

TIGERS STREAMLINED SALES TAX SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2006

1. TIGERS ROLE & USE OF LISTSERVERS
 - TIGERS’ role is to develop technology and assist with its implementation. Any business questions are referred to the appropriate party.
 - Questions concerning technology or its usage should be addressed to the TIGERS listserver, TIGERS@lists.taxadmin.org.
 - Business issues, “what do I do when...?” questions, related to SST, especially the SST Registration system, should be addressed to sstregister@lists.taxadmin.org.
 - Data identifying a particular taxpayer must NEVER be included in messages addressed to either listserver. All questions or issues requiring that a specific taxpayer be identified should be addressed to support@sstregister.org.

2. SST State Operations Forum
 - To be held in the next few weeks as a conference call, followed by a document covering the issues addressed.
 - Aimed at the folks who must make SST work in their state: registration section, tax processing, error correction, electronic filing services, etc.
 - Will not go into any “techie” detail such as schemas or web services.
 - Potential topics include:
 - How to handle taxpayers who register in error
 - Information report issues, including need for specifications
 - Adding new data to schemas – business process and TIGERS role
 - Acknowledgements and resends from business perspective

3. Rates & Boundaries Database Issues
 - A. Non-Deliverable Addresses
 - US Post Office files (including National Change of Address) will occasionally have the letters “ND” as the last two digits of the +4 portion of the zip code, indicating a non-deliverable address. The Boundaries database, however, defines all nine characters of the zip code as numeric.
 - SST has already authorized 5-digit zip fallback if the 9-digit zip cannot be used. Therefore no action is needed – the full nine characters will remain numeric and “ND” +4 codes will be dropped from the database.
 - B. Oklahoma Use of Special Taxing Districts
 - Oklahoma wishes to use STD codes for zip+4 areas that span two or more cities. They then use a formula in back-end processing to apportion the tax revenue from that zip+4 area.
 - CSP candidates have concerns that this requires special consideration for processing. Tennessee is concerned that they have a similar usage.

- TIGERS position is simply that the technology will support this use.
 - Oklahoma and the CSPs will try to work this out.
- C. Fractional Addresses
- Street addresses for address-level records may have fractional addresses such as “123 1/2” or “123A” which are recognized as valid by USPS.
 - Problems occur only when fractional address occurs at end of an address segment range.
 - Uncertain as to what is being asked of TIGERS; issue will be clarified.
- D. Truncated Addresses
- USPS addresses are 28 characters; Boundary database, based on Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, is 20 characters.
 - In general, addresses are still unique.
 - No action required at this time.
4. Registration System Technical Changes Recap
- Added broadcast e-mail capability for SST Administrator to sellers based on states, or status. At this time it is for SST Administrator only; may be extended to states at some time if demand is there.
 - Added Effective Date to screen for Unvolunteer and Change transactions.
 - Issue: since there is only one date in the schema, what date should be sent to associate states picking up new sellers? Group consensus is to send the original SST effective date.
 - Added support for action code “D” in RegCOU for sellers deleted by the SST Administrator.
 - If there are no transactions to send to a state, a message with result code of “-1” will be sent. Zero indicated a good file with data, and numbers >0 indicate errors. Messages with “-1” code should not be acknowledged.
 - TransmissionId and job-id both expanded to 20 characters and formatted equivalently to DocumentId. The response code beginning with “Axxxxx” will remain six characters.
 - Deleted clear text passwords from all e-mails.
 - When a seller selects an associate state, the state will get a RegNew with all of the seller’s data, and the original SST effective date.
 - Removed redundant SOAP envelope (SOAP within SOAP). There is still a need to resolve the namespace and schema location.
 - When a seller selects “Unvolunteer” or “Out of Business” the system will retire the seller’s login credentials. The seller will have to create a new registration and get a new SSTP-ID.
 - Test site URL is dev.sstregister.org – no www.
 - Target is to move all changes to production March 1.
5. Schema Change Requests

- Agreed to internal TIGERS change request to bound all string elements at 256 characters if not otherwise bounded.
- Tennessee Change Request to add new enumerations for ExemptionsDeductions in the Information Report will be discussed at the State and Local Advisory Council (SLAC) meeting. There is a question of whether the IR has been approved by the Governing Board.
- Tennessee proposed a new Change Request to add a mandatory phone number to the physical address complex type. This would be useful when the Contact information was a CSP, and the state needed to contact the actual seller. This data is not approved in the white paper. Group agreed that process should be:
 - TIGERS determines whether technically feasible
 - TaxWatch provides estimate for work
 - Requesting state prepares business case
 - Requesting state presents proposal to SLAC, including TIGERS approval and TaxWatch cost.
 - Approval brought back to TIGERS for implementation.
- Agreed that Oklahoma's request for an error code for invalid transaction type was satisfied by error code 000013.
- Colin Corbin (WA) noted the need for a lexicon with precise definitions of each element in the schema set. He will work with other volunteers to begin development on the lexicon.

6. Web Services/WSDL

- Typo in Implementation Guide wss-username-token-profile will be corrected and reposted.
- CSP candidates are reporting slight variances among states. While the small number of CSPs are handling, this will only become more burdensome with the addition of model three's and of more states.
- Use of web services is not required for CSP certification, since HTTPS is still a valid option. However, almost all states are implementing web services, and it is anticipated that each state will test web services with at least one CSP and vice versa.
- Ideally, all states will use a standard web service client to test their own web services before opening up for CSP testing. TIGERS adopted a standard web service client that can be used for this purpose, based on work done by Brian Hilst of Avalara.
- Action items prior to Austin TIGERS:
 - CSPs will compile a list of variances among states
 - States will determine what is needed to test with the TIGERS client.
 - A conference call will be held to isolate remaining issues.

7. Resends of Rejected Transmissions

- Intent of resends is to eliminate duplicate transmissions occurring when some states accept a transaction while other states reject.

- At this time, if a state rejects a transaction, the Registration system has no way to resend the transaction unless sent to all states, and no way to resend if the transaction is flagged as “sent.”
- There is no way to mandate state business rules to ensure that all states have identical acceptance/rejection criteria.
- Action Items:
 - Educate states that default transaction (web services method) should be Get Changed and Unacknowledged. This will get any transactions that did not get to the state previously for any reason.
 - Educate states as to requirement to acknowledge all transactions.
 - Educate states in need to pull transactions timely
 - TaxWatch to create ability for SST Administrator to monitor rejects, fix errors, and resend either RegNew or RegCOU as appropriate for each state.
 - “Resend” filing type enumerations will be removed from schemas at the next scheduled version/release, as they will not be needed. There is no need to create a new release simply for this purpose.

8. Information Reports.

- Group was reminded that no payment may be sent with the IR.
- CSPs wish to send all data that exists to each state, rather than having to customize IR format for each state. Data will be maintained anyway due to audit requirements. After some discussion, it was decided to change the Implementation Guide to state that the standard schema for the Information Report must be used as is, and cannot be customized by participating states.
- Model 1/2/3 will all have to maintain data. Solution for model 4 may be to use the FER or existing state return, and not utilize the IR.
- Issues: are sales by an online vendor outside of the state which are shipped into the state considered Sales or Use? Is this the intended use of the elements relating to Sales Originating Out Of State? If goods are ordered online but picked up at a local retail outlet, is this location Sales, or Sales Originating Out Of State? These two related issues will be verified with the Governing Board.
- LocationID element will be bounded, but its exact format will be determined on a state-by-state basis, however the state currently identifies retail locations.

9. Full Electronic Return (FER)

- Group reviewed first rough draft of FER, and added a number of elements.
- Draft FER will be sent to any state who wishes to evaluate it against their current filing method. Please send request to garbert@sctax.org.
- FER will be put into controlled status after Austin meeting.