

Headlines of 2019

That Was the Year That Was...

January 2019

Tax Stamp News™ becomes *Tax Stamp & Traceability News*™ (TSTN); International Tax Stamp Association (ITSA) becomes a code issuing agency under EU Tobacco Products Directive (TPD); governments need holistic solutions, not just tax stamps; medicines traceability – a global overview of a chaotic situation; what is this thing called traceability – a back-to-basics overview of what secure track and trace actually means.

February 2019

World Bank recommends tax stamps and track and trace; three months to go... and where are we on TPD track and trace implementation? FDA looks to pilot projects to enhance pharma track and trace; PragmatlC announces first products in *ConnectlC*® family of flexible circuits; the latest from Ghana – textiles and fertiliser; Ashton Potter releases *ProLinc*™ traceability solution; conference feedback – emerging print technologies.

March 2019

De La Rue wins new contracts in Middle East and Europe; Spectra Systems receives first order for smartphone-authenticated taggant signature; what exactly is a blockchain-based excise stamp replacement system? Nepal signs MoU with France to set up state printing works; Indian government to work on seed traceability mechanism; Nigeria becomes 51st party to WHO FCTC Protocol as West Africa gears up for track and trace; ITSA to host tax stamp and traceability seminar in Costa Rica; the state of illicit cigarettes in Sri Lanka; India's recent hooch tragedy confirms TSTN's concerns; seeing is not believing – how criminals are already finding ways to circumvent 2D barcodes used in product traceability; conference feedback – emerging smartphone technologies; news from East Africa: Kenya wins praise, Tanzania rolls out new programme... and Uganda is next.

April 2019

Concerns raised over EU traceability system missing deadline; SICPA awarded new Massachusetts tax stamp and traceability contract; legal and illegal tobacco trade often intertwined, claims research; WHO addresses lack of global guidance on healthcare track and trace; Authentix plans for its SPS acquisition;

Bureau of Internal Revenue probes recycled tax stamps in Philippines; how Georgia reduced illicit tobacco from 50% to 3%... while still increasing taxes.

May/June 2019

Ireland to introduce new tax stamps on tobacco products; perspective on new South African track and trace tender; competing bid stalls Nepal's security printing press deal with France; EU criminal network linked to illicit tobacco is busted; Dominican Republic set to launch new tax stamp and traceability system for cigarettes and alcohol; Bruce DeBoer returns to US cigarette stamping machine industry; unique codes – beyond authentication; US Food and Drug Administration announces new era of smarter food safety; global food traceability market expected to grow to \$22.27 billion by 2025; Ashton Potter enhances ProLinc solution; programme announced for *Tax Stamp Forum*™; where do strange words like 'contraband' and 'banderol' come from?

July 2019

Tanzania to roll out second phase of tax stamp programme; ITSA challenges EU court ruling on tobacco laws; happy 10th birthday Tax Stamp News! EU tobacco traceability should not be considered blueprint, warns FCA; the new Luminescence; coming in 2020... new *Tax Stamp & Traceability Report*; Kenya sets stage for new water tax; security print software and digital print open doors in tax stamp production; Arjo Solutions expands into Latin America; the rise of public-private alliances in Latin America; UAE to impose tax stamps on e-cigarettes.

August 2019

Philippines to introduce alcohol stamps and enhance tobacco stamps; ITSA urges Costa Rica to adopt secure track and trace; tax stamps and secure marks – four avenues to a strategic advantage; cannabis and smoke-free alternatives take centre stage at US Federation of Tax Administrators meeting; latest developments in India; from the archives – identifying counterfeit spirits and wine: comparing ten years ago with today; counterfeit or forgery? – exploring the origin of these words.

September 2019

Tax Stamp Forum goes back to where it all began; UK to suspend tobacco track and trace if no-deal Brexit; the 9th Tax Stamp Forum in quotes and photos; the SARS tender – can an agency in turmoil be both agile and prudent? human and/or digital interrogation of tax stamps; ITSA appoints three new board members; cannabis news – KushCo enters exclusive agreement with De La Rue, nearly all California cannabis businesses in system by end October, Maine cannabis regulators address seed-to-sale tracking confusion.

October 2019

Uganda launches tax stamps on six different products... all in one go! controversy reigns over Pakistan tender award; tobacco industry interference index – what it means for secure track and trace; Graphi Mecc's serialisation equipment offerings; INCM – from art to machine readable coding; how countries around the world charge excise taxes.

November 2019

SICPA signs cooperation agreement with Kazakh telecoms company; Pakistan tender award faces multiple legal challenges in high court; save the date for the 2020 Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum; track and trace working group for FCTC Protocol launches in Panama; India needs comprehensive national policy to tackle alcohol, declares Authentication Solution Providers Association; new tobacco track and trace system bestows 'digital enforcement powers' on Chile revenue authority; SICPA launches its 'brightest star' for secure labels.

December 2019

Tanzania records 34% increased revenue on liquor; FDA advances plans for food traceability; ANY Security Printing analyses the cost of security; FCA issues guidebook on implementing Article 8 of the WHO FCTC Protocol relating to track and trace; STOP issues policy brief on protecting track and trace systems from tobacco industry; tax differences across US states continue to cause significant smuggling, says new Mackinac report.