

August 31, 2007

Certification Committee Annual Report
submitted by
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The Certification Committee, in accordance with procedure, has routinely monitored and evaluated the ongoing performance of the Certified Service Providers while working to ensure that the Member States achieve and maintain operational compliance. This past year, much attention has been given to the state provided rate and boundary databases as we have addressed issues to maintain accuracy, stability and availability. The Committee proposed the Kansas sponsored amendment to the SSUTA that requires the databases to be available 30 days prior to the beginning of a calendar quarter and to make them accessible from a centralized location. The databases are available for download from a central site that is being provided and maintained by Testing Central.

The Certification Committee has also developed a process that provides assistance, information and instruction to Petitioning States to ensure operational compliance at their time of acceptance as a Member State. Washington State is the latest to utilize this procedure and, as an active member of the Committee, is helping to refine and enhance the process.

In May, Certification Committee members met with representatives from the Audit Committee to address roles and responsibilities for contract compliance and recertification of the CSP's. An immediate result of our meeting was the apparent need to address the unfinished Audit Work Site paper, otherwise known as Appendix F in Article V of Rules and Procedures of the Governing Board. After discussion with Audit and CSP representatives, it was decided that the transactional data required for compliance and tax audits would be better provided through download capabilities from a secure FTP site instead of a web-based administrative site. The Certification Committee and Testing Central finalized the file transfer and data requirements in Appendix F that related to the Audit process. Testing Central provides and maintains the FTP site.

In accordance with Section 305 (H) of the SSUTA, two vendors have applied for certification of their boundary databases. The Committee has met with the vendor representatives for product review and to discuss possible procedures for certification. This work is ongoing. One vendor has made application to be a Certified Service Provider and the Committee plans to conduct the site assessment and evaluation process in November. Three vendors have made application as Model 2 CAS providers, one of which is actively preparing to begin the evaluation process.