



Members' Newsletter

November 2023 Edition

Dear ITSA Members

The Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum (TSTF), in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 2-4 October, provided a great opportunity for ITSA members to meet up, as well as a chance to interact with potential new members and revenue authorities. In this newsletter, we summarise the key events and developments arising from the Forum, with links to relevant documents.



Looking good, Eddie! Many thanks to Eddie Alaszewski of the ITSA secretariat team for manning our booth during the entire TSTF.

With three new companies recently added to our growing membership base, we are now at 28 members – the highest level yet! And with new applications currently in the approval process.

So, a very warm welcome to HP Indigo Secure, Hungarian Banknote Printing Company, and Canadian Bank Note Company.



At our 6th Annual General Meeting, which took place during TSTF, we appointed a new chairman and four directors to the board.

The four directors are Stefaan D'Hoore of Luminescence Sun Chemical Security, and Tim McIntyre of Canadian Bank Note Company, who join the board as new directors, while Ruggero Milanese of SICPA and Zbigniew Sagan of Advanced Track & Trace have been re-appointed to serve an additional term.

Juan Carlos Yañez Arenas of Thomas Greg & Sons, one of the 10 founding members of ITSA, has stepped down as director, a role he has held since ITSA was formed, in 2015. Juan Carlos was also the association's first chairman, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Juan Carlos for his valued contribution and dedication throughout the years.

Gerben van Wijk, formerly of Luminescence Sun Chemical Security, and chairman of ITSA since 2022, stepped down from this role when he moved from Luminescence to another position in the security printing field. Zbigniew Sagan of Advanced Track & Trace, who has been on the board since 2015, has been appointed as ITSA's new chairman.

Click [here](#) to access the minutes and presentation from the AGM.

Tax Stamp Standard Review is Underway



During TSTF, Ian Lancaster, Project Leader for the review of ISO 22382:2018 (Guidelines for the content, security, issuance and examination of excise tax stamps) held a workshop, attended by 80 people – including 20 revenue agencies – to gather input on what changes should be made to the standard.

One comment was that some revenue agency staff were discouraged from paying attention to the standard by the fact that it contains extensive technical information on constructing tax stamps, including too much detail on security features, serialisation and unique identifiers.

Another comment was that 22382 should include more recommendations related to track and trace systems, given that such systems are increasingly associated with tax stamp programmes.

Read Ian Lancaster's [report on the workshop](#).

You can also access the ISO 22382:2108 document in the [Member's Area](#) of the ITSA website. But if you'd first like to read a summarised version of the standard (which we prepared especially for TSTF), click [here](#).

FCTC Protocol Workshop



Also during TSTF, ITSA ran a one-hour seminar on how revenue authorities can use their tax stamp programmes to technically comply with, and participate in, the global tobacco track and trace regime and information-sharing focal point required under the WHO FCTC Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

ITSA members Tim Driscoll of Authentix, and Ruggero Milanese of SICPA presented a real-case example of two countries with tax stamp programmes already in place, to demonstrate how they can use their programmes to exchange track and trace data in line with Protocol requirements.

See the full presentation.

The Importance of Before and After Analysis



During the plenary sessions of TSTF, Nicola Sudan, General Secretary, delivered a presentation titled 'Tax Stamps and Track & Trace: The Importance of Proper Analyses – Before and After'. It describes a case where ITSA was asked to evaluate a study compiled by the Costa Rica Ministry of Finance on the cost versus benefit of implementing track and trace on alcohol.

ITSA's evaluation illustrates how essential it is to use accurate information based on research acquired through qualified sources, in order to make informed decisions with regard to implementation.

The presentation also referred to an analysis by economics academics in Chile to illustrate the importance, in the months and years following implementation of track and trace, to conduct analyses on the effect of the system on tax revenues and illicit trade levels.

See the full presentation including copious slide notes.

ITSA In The News

ITSA Counters Claims that Tax Stamp-Based Track and Trace Not Compatible with FCTC Protocol – Tax Stamp & Traceability News, October 2023

Members' Directory – Searchable Area

Don't forget we have a searchable table in the Members' Directory section of the ITSA website (<https://tax-stamps.org/member-products-services-table/>), where you can enter your specific product/service offering. If you haven't yet sent in your details to add to this section, you can do so by completing and submitting an online form at <https://tax-stamps.org/itsa-member-information/>.

Get in Touch

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

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