

繳付印花徵費的新方法 A new method to pay levies

電子印花系統已全面運作，印花機的使命快將完成。
Now that the e-levy system has been fully operational,
franking machines are about to complete their mission.

本刊記者 Staff reporter

自 旅行社三十年前開始需要繳付印花徵費起，印花機就已是必不可少的工具。起初用的是機械印花機，並且輔以印花貼紙；後來在一九九七至九八年間，機械印花機被電子印花機全面取代，而印花貼紙也隨即不可再用來繳付印花徵費。於是在過去二十年，電子印花機就一直使用至今；有些仍在使用的印花機，其實已用了十多年，遠遠超過供應商的預期。在這種情況下，電子印花徵費系統問世，並會全面取代印花機，已是勢在必行了。

在四家旅行社經過三個月的試用後，電子印花徵費系統在今年六月一日全面投入服務。使用電子印花徵費系統一點也不難，甚至可能比上網購物更簡單，加上所有印花機將於後年六月三十日停用(詳情見另稿)，現在該開始計劃轉用電子印花徵費系統了。

兩種使用方法

旅行社使用電子印花徵費系統的方法有兩個，效率較高的，當然是通過應用程式介面，把公司的內部系統直接連上電子印花徵費系統。兩者接通之後，顧客在旅行社的門市也好，網站也好，訂購旅遊產品之後都可以立即拿到已經印上電子印花的收據。不過，接通兩個系統的工作要由資訊科技專家處理，也需要一定費用(關於「旅行社資訊科技發展配對基金先導計劃」的資助，見「議會簡報」或通告C1736)。

旅行社如果無須經常加蓋印花，因而無須接通電子印花徵費系統，那第二種方法就可能較好：到電子印花徵費系統的網站，輸入客人的相關資料，

E ver since travel agents were required to make levy payments 30 years ago, franking machines have been an indispensable tool. Mechanical franking machines, supplemented by levy stickers, had been used initially, and were later totally replaced by electronic franking machines between 1997 and 1998, with levy stickers soon no longer accepted as a form of levy payment. Electronic franking machines have thus been used for the past 20 years until now, and the lifespan of some of them, having been in use for a dozen or so years, is way longer than that expected by their supplier. In view of that, it is inevitable that the launch of the e-levy system will imply a complete replacement of all franking machines.

After having been piloted for three months by four travel agents, the e-levy system has been in full operation since 1 June this year. Now is the time for travel agents to plan to switch to the e-levy system, given its simplicity to use, perhaps even simpler than shopping online, and the phasing out of all franking machines by 30 June 2020 (see the other article for more).

Two ways to use it

There are two ways for a travel agent to use the e-levy system, and the more efficient way is of course to connect its internal system to the e-levy system via an application program interface (API). Once the two systems are connected, its customers can immediately get a receipt with an e-levy stamp printed on it for the travel products they have just bought at its retail store or on its website. API connections, however, need to be handled by IT experts and will cost a certain fee (see "Council Bulletin" or Circular C1736 for subsidies under the Pilot Information Technology Development Matching Fund Scheme for Travel Agents).

The second way of using the e-levy system may be better if a travel agent need not frank its receipts very often and therefore need not opt for an API connection. In that case, it may just visit

如何處理你的印花機？ How to handle your franking machines?

理事會已經決定，所有印花機將於後年六月三十日停用(詳情見通告C1748)。如果你仍有印花機，如何處理才算明智？

- 如果你已開始使用電子印花徵費系統，而且已熟習了系統各方面的操作，對系統也很有信心，覺得無須再用印花機了，那麼乾脆在今年內把所有印花機交回議會就成了。
- 雖然你已用了電子印花徵費系統一段時間，但仍想保留印花機以防萬一，那麼每個營業地點只保留一台好了，因為由明年七月一日起，除了每台印花機內的金額一律不得超過港幣一百元外，每個營業地點的第一台印花機需要自行付款購買墨盒，而第二台或以上印花機則不僅要自行付款購買墨盒，還需要繳付保養費。
- 如果你仍在用印花機，而且並未使用電子印花徵費系統，那就應該好好計劃停用印花機了，因為由明年一月一日起，第一台印花機需要自行付款購買墨盒，而第二台或以上印花機則不僅要自行付款購買墨盒，還需要繳付保養費。
- 假如因為種種緣故，由去年一月一日起你已沒有為印花機加額，那麼最明智的做法就是在今年十一月三十日前歸還印花機，否則由明年一月一日起，所有印花機都需要自行付款購買墨盒兼且繳付保養費，而且還可能需要繳付維修費或重置費。

With the Board of Directors having decided to phase out all franking machines by 30 June 2020 (see Circular C1748 for details), how can you handle your franking machines wisely if you still have one or more?

- If you have begun using the e-levy system, known its operations very well, had confidence in the system and felt that there is no need to keep any franking machines, then simply handing over all your franking machines to the TIC by the end of this year will be good enough.
- If you have used the e-levy system for some time but still want to keep your franking machines (just in case), then try to keep just one franking machine at each business location because from 1 July 2019, apart from each machine being allowed to keep no more than HK\$100, you will need to pay for the ink cartridges of your first machine at each business location, and to pay for the ink cartridges and the maintenance fees of your second or more machines.
- If you are still using franking machines and have yet to use the e-levy system, then do begin planning to stop using your franking machines because from 1 January 2019, you will need to pay for the ink cartridges of your first machine at each business location, and to pay for the ink cartridges and the maintenance fees of your second or more machines.
- If for whatever reasons you have not reloaded your franking machines since 1 January 2017, then the wisest way is to return your machines to the TIC by 30 November 2018, or else from 1 January 2019, you will need to pay for the ink cartridges and the maintenance fees of all your machines, and perhaps even the repair or replacement costs of them.

然後下載電子印花的圖像檔。下載了圖像檔之後，只要把圖像檔插入收據的電子檔案，就可以把收據印出來；又或者直接把圖像檔印在收據事先設定的空位上。

要使用電子印花徵費系統的話，必須先申請培訓帳戶，以獲得實際操作經驗，然後填妥「電子印花徵費系統培訓網站熟習清單」，才可以申請系統管理員帳戶。各種相關表格(表格2.8至2.13)，可於議會網站下載：www.tichk.org → 「表格」。 

the website of the e-levy system, input the relevant pieces of information of its customers, and then download the image file of the e-levy stamp, after which it may insert the image file into the electronic file of the receipt and then print out the receipt, or directly print the image file in the pre-set space of the receipt.

To use the e-levy system, travel agents must first apply for a training account in order to have hands-on experience with the system. Then they are required to complete the "E-levy System Training Site Familiarisation Checklist" to be eligible for applying for an administrator account of the e-levy system. For the relevant forms (Forms 2.8 to 2.13), please download them from the TIC website: www.tichk.org → "Forms". 