

International Fuel Tax Association, Inc.



May 2015
Volume 15, Issue 5

THE IFTA NEWS

912 W. Chandler Blvd., #B-7
Chandler, AZ 85225-4910
480.839.IFTA (4382)
www.iftach.org

TAX RATES

Jurisdictions have until **June 1 (Monday)** to verify or amend their tax rate data for the **2015** matrix. Currently six new tax rates have been reported to IFTA, Inc. To view current tax rate changes please visit:

<http://www.iftach.org/taxchangeq.php>

REMINDER!! Please keep your Contacts updated in your IFTA, Inc. profile on www.iftach.org to prevent emails being returned with a delivery failure notice.

THE IFTA, INC. STAFF

Lonette L. Turner, CEO

Debora K. Meise, Senior Director

Jason DeGraf, Information Services Director

Amanda McNally Koeller, Comptroller

Tammy Trinker, Office and Events Administrator

Tom King, Webmaster

Patricia Platt, Program Compliance Administrator

Upcoming IFTA Meetings

The IFTA Attorneys' Section Steering Committee is excited to announce that they will be hosting an IFTA Attorneys' Meeting in October 2015. A contract has been signed with the Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk hotel. This is the same hotel where the IFTA/IRP Managers' and Law Enforcement Workshop will be held. The Attorneys' Meeting will be held October 6 – 7 alongside the workshop. Opportunities for networking with both groups are being planned. Keep looking for information regarding this event on the IFTA, Inc. website and through THE IFTA NEWS.

The Annual IFTA Business Meeting is quickly approaching. The registration will be open as of May 15. You are encouraged to register for both the meeting and hotel as soon as possible. If you are a voting delegate a separate secure room block has been provided for you. Please be certain to review the registration materials prior to procuring your hotel accommodations. If you have any questions or concerns please email Tammy Trinker at travel@iftach.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer in San Antonio, TX!

Farewell to Thom Rabaglia of Wisconsin

On May 22, Thom will eat a bit of cake, withstand a couple of speeches by well-wishers, conduct a final audit review or two, lead a final ad hoc audit policy and procedure discussion among the Wisconsin auditors, and check out before the final whistle.

Thom Rabaglia is retiring! With his usual light-heartedness, Thom says he hopes not too many cheer at the news, or at least not too loudly!

Thom will be deservedly saying hello to retirement after 24 years of service to Wisconsin and the IFTA and IRP communities.

Thom'll be off, along with his wife, Mary, to participate in his 11th Ride the Rockies week-long bicycle ride in Colorado. Biking is a big part of Thom's summer enjoyment, as is leading Ski Patrol activities a big part of his winter enjoyment.

Thom contributes his expertise and time as an experienced EMT as a Ski Patrol member, on organized bike rides, and also as a member of the community; spending several nights each month bunking at the local station to answer the call.

Here a few highlights from Thom's contributions to IFTA and IRP:

- Thom has been a member and chairperson of several committees, and has made countless presentations at Audit Workshops.
- In 1993 Thom attended his first IFTA Audit Workshop and made a presentation on the topic of use of odometers to verify distance.
- In 1994, Thom was selected to be a member of the IFTA Audit Committee. He became the Chair of that committee in 1998, serving for a two year term.
- Thom advocated having the Audit Workshop include IRP. The first joint IFTA and IRP workshop was held in 1999 during Thom's second year as IFTA Audit Committee Chair.
- After more than 15 years, this joint IFTA/IRP workshop continues today, yielding benefits to all jurisdictions, and is a tangible testimony to Thom's foresight, initiative, and persistence. Yes, we know of Thom's persistence!
- Thom is currently Vice-Chair of the IFTA Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC).

On the professional side -- in his Audit Workshop presentations, and in his daily work as a Wisconsin Lead Auditor, Thom always evaluated the draft audit outcome by asking the question: Is the Audit Fair – Fair to the Licensee, Fair to the Jurisdictions, and Fair to the State of Wisconsin?

I wish Thom the very best in retirement. I am so grateful for Thom's unflagging energy, thoughtfulness, mental agility and excellence, and I smile to think how Thom will continue that in retirement. Best wishes, Thom and Mary!

Submitted by Paul Bernander, Wisconsin IFTA Commissioner

2Q 2015

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

The IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees held its Second Quarter 2015 Board meeting at the IFTA, Inc. offices April 28 - 29. All Board members were present and a couple of guests were also in attendance. During this two-day meeting many relevant issues were addressed. Some of these matters included, but were not limited, to the following:

- Minutes from the 1Q15 Board meeting were approved as amended.
- Minutes of the Board actions by Email during January through March 2015 were approved as amended.
- A Consent Agenda consisting of committee reports was approved.
- A Carrier App was discussed that would not require a username or password and provide just the current pending status of a carrier that is looked up by a roadside enforcement officer.
- The Board is working with jurisdictions in regards to the Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER) project where a program would allow the uploading of status data through SAFER on behalf of the non-CVISN (Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks) states.
- Manitoba is working with IFTA, Inc. to become a full member of the clearinghouse funds netting. Additionally, Quebec and Alberta are investigating the requirements to become full members.
- IFTA, Inc. will be compiling the 2016 funds netting calendar following the Board meeting.
- IFTA, Inc. has revamped THE IFTA NEWS web page and is currently working on a series of changes to the website itself including electronic versions of the IFTA manuals and adding URLs for easier sharing and locating online data.
- During the Board meeting a conference call was held with the IFTA committees and working groups. Reports were offered by the Chairs of the following committees:
 - Agreement Procedures Committee – Ms. Marie Stark (MT)
 - Audit Committee – Mr. David Nicholson (OK)
 - Clearinghouse Advisory Committee – Mr. Randy Boone (IN)
 - Dispute Resolution Committee – Mr. Mark Byrne (NE)
 - Industry Advisory Committee – Ms. Sandy Johnson (NorthStar Fleet Solutions)
 - Information Technology Advisory Committee – Mr. Scott Miller (KS)
 - Law Enforcement Committee – Mr. Andrew Markle (ON)
 - Program Compliance Review Committee – Mr. Richard Wagner (NV)
 - Dual Fuel Working Group – Mr. Hugh Hughson (BC)
 - Electronic Credentials Working Group – Mr. Garry Hinkley (ME)
 - Compliance Audit Working Group – Mr. Nicholson
- Providing the Program Compliance Review update, Mrs. Debora Meise informed the Board of several goals that have been established including:
 - Webinar for jurisdiction review expectations
 - Webinar for review training
 - Procedures for conducting reviews

- The Board discussed electronic reviews vs. onsite reviews and the costs involved. The Board will charge the PCRC to draft a ballot proposal requiring all member jurisdictions to upload data into the secure clearinghouse for the purpose of their review whether the review is electronic or onsite.
- Referencing the Dual Fuel Working Group report, Mr. Hughson announced that the Attorneys' Section Steering Committee (ASSC) had drafted a response explaining that the ballot, originally IFTA STF BP # 5-2014) is valid and does not impact a jurisdiction's right to set their own tax rates. A presentation is being organized for the August 2015 Annual IFTA Business Meeting that would show the challenges to membership without using the conversion rate method presented by the ballot. Additionally, the working group is drafting a webinar to further the education of the necessity for this ballot language to be adopted.
- The Board approved the registration fees for the 2015 Attorneys' Meeting. These fees were presented at \$340 for members, \$365 for public/private sector and \$700 for exhibitors. This meeting will be held October 6 – 7 at the Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk hotel.
- The Board determined that face-to-face meetings were best and that they would hold 3 Board meetings in 2016. IFTA, Inc. will work with the local hotels to schedule these meetings in February, mid-May and in October.
- Mr. Robert Pitcher, American Trucking Association, Inc. spoke on behalf of IFTA FTFBP 3-2014. During the Board meeting this ballot was out for vote by membership following a third comment period. Mr. Pitcher urged industry to support this ballot as it reorganized, clarified and updated the language on audits and record keeping.
- Referencing a survey issued by IFTA, Inc. regarding decals and costs related to the IFTA decal, it was noted that only a small number of membership responded to the survey. IFTA, Inc. will reissue this survey to obtain additional feedback following the Board meeting.
- A Best Practices manual was drafted by a service bureau agency that would rate jurisdictions interacting with their clients, customers and carriers. This manual is being provided to the service bureaus clientele and the results would be shared upon request. The manual outlined five areas including:
 - Letting your mission govern your practices
 - Knowing your customer and serving your customer
 - Facilitating voluntary compliance
 - Regulating wisely and
 - Simplifying
- During the Electronic Credentials Working Group (ECWG) report, the Board discussed the application for the status updates at the roadside. Concern was expressed regarding IFTA, Inc. releasing this data due to the confidentiality agreements entered into with membership and IFTA, Inc. It was explained that this application is a website link provided by email to specific requesting individuals. It was thought that a demonstration should be provided during the August Annual IFTA Business Meeting to show more clearly where the data is being stored, what type of data is available, and whether or not membership would agree to the sharing of this type of data.
- The ECWG are also focusing on the data quality entered into the clearinghouse.
- Additional projects for the ECWG were considered by the Board. These projects included pursuing license bar codes and permitting searches of jurisdiction data through the IFTA app.

- The Board will contact CVISN as well as IRP, Inc. in relation to the IFTA app project and the potential for linking additional information, beyond what is required by IFTA, Inc., in an effort to present a multi-functional app.
- The Board decided to present a Town Hall topic during the August 2015 Annual IFTA Business Meeting regarding an amendment to the transmittal forms requiring the correct DOT number so that it would upload accurately into the clearinghouse.
- The Board approved the nomination of Ms. Belinda MacKinnon (MB) to the APC.
- Reporting on the IFTA/IRP Board Subcommittee, Mr. Zion announced that the IRP, Inc. Board requested more time to review the two-year period wherein IRP, Inc. hosted the IFTA/IRP Managers' and Law Enforcement Workshop and IFTA hosted the IFTA/IRP Audit Workshop. IRP will review the trial period following the conclusion of the 2015 IFTA/IRP Managers' and Law Enforcement Workshop this October.
- Reviewing the 2015 Annual IFTA Business Meeting, the Board approved the registration fees as presented. These fees were approved at \$350 for non-voting members, \$410 for public and private sector representatives, and \$700 for exhibitors.
- There are seven (7) current IFTA ballots for 2015. These ballots are:
 - FTPBP 01-2015 sponsored by the APC
The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Procedures Manual to remove the requirement for clearinghouse members to notify all "read only" members of the number of transmittals that have been sent that calendar year.
 - FTPBP 02-2015 sponsored by the APC
The intent of this ballot is to remove the confusing verbiage related to the reporting of the number of accounts cancelled, suspended or revoked and replaced with the IFTA processing system utilized by the jurisdiction.
 - FTPBP 03-2015 sponsored by the APC
The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Procedures Manual to include a requirement to upload full demographic information on a nightly basis for accuracy and timely information.
 - FTPBP 04-2015 sponsored by the APC
The intent of this ballot is to the requirement to send cancellation, revocation, suspensions and reinstatement reports only be required for the read-only clearinghouse members to distribute.
 - FTPBP 05-2015 sponsored by the Board
The intent of this ballot is to establish a standard unit of measure for LNG reporting and transmittal purposes between members.
 - FTPBP 06-2015 sponsored by the PCRC
The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Articles of Agreement to require the PCRC to recommend to membership that a dispute be initiated against a member jurisdiction that has been found non-compliant on the subject of Licensee Audits by not auditing on behalf of all member jurisdictions. Additionally, this ballot would allow the PCRC to present to membership for approval an updated and streamlined Program Compliance Review Guide.

- FTPBP 07-2015 sponsored by the PCRC
The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Audit Manual to require jurisdictions to include the “Interest Charged Thru Date” on the Audit Reports and Interjurisdictional Audit Reports they generate on the completion of their audits.
- IRP currently has one ballot, 2015.01, sponsored by the IRP Audit Committee. This ballot references the full reciprocity plan (FRP) and audit distance.
- The Board approved the adoption of the IFTA Contingency Plan as amended by the Board.
- The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan amendments. The amended Plan, as reviewed by and revised by the Board, will be presented to membership prior to the Annual IFTA Business Meeting in order to encourage interaction and raise awareness.
- A request was presented to the Board from Vusion requesting a report that would show total miles over all jurisdictions, total gallons over all jurisdictions and updates following the end of each quarter once the data provided to the clearinghouse has been finalized. The Board discussed this issue and it was determined that IFTA, Inc. is not in a position to share this type of information due to the confidentiality agreed to by the members and IFTA, Inc. through the Clearinghouse Access Agreement. This request will also be presented to membership for additional discussion during the Annual IFTA Business Meeting.
- Referencing the Annual Reports, it was explained that not reporting the issuance of decals is not a compliance issue. If a jurisdiction does not report this it would be noted in their review but would not be cited as a non-compliance issue. The Board also inquired about when errors are made on the Annual Reports. It was explained that the data provided was supplied by the jurisdiction and it is the responsibility of the jurisdiction, not IFTA, Inc., to ensure the accuracy of the reported data. IFTA, Inc. will research the ability of adding a pop-up window asking the user if they are sure the data entered is complete and accurate before closing their report.
- The Board also approved the nominations of the following to the ASSC:
 - Mr. James Clark (IN), Midwest Region
 - Mr. James Cook (TX), Western Region
 - Ms. Jenny Deters (KS), Midwest Region
 - Mr. Paul Nilson (WI), Midwest Region
 - Mr. David Poore (BC), Canadian Region
 - Mr. Frances Vandenberg (ON), Canadian Region
- During a closed session the Board reviewed the fiscal year budget and approved a new financial policy.



2015 Full Track Ballot Proposals

FTPBP 01-2015

Intent: The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Procedures Manual to remove the requirement for Clearinghouse members to notify all “read only” Clearinghouse members of the number of transmittals that have been sent that calendar year.

FTPBP 02-2015

Intent: The intent of this ballot is to remove the confusing verbiage related to the reporting of the number of accounts cancelled, suspended or revoked. This provision of the Procedures Manual would be replaced with the IFTA processing system (in-house or provider/vendor name) utilized by the jurisdiction.

FTPBP 03-2015

Intent: The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Procedures Manual to include a requirement to upload full demographic information on a nightly basis.

Membership would benefit from this procedure change by allowing all jurisdictions access to the latest status of accounts when licensing new accounts and would give roadside enforcement more accurate data to utilize when enforcing IFTA. By distributing the licensee demographic data and inter-jurisdictional audit reports to participating jurisdictions via the IFTA, Inc. Clearinghouse, this will ensure jurisdictional compliance according to the applicable provisions of the IFTA Audit Manual.

This change would make it a requirement for this information to be uploaded to the Clearinghouse on a nightly basis for accuracy and timely information.

FTPBP 04-2015

Intent: The requirement to send Cancellation, Revocation, Suspensions and Reinstatement reports shall only be a requirement for those read only Clearinghouse member jurisdiction.

FTPBP 05-2015

Intent: To establish a standard unit measure for LNG reporting and transmittal purposes between IFTA members.

FTPBP 06-2015

Intent: The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Articles of Agreement to require the PCRC to recommend to the membership that a dispute be initiated against a member jurisdiction that has been found non-compliant on the subject of Licensee Audits by not auditing on behalf of all member jurisdictions.

In addition to this ballot, the PCRC will present to membership for approval an updated and streamlined Program Compliance Review Guide where reviews would focus on those specific sections found in R1555 that the membership felt were disputable. Each of the Sections outlined in the proposed R1555 are measurable and are currently reviewed by the PCR teams.

Allowing audits of periods less than four quarters permits member jurisdictions to obtain credit toward quota when addressing a segment of the transportation industry that moves frequently from one base jurisdiction to another minimizing their audit risk.

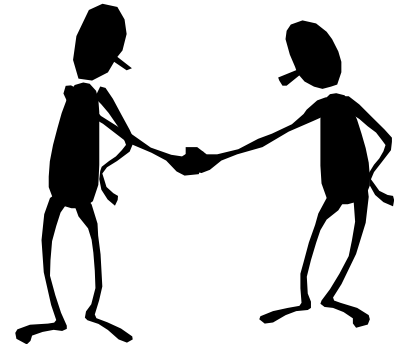
FTPBP 07-2015

Intent: The intent of this ballot is to amend the IFTA Audit Manual to require jurisdictions to include the Interest Charged Thru Date on the Audit Reports and Interjurisdictional Audit Reports they generate on the completion of their audits. This proposed change will benefit the Licensee, Affected Jurisdictions, Team and Committee by providing better information on the reports.

The interest charged thru date would need to be recorded in these reports to be compliant but the location of where in the report the date is would be the responsibility of the jurisdictions. It could be placed into the narrative portion of the audit report or any supporting schedules generated.



IFTA Comings and Goings



Coming:

Utah

IFTA Commissioner:

Name: Brad Simpson

Phone: (801) 297-7687

Email: iftamgt@utah.gov

Utah

Assistant IFTA Commissioner:

Name: Stacey Hammond

Phone: (801) 297-7660

Email: iftamgt@utah.gov

Nova Scotia

Assistant IFTA Commissioner:

Name: Sherry Conrad

Phone: (902) 424-6724

Email: conradsl@gov.ns.ca

The following jurisdictions have updated the Jurisdiction Communication List (JCL) in some manner since *April 15, 2015*. Please visit their JCL on the secure website to ensure that you are working with the most current information for these jurisdictions:

**British Columbia
Massachusetts
Nebraska**

**Nova Scotia
Quebec
Utah**

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities are still available for the 2015 IFTA Annual Business Meeting. This opportunity affords your company the chance to intermix with our members and display your company's product. If you are a service provider to our member jurisdictions, or are a new company looking for a way to meet, greet, and interact with future clientele, we invite you to sponsor a Networking Event at our upcoming meeting. As always, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to your sponsorship. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Debora Meise, our Senior Director, at dmeise@iftach.org or by calling her at (480) 839-4382 ext. 3.

The Importance of Accurate DOT Numbers

To “DOT” or not to “DOT”. That is the question. The US DOT number is a FMCSA census number assigned to interstate motor carriers primarily for the purpose of tracking safety events such as roadside inspections, crashes and terminal audits. This information is used to calculate safety ratings, which, in turn, is used for roadside screening selection and other purposes. The DOT number also may be used to identify IFTA licensees for efficient screening.

The motor carrier responsible for safety must have a DOT number, which, for safety events, is the functional equivalent of an individual’s social security number. A motor carrier can be any entity from a one truck operation to the largest motor carrier. An owner-operator leases to a motor carrier, and the carrier is responsible for safety events. An owner-operator may have one or many trucks, but the owner-operator is ineligible for a DOT number.

So, how does this affect IFTA? The USDOT number is the primary identifier for roadside screening. The DOT number, along with the IRP plate number, may be read electronically, manually, or by transponder. The carrier then can be identified in the jurisdiction’s screening system. In the US, most states are using the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s “Safety and Electronic Records” SAFER database, usually imported into their “Commercial Vehicle Information Exchange Window” (CVIEW). SAFER contains federal and state generated carrier safety information, as well as vehicle registration and IFTA status information uploaded by many states. (Approximately thirty states upload IFTA demographic information to SAFER, and this is a CVISN level one requirement.) Some states also import IFTA Clearinghouse demographic information into their CVIEWs to further enhance roadside enforcement.

The most accurate way to associate an IFTA licensee’s demographic information to their SAFER base record is through the accurate collection and transmittal of the licensee’s DOT number. However, not every IFTA licensee has a DOT number. An owner-operator (not functioning as their own carrier) will not have a USDOT number. In these cases, no number can be collected, and the field should be left blank. If the owner-operator is obtaining their own IFTA license, the base jurisdiction should not use the motor carrier’s DOT number for IFTA purposes. It is very important to check the licensee’s DOT number for accuracy. The base jurisdiction should verify that the number belongs to the licensee, and that it agrees with other demographic information such as the FEIN and legal name. Inaccurate information will result in misidentification roadside, and may, in turn, discourage enforcement from using screening tools to enforce IFTA requirements.

The Clearinghouse Advisory Committee has identified many instances of incorrect DOT numbers in the IFTA clearinghouse. The CAC has formed a subcommittee to work with jurisdictions to try to clean up this information.

If your jurisdiction has a CVIEW or equivalent, it should be relatively easy and quick to verify DOT numbers. It may be necessary to coordinate with other agencies or with your local FMCSA division office to obtain access. However, blindly collecting DOT numbers without verification actually can be counterproductive and can discourage IFTA roadside enforcement.

Submitted by Garry Hinkley (ME)

IFTA, INC. WEBSITE

By: Tom King, webmaster (tking@iftach.org)

Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Minutes for the updated for the following committees.

- Audit Committee
- Clearinghouse Advisory Committee

IFTA, INC. CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE

By: Jason DeGraf, Information Services Director (jdeggraf@iftach.org)

SAFER UPDATE

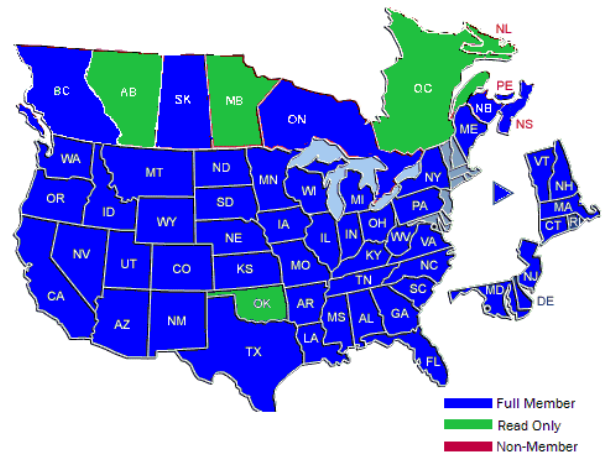
Nevada is now regularly loading data to SAFER. We also have sent out a few MOUs to be signed by jurisdictions to give us permission to send your data to SAFER.

REMINDER

We ask that you please view your transmittal data on the Clearinghouse. We had a small incident this month where bad data was loaded onto the Clearinghouse, and out of 6 jurisdictions, not one checked the data. So please, take a moment to view your data.

User Registration

All user registration and removals are done on www.iftach.org. Please use the Clearinghouse User Registration Link to view, add and remove your user.





SAVE THE DATE!

2015

IRP Annual Meeting
May 18 – 20, 2015
Savannah, Georgia

2015 Nlets Annual Business Meeting
June 30 - July 1, 2015
Boise, Idaho

IFTA Annual Business Meeting
August 12-13, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

AAMVA Board of Directors' Meeting
August 23-24, 2015
Des Moines, IA

AAMVA Annual International Conference
August 25-27, 2015
Iowa Events Center

CVSA Annual Conference & Exhibition
September 13-17, 2015
Boise, Idaho

IFTA Attorneys' Meeting
October 6 – 7, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

***IFTA/IRP Managers' and Law Enforcement
Workshop***
October 6 – 8, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting
October 20 - 21, 2015
Chandler, Arizona

