



identify the origin of the products subject to excise tax and provide statistics regarding the items subject to excise stamps.

16. When is Liberia Revenue Authority planning to introduce excise stamps?

Preparatory work to introduce excise stamps has been progressing well. The new excise law has given authority to the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority to issue regulations relating to:

- (a) the excisable goods to which excise stamps shall be affixed or applied;
- (b) the systems of management of excisable stamps and excisable goods; and
- (c) the place and time of affixing or applying excise stamps.

To this end, Liberia Revenue Authority has drafted excise stamp regulations covering the goods subject to excise stamps, the types of excise stamps, the process for obtaining and returning excise stamps, the time, place and process for applying excise stamps, and the process relating to payment and refund of excise stamps fees, which are expected to be approved soon. Liberia Revenue Authority is planning to introduce excise stamps in the first half of 2020.

Excise Stamp FAQs



What are excise stamps?

What do they do?

What do they mean?

Find out Inside



0888-572-572
0770-572-572



 www.lra.gov.lr
info@lra.gov.lr

1. What is excise stamp?

An excise stamp is a type of highly secured revenue stamp affixed to specified excisable goods to indicate that the manufacturer or importer of excisable products has paid the required excise tax.

2. What products will need to have excise stamps?

Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages will need to have excise stamps affixed.

3. How can manufacturers and importers of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages obtain excise stamps?

Manufacturers and importers of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages will be required to obtain excise stamps from the Liberian Revenue Authority by submitting a specified application form and paying for the required number of excise stamps.

4. Where and when should excise stamps be affixed?

Excise stamp can be affixed at following locations:

- For domestic products, excise stamps should be affixed at the factory premises before the item is delivered out of the factory.
- For imports, a foreign manufacturer can apply an excise stamp on every package before shipment from the country of origin.
- An importer shall apply an excise stamp on every pack/bottle at the point of entry in a specified facility operated by Liberia Revenue Authority or a place or premises approved by Liberia Revenue Authority.

5. How should excise stamps be affixed?

The place of affixing excise stamps on the product will be specified in such a way that it will be impossible to open products such as a pack of cigarette or a bottle of wine without damaging the excise stamp.

6. What happens if the excise stamps are not used within six months?

A manufacturer or an importer must return excise stamps or provide information about the unused stamps to the Liberian Revenue Authority within six months of their receipt.

7. Will it be necessary to affix excise stamps to each and every pack of cigarette or bottle of alcohol?

No, the following will be exempted from mandatory affixing of an excise stamp:

- locally produced goods intended for export,
- goods intended for the supply to a duty-free outlet,
- goods imported into Liberia or purchased in Liberia by a diplomatic or consular mission or diplomat or consul or a member of the diplomat or consul's family forming part of the diplomat or consul's household in Liberia to the extent provided under the Revenue Code.

8. What happens if tobacco products or alcoholic beverages are distributed or sold without excise stamps?

All unmarked products will be confiscated by the authorized officer of the Liberia Revenue Authority and responsible person will be fined.

9. Will excise stamp be the same for all products?

No, different products will have different excise stamps, which will differ in size, printed information and protection features. Some examples of excise stamps are shown on the cover of this information leaflet.

10. Who will pay for the stamps?

Manufacturers or importers of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages will pay for the excise stamps.

11. Why is the government considering introducing excise stamps?

Excise stamps are commonly used around the world to control under declaration, misclassification, and smuggling of excisable goods and minimize revenue leakage. The Government of Liberia is going to follow suit.

12. Is the excise tax stamp a new tax?

No. The excise stamp is not a new tax. It is a means of identifying goods on which excise tax has been paid or will be paid. Citizens will be encouraged to inform the Liberia Revenue Authority if they see excisable goods being sold without the stamps.

13. How will excise stamps benefit the manufacturers and importers of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages?

Currently some traders are involved in smuggling, under declaration or misclassification of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages and do not pay only excise tax but also goods and services tax, import duties and other applicable taxes. It creates an unfair competition in the market, where honest traders and manufacturers suffer. Excise stamps will create a more level playing field for manufacturers and importers of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages by controlling smuggling, under declaration and misclassification and combating illicit trade.

14. How will excise stamps benefit the consumers?

Currently, it is difficult to distinguish between real and fake products. Excise stamps will protect consumers from counterfeit/sub-standard products.

15. How will excise stamps benefit the government?

As excise stamps control smuggling and combat illicit trade. They ensure that the excise tax and other taxes are declared and paid fairly and truthfully. This will lead to an increase of much needed revenue to make Liberia more prosperous. Excise stamps will also help