

CTA has been in discussions with US Customs and Border Protection regarding the potential delays to transponder renewals as a result of the delayed DTOPS system functionality. While the system was made available yesterday, there were some system glitches here and there. CBP expects future system interruptions to be minimal. The current back log of renewal applications totals nearly 100,000, however, CBP is confident that the renewals will be handled prior to the expiration date of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

At this time, CBP strongly encourages carriers that have not already submitted renewal applications to submit the renewal applications using the DTOPS system. Please do not send in paper renewal applications. Carriers that have already submitted paper renewal applications should not reapply using the DTOPS system, as there is the potential of being charged twice. Additionally, carriers that choose to pay by credit card will have the receipt issued within one business day of renewal processing. Carriers that opt to pay via check will have the receipt issued within five business days of renewal processing.

Once you have completed the online transaction, be sure to print the receipt and provide copies to each cross border truck.

CTA and ATA continue to discuss with CBP possible options for trucks that have not received transponder renewals or renewal receipts in cab by Jan. 1, 2009. Some of these options include;

- a “grace period” until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 or a reasonable period of time for CBP to issue all 2009 renewals and receipts
- soft enforcement and/or informed compliance for trucks that have transponders and have opted to pay the yearly fee in the past
- tracking crossings using the ACE system, and subsequently invoicing carriers up to a maximum of the cost of the yearly transponder fee of \$205

A subsequent meeting with CBP will take place early in December to determine progress and next steps. CTA will issue an update at that time.

In the meantime, carriers experiencing difficulties with the DTOPS system are asked to please let me know.

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