



Members' Newsletter

January 2021 Edition



Dear ITSA Members

A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all, and here's hoping that 2021 will lead to bigger and better things, both professionally and personally.

In the meantime, however, the coronavirus is still very much with us and continues to have a profound effect on our industry and the way we do business. Essentially, this means that opportunities to meet up in person have been drastically reduced and don't look set to improve any time soon.

Fortunately, however, we live in an era where communicating remotely through video conferencing and the like has never been easier – and this is something that ITSA made full use of in 2020, and will continue to make use of this year – hopefully in parallel to eventually being able to attend face-to-face events once more.

Specifically, ITSA held four webinars during 2020 – two in English, one in French and one in Spanish – on the theme of ‘**Quarantining Illicit Tobacco – Tobacco Control Through the Lens of COVID-19**’. The webinars explored the crucial role of tax stamp and traceability programmes in boosting government finances strained by the pandemic, against the backdrop of the WHO FCTC Protocol and with a focus on key points of ITSA’s blueprint for an FCTC-compliant programme.



Some of the webinars were attended by over 100 people, mainly from revenue agencies and ITSA member companies. We have released shortened versions of two of the webinars (one English, one Spanish), which you can view [here](#).

Our intention is to keep the webinar momentum going this year with a series of new themes. One possible theme will revolve around tax stamp best practices and standards, but please let us know if you have ideas for other themes.

Welcome to Our New Member



It gives us great pleasure to welcome our 24th ITSA member: Schwarz Druck GmbH, provider of security printing and system solutions, with headquarters in Germany.

Tax Stamp Best Practice Model Project

The Standards working group has been continuing its actions with regard to its newly launched project to create best practice tax stamp models in line with new and evolving ISO standards for securing and authenticating physical documents and creating trusted interoperable systems.

The idea is for interested ITSA members to come together to create physical samples of several types of tax stamps, compliant with relevant ISO standards in terms of functionality, interoperability, security features, applications and related services.

A kick-off meeting for the project has already taken place for interested members but any other members still interested in participating should contact the working group leaders Zbigniew Sagan (z.sagan@att-fr.com) or Marietta Ulrich-Horn (marietta.ulrich-horn@securikett.com).

Our Physical Address has Moved Up North!



Please note that ITSA's physical address has changed from Sunbury-on-Thames in London to Hexham, in the north of England, as follows:

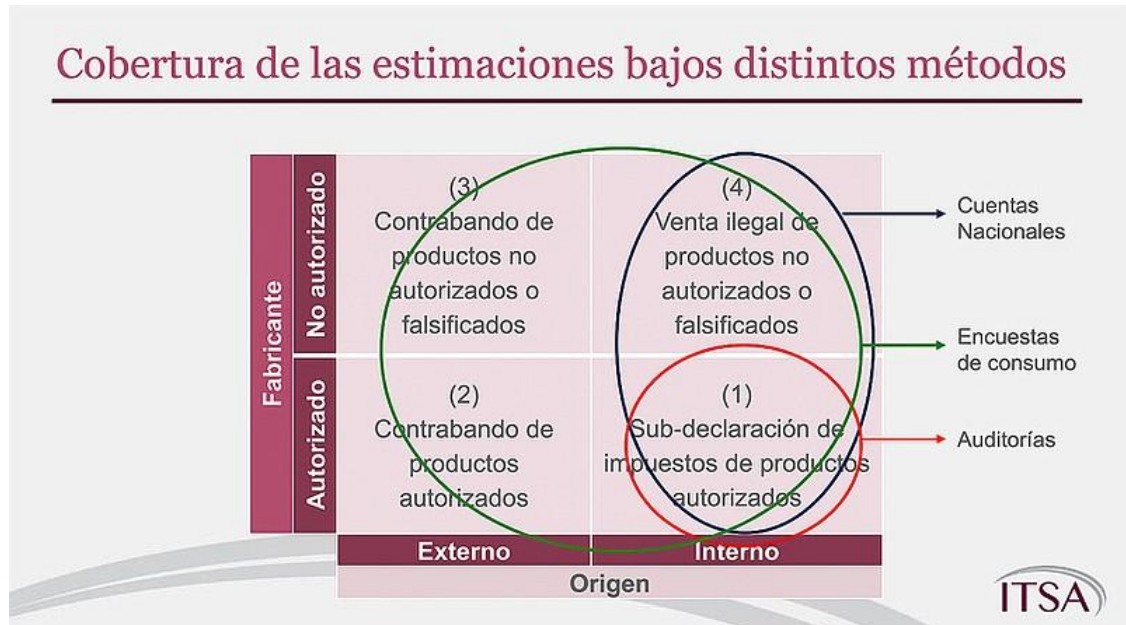
**1B The Beacon, Beaufront Park,
Anick Road, Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 4TU, UK.**

This move follows the decision of Reconnaissance International, provider of secretariat and administration services to ITSA, to relocate to smaller premises, in line with its new home-working model.

The new location is conveniently located with easy transport links by road, rail or air. However, if there is a need to meet in London, we will rent meeting space as required.

ITSA in the News

Webinar Draws Large Crowd of Latam Revenue Authorities



[Find Out More](#)

ITSA in the Tax Stamp Report



ITSA's Blueprint for an FCTC Protocol-Compliant Tobacco Control System has been published in full in Reconnaissance's new 230-page report [**Tax Stamps & Traceability: A Market Analysis and Technical Update**](#). ITSA members are eligible for a 10% discount on the purchase of this definitive source of data and analysis on the worldwide market for tax stamp and excise recovery programmes.

Remember to Share!



Don't forget that we have a Twitter account and LinkedIn Group which we encourage you all to join, use, share, like, and retweet on!

The Twitter account is called **InternationalTaxStampAssociation** ([@TaxStamp](https://twitter.com/TaxStamp)), which we urge you to follow, as well as like and retweet our messages. We now have 76 followers, compared to 39 followers nine months ago, so we still have some work to do to further boost our following.

Then there's the LinkedIn group called International Tax Stamp Association. Here we have 140 members, which is double what we had nine months ago, but we still need to continue building this number up as well. Please remember to visit this group from time to time and to regularly 'like' or comment on the posts – as well as to post your own messages of relevance to the tax stamp community.

Get in Touch

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with the secretariat team:

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