

The Uniformer

MESSAGE FROM THE FTA MOTOR FUEL TAX SECTION CHAIR MICHAEL HARRELL

Well, the summer driving season is already upon us, and it looks like fuel prices are going to be another consumer issue this year. With prices already on the rise, we can anticipate the usual charges of "high taxes" or "price gouging" being leveled at government and industry respectively. Of course, when prices rise, consumers and product suppliers will seek ways (legally, and unfortunately illegally) to reduce the amount they pay, or reap profits from underpayment of taxes. Now more than ever, the function that we serve is an important one, and is the last (and only) line of defense against revenue losses. Another challenge that we face: moratoriums on fuel excise taxes, or "tax holidays". Many jurisdictions are already facing revenue shortfalls; we can only "tighten our belts" but so much, and do the work that's intended at the same levels, but with shrinking budgets. And of course, we're always trying to find ways to "do more with less", and focus our efforts in the areas that give us the most "bang for our buck". I am certainly glad that we are able to meet a couple of times throughout the year, talk about what's out there, and help each other develop "game plans" to do what we need to do with what we have.

The Pacific Region Conference was very successful and a lot of valuable information was shared among the attendees. I look

forward to visiting with the Northeastern, Southern and Midwestern regions, as well as our attending our Uniformity meeting, and of course our Annual meeting. I certainly encourage as many jurisdictions as possible to attend the conference in their region, and of course I hope that every jurisdiction can attend the annual meeting. Also, participation in Uniformity is, in my opinion, critical – not just attending the meetings, but also embracing the concept of uniform fuel tax administration. Finally, I most certainly value our industry and federal government partners continuing to walk this road beside us, and not only attending the conferences, but also active participating in planning and presentation of information that is vital to our growth as Fuel Tax Administrators, investigators, auditors, lawyers, and everyone else involved.

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE INDUSTRY CO-CHAIR BOB DONNELLAN

With the ever changing personnel within the industry, as your Industry Co-chair of uniformity it is time to recruit for various state co-chair positions. As you may or may not know we have had several Industry representatives that have given us a tremendous wealth of knowledge and some of those individuals are going to have to step down next year. If there is anyone in the industry that would like the opportunity to sit as an industry co-chair of a sub committee please see me or

Donna Alderman within the next couple of months so we can determine what committee to seat you at. Also at this time we are looking for Industry as well as State nominees for the Uniformity Awards. If there is someone or a State that you think should be recognized please forward your nominations to us no later than August 1, 2007.

UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE

The FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Uniformity Committee met at the Marriott in Portsmouth, Virginia on January 20, 2007. Donna Alderman (NC), Uniformity State Co-Chair called the meeting to order. Forty-nine (49) were in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 2006 Uniformity Committee meeting in Albuquerque, NM were approved.

Presentation

A video by Fuel Mister on how to make bio diesel in your garage was presented by Rick Schirk (OH).

Carol Player passed around a sample of bio diesel from a bio diesel plant in South Carolina she visited. The sample of bio diesel was made from chicken fat.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Compliance Subcommittee

Rick Shirk (OH) reported there were twenty-seven (27) in attendance. The committee discussed the following:

- Best Practices Manual (disclosing sensitive information)
- Dyed Fuel Issues
- Fuel Evasion Issues
- Railroad Issues
- Training
- Bio Diesel Issues
- Paperwork of Barges

Electronic Commerce Subcommittee

Darrell Wissink (NE) reported the two sessions and discussed the following:

Not Too Technical

(27 in attendance) (this was combined with Forms Management meeting).

- ExTOLE
- ExSTARS User's Group
- EC 2006 Survey results
- Industry Issues

Technical

(19 in attendance)

- IRS Update
- ExSTARS Update
- State EDI Guides
- EDI Implementation Guide Updates
- Data Repository
- XML Schema

Forms Management Subcommittee

Herman Wisneski (MN) reported that this committee met with Electronic Commerce. There were twenty-seven (27) in attendance. The subcommittee discussed the following:

- Product code request
Racing Gas

- Best method to report product where the tax has been assessed at a lower rate but sold at a higher rate
- Schedule code request from Kentucky
- Forms approval request
State of Maryland
State of Louisiana
State of New York
- Railroad STCC and FTA product codes

Full Committee Approved:

- Rename Schedule 10-J to "Gallons delivered to consumers or filing stations tax free"

Communication and Coordination Subcommittee

The Communication and Coordination Subcommittee Christy Dixon (OK) reported that seventeen (17) were in attendance. The subcommittee discussed the following and the January 2007 Uniformer was passed out.

- White paper/issue paper on bio diesel and other alternative fuels
- Definition for Diversion
- Define Racing Fuel
- Bill of lading project
- Document for the Model Legislation for when fuel has 2 different tax rates
- Gather information on Two Party Exchange

Full Committee Approved:

Definition for Diversion
Diversion means product shipped from a terminal to a state or jurisdiction other than the

destination state or jurisdiction indicated on the original bill of lading.

Old/New Business

Michael Harrell, Motor Fuel Tax Section National Chair discussed that he is looking for topics for the Annual Meeting in October. If anyone has anything they would like to present or see on the agenda, please contact Michael Harrell or Cindy Anders-Robb.

Carol Player talked about the National Diversion Registry. The registry currently has 25 states participating in it. She encourages more states to join. If you are interested in joining, please contact Carol Player or Cindy Anders-Robb for details.

Cindy Anders-Robb requested that all minutes, agenda and project tracking forms be submitted to her no later than February 16, 2007.

Next Meeting

The next Uniformity Committee meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 1-2, 2007 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

September 28-29, 2007 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The meeting was adjourned.

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2007

Uniformity Meeting

September 28-29, 2007
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

January 18-19, 2008
Glendale, Arizona

May 30-13, 2008
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

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Regional Meetings

Southern Region
June 17-19, 2007
Wilmington, North Carolina

Midwestern Region
Indianapolis, Indiana
June 25-26, 2007

Annual Meeting
September 30- October 3, 2007
Baton Rouge Hilton
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Training Courses

Basic Training
July 29-August 1, 2007
Helena, Montana

Advanced Training
August 26-30, 2007
St. Louis, Missouri

Basic Investigation Training
September 9-12, 2007
Cleveland, Ohio

Advanced Investigation Training
January 28-31, 2008
Austin, Texas

Editors

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