

# Headlines of 2020

## January

Maine negotiates with Metrc for marijuana track and trace; ITSA argues technology revolution can fast-track tax stamp growth in 2020; Russia continues with ambitious national track and trace project; Security Document Summit shows considerable growth; some progress, but not significant enough, in tackling illicit tobacco trade in Southeast Asia; automated inspection solution boosts Ramón Chozas' tax stamp production by 15%; countries ineffective at identifying and containing illicit alcohol trade, suggests WCO 2019 Illicit Trade Report.

## February

Blockchain technology advances for food and pharmaceutical track and trace; Royal Joh Enschedé wins Dutch tax stamp tender; Beemit develops late-stage digital print technology; De La Rue looks to the future with Authentication Division; Ghana tax stamps performing well; SICPA signs MoU with Turkmenistan for strategic partnership; Adriana Blanco appointed head of FCTC Secretariat; Fedrigoni completes acquisition of Ritrama; tobacco control developments in South Africa.

## March

Ukraine announces roll-out of new alcohol tax stamp; UAE declares tax stamps for e-cigarettes mandatory; South Africa cannot afford to be losing \$14 million a day to illicit trade; Kenya launches initiative to create a single stamp regime for all government agencies; excise and commercial tax stamps in Myanmar; ITSA launches tobacco control system blueprint; WCO 2019 Illicit Trade Report shows enforcement efforts and confrontation of illicit tobacco trade similar to that of alcohol.

## April

How coronavirus will likely impact the tax stamp industry (part 1); EU Court of Justice rejects International Tax Stamp Association's legal appeal against EU Tobacco Products Directive; the difference between an authentication label and a tax stamp; South Africa likely to 'start from scratch' in search for track and trace provider; Philippines orders use of tax stamps on e-cigarettes; Indian states of Goa and Rajasthan announce measures to introduce liquor stamps; ITSA invites revenue authorities to join its ranks; Nepal halts security printing press tender; significant progress toward tobacco control in Laos; HP Indigo and JURA unveil 'never seen before' digital security features; 2019 Tobacco Control Scale released.

## May

New alcohol stamps introduced in Ukraine; Pakistan court cancels tobacco track and trace system; a new paradigm needed for illicit trends data; roles and responsibilities to ensure genuine stamps aren't suspected of being fake; the justification (or lack thereof) for increasing excise taxes to battle COVID-19; illicit trade booming in South Africa as track and trace tender cancelled; Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project shines a light on tobacco industry influence over track and trace systems.

## June

Mozambique fuel marking scheme boosts tax revenues; Russia launches beer stamp pilot; ITSA hits back over tax stamp criticism; SICPA wins contract for alcohol excise solution in Oregon; review of OpSec's Equinox technology; Vietnam wrestles with ever-increasing smuggling and trade fraud; how coronavirus will likely impact tax stamp industry (part 2); Telita Snyckers publishes 'Dirty Tobacco'.

## July

Nepal tax stamp provider fails to sign contract; Philippines fuel marking programme hits 10 billion litres; Thailand banks big on digital technologies to fight illicit trade; new document biometric technologies provide greater authentication and security for tax stamps; Venture Global Consulting asks when the cannabis revolution will happen; excise supply chains and the limits of blockchain.

## August

Togo and DR Congo set to introduce new tax stamp and marking systems; ITSA says tax stamps can boost government finances in post-COVID world; Perum Peruri hopeful for cooperation with Nepal's Inland Revenue Department despite tender withdrawal; ASPA and GS1 India sign MoU; South Africa's alcohol and tobacco prohibition results in loss of revenue and booming illicit trade, highlighting systemic weaknesses; WCO Illicit Trade Report provides insight into impact of EU Tobacco Products Directive.

## September

Illicit tobacco most reported counterfeit product in UK; Liberia introduces tax stamps for first time; illicit trade in Malaysia and its upgraded tax stamp programme; De La Rue awarded five-year contract in Ghana; Domino acquires Lake Image Systems; track and trace market set for strong growth, says market research report; TSTN launches online; SGS and Purity-IQ launch new service to authenticate

cannabis products; Kezzler and Trace announce blockchain partnership; Applied DNA Sciences applies its molecular tag technology to cannabis industry; Oklahoma announces new track and trace contract with Metrc; the threat from technology insurgents on the tax stamp industry; writing an RFP for tax stamps and traceability systems; cloud-based solutions can provide greater efficiency in tax administration.

## October

ITSA counters claims in Costa Rica that traceability systems are ineffective; Tanzania to launch third phase of 'Electronic Tax Stamp' programme; Bath University reveals tobacco industry not transparent in key EU consultation on tobacco tracking system; Guam tax agency opposes hiring private company to implement cigarette tax stamp programme; Europol helps close down one of Holland's largest illegal cigarette factories; Ashton Potter and BostonCIO announce partnership; Authentix buys Traceless; STOP campaign focuses on South Africa's lack of action against illicit tobacco; illicit trade thrives during the pandemic, says Sven Bergmann; Nepal issues new tender for excise tax stamps.

## November

Next frontier in cannabis track and trace as US voters approve new state-wide ballot measures to legalise marijuana; Tax Stamp and Traceability Forum postponed until October 2021; FCTC Secretariat concerned tobacco control measures being pushed aside; Romania uses Eltronis interactive holographic labels to promote wine provenance and fight fraud; Ukraine government approves separate tax stamps for e-cigarettes; fuel marking in Philippines shows success versus oil smuggling; smart packaging and its uses for traceability and security; Cambodia juggles inflow of untaxed imported cigarettes against outflow of counterfeit goods to EU; Tax Stamp & Traceability report showcases opportunity and growth for tax stamps; the impact on consumption and tax revenues of eliminating illicit cigarette trade; YPB Group secures partner to access Thailand's tax stamp market.

## December

2020 – a tumultuous year in review; new Pakistan tender – here we go again; UK considers tougher sanctions against illicit tobacco as it prepares to leave EU; Ian Lancaster reviews new report 'Tax Stamps & Traceability: A Market Analysis and Technical Update'; ITSA webinar draws large crowd of Latin American authorities.