

Motor Fuels Tax Newsletter

North Carolina Department of Revenue
Motor Fuels Tax Division
1429 Rock Quarry Road, Ste 105, Raleigh, NC 27610
Telephone: 919-733-3409/Toll Free 877-308-9092



June 2006

Motor Carrier Seminars

The Motor Fuels Tax Division will be sponsoring Motor Carrier Seminars again this year.

The seminars will include presentations by the Motor Fuels Tax Division, the International Registration Plan Section, the Internal Revenue Service and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement Section. Topics to be discussed include:

- **MOTOR CARRIER FUEL TAX ISSUES**
- **STATE AND FEDERAL PENALTIES**
- **MOTOR CARRIER REGISTRATION**
- **TAX RETURN FILING**
- **IFTA INTERNET FILING**
- **RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**
- **AUDIT PROCEDURES**
- **2290 FILING REQUIREMENTS**
- **WEIGHT & SAFETY REGULATIONS**
- **E NUMBERS**
- **BINGO STAMP REQUIREMENTS**

Representatives from the various agencies will be available to answer questions during the sessions as well as after the presentations.

Registration forms will be mailed in early July to all Motor Carriers registered with the Motor Fuels Tax Division. The deadline for registration is July 22, 2006. There is no charge for attending these seminars. The seminar involves a one-day participation, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending a seminar, and you do not receive a registration form in early July, please call the Division at 919-733-3409 or toll free at 1-877-308-9092.

For your information in planning your schedule, the seminar dates and locations are shown in the table that follows.

Seminar Dates and Locations	
Wilmington	August 1, 2006 Cape Fear Community College Allied Health Building L-107 415 N. Second Street Wilmington, NC
Greenville	August 2, 2006 Pitt Community College Leslie Building Room 143 1986 Pitt Tech Road Winterville, NC
Cary	August 4, 2006 Wake Technical Community College Wake Tech Business and Industry Center (Western Campus – Millpond Village) Room 118 3434 Kildaire Farm Road Cary, NC
Hickory	August 8, 2006 August 9, 2006 Lenoir Rhyne College McCrorie Center Room 213 625 7 th Avenue NE Hickory, NC
Asheboro	August 10, 2006 Randolph Community College R. Alton Cox Resource Center Auditorium 629 Industrial Park Avenue Asheboro, NC



Motor Fuels Tax Division Collection Options

The collections unit is utilizing more of the collection tools available to the Department of Revenue. The revenue agents have the ability to garnish wages paid from an employer or a contractor, garnish bank accounts, seize property through a warrant, or request revocation of license plates. The Department is also placing taxpayers on a database with the NC State Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol officers have the authority to hold the truck until sufficient funds are paid to the officer or the Department.

Taxpayers have several options available to them as well. They can pay the balance due in full. They can protest an assessment before it is final billed if they disagree with the figures used by the Department to calculate the assessment. Taxpayers can also establish a payment plan at any time.



IFTA/Intrastate E-File

www.dornc.com

All registered IFTA/Intrastate carriers can file their quarterly IFTA returns, pay amounts due, order credentials (license and decals), close accounts, review returns and/or credentials previously filed via the Internet using our web site. The Department of Revenue's E-File system offers the convenience of completing transactions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Payments can be made on-line by bank draft, MasterCard or Visa. Payments made by check or money order may continue to be mailed to the Department of Revenue along with the voucher. Please be certain that your check is postmarked on or before the due date. Payments postmarked after the due date will be subject to assessment of penalties and interest.

Please note that applications for motor carriers registering with North Carolina for the first time will **not** be available on-line. You may contact the Motor Fuels Tax Division for an application to open a Motor Fuels account, or you may download forms at our website. Once the account has been established, you will be eligible to file via the Internet.

If you have filed your IFTA return via the Internet for four (4) consecutive quarters, you will no longer receive paper IFTA returns and tax rate sheets. You will continue to receive the newsletter.

Should you have a need for the paper documents in the future, forms are available at our website www.dornc.com and by selecting "Tax Forms", or you may contact our office for assistance at 919-733-3409 or toll free 1-877-308-9092.

IFTA/Intrastate Internet Taxpayer Information

Helpful Tip: Please answer carefully when responding to the question "Did you have operations in one or more jurisdictions (including North Carolina) during this reporting period?"

When answering "**no**" to this question, you have filed your quarterly IFTA tax return indicating that you did not operate during the reporting period.

If you accidentally select this option and submit your return, it will be necessary that you file a paper return marked "amended" to correct the return for that period.

When filing returns, whether on the Internet or by paper document, please pay careful attention to any questions asked to ensure that your response is accurate for your business operations.

Helpful Tip: When filing your IFTA return on the Internet, please be certain that you complete the process for submitting your return and/or payment.

It is important to remember that your return is not filed until you have received the "Tax Return Confirmation" screen.

We have had occurrences when taxpayers filing via the Internet have exited the application prior to completing this process, therefore, resulting in the return not having been submitted.

In this case, you may receive notification from our office that the return has not been received. In order to complete the transaction and submit the return, it will be necessary to sign back onto the Internet and complete the processing of the return.

Helpful Tip: On the jurisdiction screen, if you cannot see the buttons on the bottom of the page, follow the steps listed below:

- Minimize all applications you currently have open.
- Right click on the desktop (not on any icon).
- Left click on Properties.
- Left click on Settings.
- Change the pixels to around 1025 by 768.
- Press OK when prompted to allow the change.
- The screen should appear smaller.
- Go back into the IFTA/Intrastate application. The screen should appear smaller and the buttons should appear.

Helpful Tip: Identification Number Changes.

If your business identification number changes, you must complete an application for license and decals under the new number, and must also register the new account for IFTA/Intrastate Internet. Reports submitted under the old account number will not automatically transfer to the new account number.

Helpful Tip: On the jurisdiction screen, you may enter one jurisdiction at a time by clicking on the map, or you may enter multiple jurisdictions at once ... just follow the steps below.

- In the column listing the jurisdictions, use the scroll bar to locate the jurisdiction you wish to select and click on the first jurisdiction using your mouse.
- Scroll to the next jurisdiction you wish to select, hold down the control key (Ctrl) on your keyboard while clicking your mouse on the jurisdiction selected and repeat for each jurisdiction you wish to select.
- After selecting all the jurisdictions in which you traveled, click on the double arrows located between the two columns. All jurisdictions that you have selected in the left column will be moved to the right column and appear highlighted on the map. (If you select a jurisdiction in error, highlight

the jurisdiction in the *right* column and click on the double arrow to remove the jurisdiction.)

Quarterly IFTA Reporting

All licensees must file an IFTA quarterly tax return with the Division. The due dates for filing each return are shown below.

<u>Reporting Quarter</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
January – March	April 30
April – June	July 31
July – September	October 31
October – December	January 31

The IFTA quarterly tax return and tax rates are provided each quarter, 30 days prior to the due date. Failure to receive or obtain the quarterly tax return does not release the licensee from reporting obligations. **A quarterly tax return must be filed, even if the licensee does not operate or purchase taxable fuel in any IFTA member jurisdiction in a particular quarter.**

IFTA licenses may be suspended and/or revoked for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to file an IFTA quarterly tax return;
2. Failure to remit all taxes due all member jurisdictions; or
3. Failure to pay and/or protest an audit assessment within the established time period.

The Division will notify the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Enforcement Administration, and all member jurisdictions when a suspension or revocation has occurred or been released. **Do not operate vehicles when a license has been revoked or suspended.**

IFTA Web Site



For additional information regarding IFTA and footnotes associated with various jurisdictions' tax rates, visit the IFTA Inc. website at www.iftach.org

Motor Fuels Field Offices

Albemarle No physical location	704-982-8911
Asheville 2800 Heart Drive	828-667-0597
Battleboro 110 Fountain Park Dr., Ste. F1	252-467-9222
Charlotte 6016 Brookshire Blvd	704-393-0606
Durham 3326 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd, Bldg. D Ext. 232	919-560-6803
Elizabeth City 401 S. Griffin St., Suite C	252-337-6756 Ext. 236
Fayetteville 225 Green St., Ste. 800, Systel Bldg	910-486-1212 Ext. 258
Fletcher No physical location	828-687-9499
Greenville 2995 Radio Station Rd	252-830-2999
Hickory 112 2 nd Street Place SE	828-327-2007
High Point 302 F Lindsay St.	336-886-6135
Morehead City NC Maritime Building 113 Arendell St., Suite 110	252-726-5021
N. Wilkesboro No physical location	336-973-3211
Vanceboro No physical location	252-244-9912
Wilmington 33 Darlington Ave	910-251-2658

In the event that you need further assistance you may contact our Raleigh office at the number listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

Special Note from International Registration Plan - IRP Is Going "Staggered"!

Beginning with the 2006 Registration Year, North Carolina implemented a "Staggered Registration" for all apportioned motor carriers based in our state.

What does that mean for you, the Motor Carrier?

"Staggered Registration" will provide for a 12-month staggered registration system that will eliminate long lines and reduce your wait time. You will still have 3 means of processing your IRP Renewal: 1) via the Internet; 2) in person in the Raleigh or Charlotte IRP Offices; or 3) by mail.

All apportioned vehicles were renewed in January and February 2006. Depending upon the renewal month assigned to your IRP Account, you renewed for a period of no less than 7 months and no more than 18 months, initially. From that point on, you will renew your account on a 12-month basis. Also dependent upon your renewal month, this could result in an increase in your registration fees when you renew for the Registration Year 2006.

When you renewed in January and February 2006, the current 45-day grace period was in effect (January 1st – February 15th). **The next time you renew your account and any renewal thereafter, the grace period will be 15 days.**

For more information you may visit the DMV website at www.ncdot.org/dmv and go to Commercial Trucking. You may also contact the Raleigh International Registration Plan Office at 919-861-3720 or the Charlotte International Registration Plan Office at 704-392-2112.

Holidays

The Motor Fuels Tax Division and its field offices will be closed in observance of these holidays:



Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4, 2006

Labor Day
Monday, September 4, 2006