of information and support on independent tax stamp and traceability standards and best practices. Frequently contacted by revenue authorities asking our advice, especially in relation to the FCTC Protocol and EU TPD. Some revenue authorities have even requested to join ITSA themselves as associate members.

3. Conducted regional, ‘spreading the word’ seminars in Brussels, Nairobi, Hanoi, Costa Rica... and the list continues!
MEMBER BENEFITS

Through its different projects, ITSA is a collective, advocative voice for its members, in front of issuing authorities and other decision makers. To summarise, membership of ITSA will allow you to:

- Promote the interests of the tax stamp industry and advance the benefits of tax stamp programmes at international, regional and national level, thereby demonstrating your leadership in this field
- Have access and contribute to a range of white papers, case studies and position statements, produced by ITSA
- Gain valuable ‘face-time’ with issuing authorities through regional workshops, conference-related activities, and direct enquiries received by the secretariat and shared with members

In addition, the membership package includes:

- A monthly copy of the 8-page publication Tax Stamp News & Traceability News™ (normal subscription costs £595)
- 20% off the delegate fee for attending the annual Tax Stamp Forum™, as well as a discount for sponsoring or exhibiting at the Forum
- Tax stamp and secure track and trace tender alert notifications, for both the excise goods industry and other industries such as food and pharma

And lastly, membership of ITSA signifies that you are committed to meeting the rigorous requirements of the Association’s Code of Conduct, thereby assuring your customers, suppliers and partners of ethical business practices and quality products.

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of ITSA is open to legally-incorporated companies and businesses (but not to individuals or trade or industry associations) that are current suppliers of:

- Finished tax stamps
- Tax stamp components and features
- Equipment for the design, manufacture, application and authentication of tax stamps
- Systems for coding, marking and managing tax stamps

All new members must have a legitimate and established interest and business in tax stamps, and must provide evidence of this interest when submitting their application.

The membership fee amounts to £5,000 per year.

If you wish to apply for membership, kindly complete an ITSA member application form, available from our website.

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