



Illinois Department of Revenue

Chicago Soft Drink Tax Direct Electronic Filing Implementation Guide STS-84

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Section 1 – Overview

The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) has implemented an electronic filing program to accept and acknowledge the following

- ♦ST-14, Chicago Soft Drink Tax Return
- ♦Debit Detail Record (Initiation of Debit Payment for ST-14)

Returns must be transmitted to IDOR using HTTPS protocol and the internet to access the “Illinois Gateway”.

The program is open to electronic filers using IDOR approved software, software developers, and transmitters. All participants must enroll using the Business Electronic Filing Enrollment Application located on [MyDevPortal](#). Software developers and transmitters are required to test prior to acceptance. Taxpayers will select a “signature code” (electronic signature) that they will use to sign all returns. This signature code is transmitted within each electronic return.

Taxpayer participants will have the option of paying electronically by ACH Debit, ACH Credit, or by paper check.

Note: Taxpayers mandated to pay electronically must use the ACH Debit or ACH Credit option.

ACH Debit Option

Taxpayers do not need to complete the EFT-1 for the ACH Debit option to pay their liability when transmitted through the e-File Program. The Debit Detail Record includes the bank account information for ACH debit authorizations. Debit authorizations may be transmitted with the electronic return by providing taxpayer name, phone number, routing number, bank account number, payment amount, requested settlement date and tax type within the return data. Accepted debit authorizations will receive a confirmation number provided by IDOR.

ACH Credit Option

To use electronic funds transfer, for the ACH Credit option, a participant will be required to preregister on Form EFT-1, Authorization Agreement for Certain Electronic Payments.

Paper Checks

Paper checks may be submitted with the ST-14-V payment voucher produced by the software used to submit the return.

Section 2 - Contact Information

General Questions:

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE DIVISION
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19044
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9044
1 800 732-8866 or 217 782-3336
1 800 544-5304 –TTY
tax.illinois.gov

General Questions-for electronic filing or enrollment using the Business Electronic Filing Enrollment Application located on MyDevPortal:

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIVISION (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19479
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9479
217 524-4767 or 1 866 440-8680

Technical Questions or system failures - regarding communications using the “Illinois Gateway”:

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE SUPPORT (7:00 a.m. – 4:15 pm.)
217 782-3791
After hours, weekends, or holidays – 217 782-8622

Technical Questions - regarding record layouts or acknowledgments:

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIVISION (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm)
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19479
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9479
217 524-4767 or 1 866 440-8680

Section 3 - Enrollment for Electronic Filing and Electronic Funds Transfer

Enrollment for Electronic Filing

All participants must enroll to be accepted into the direct electronic filing program. This includes taxpayers, software developers, and any participant who is transmitting directly to IDOR (either for themselves or others).

To enroll, complete the Business Electronic Filing Enrollment Application located on MyDevPortal.

Participants who are software developers and transmitters that will transmit directly to the "Illinois Gateway" will be assigned a Login Identification (LID/ETIN) number upon enrollment. They must successfully complete testing to be accepted in the program. A "test" password will be assigned for this purpose upon enrollment. IDOR will issue written notification of the LID/ETIN and the test password after the enrollment form is processed.

Once testing is successfully completed, a "production" password is assigned and provided in written notification to approved transmitters. The LID/ETIN and passwords are unique for each transmitter and cannot be transferred among participants. The passwords must be kept secure. To access our internet gateway, all transmitters must use their LID/ETIN and either the test or the production password.

A signature is registered to your account with a signature code you or your software vendor provided to us on the Business Electronic Filing Enrollment Application. The signature code must be included in each electronic return, or the return is designated as **not signed**. All returns designated as "unsigned" generate notices (and possibly penalty) to the taxpayer during tax system processing by IDOR.

Enrollment for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Taxpayers who wish to pay by Electronic Funds Transfer using the ACH Credit option must enroll in IDOR's EFT Program. To enroll in the EFT Program, Form EFT-1, Authorization Agreement for Certain Electronic Payments, must be completed, signed and submitted. Form EFT-1 and the ACH Credit instructions are available on IDOR's web site at **tax.illinois.gov**.

Note: Taxpayers do not need to complete the EFT-1 for the ACH Debit option to pay their liability when transmitted through the e-File Program. The Debit Detail Record includes the bank account information for ACH debit authorizations.

Section 4 - Payment Information

Electronic payment options include:

Option 1: Debit authorization included with an electronic return.

This option allows taxpayers to pay by including payment information in the return data. Taxpayers need to supply their name, phone number, routing number, bank account number, payment amount, requested settlement date, and tax type within the return filing. Payment information is “warehoused” internally by IDOR until the requested settlement date.

Option 2: Debit authorization using IDOR’s MyTax Illinois.

This option allows taxpayers to pay independent of the electronic return filing by using IDOR’s existing MyTax Illinois system. Information regarding MyTax Illinois can be found at tax.illinois.gov.

Option 3: EFT Debit authorization using IDOR’s EFT Phone System.

This option allows taxpayers to pay independent of the electronic return filing by using the existing EFT System, and requires a toll-free phone call to the system each time you want to start a debit payment. Detailed instructions on using the debit option of the EFT System are provided after Form EFT-1, Authorization Agreement for Certain Electronic Payments is submitted and processed.

Option 4: EFT Credit using IDOR’s EFT Phone System.

This option allows taxpayers to pay independent of the electronic return filing by contacting their financial institution each time they want to start a payment. Detailed instructions for initiating an ACH credit are provided after Form EFT-1, Authorization Agreement for Certain Electronic Payments is submitted and processed.

Taxpayers who are not required to pay electronically and want to pay by paper check, must submit payment along with the ST-14-V payment voucher produced from their software.

Section 5 -Timeliness and Date Received of Return and Payment

Return

To be considered timely filed, a return must be acknowledged as accepted, or accepted with errors, no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on the due date. This also applies to the retransmission of returns that were previously acknowledged as rejected. The IDOR Illinois Gateway records the date and time a transmission is complete. If a return is acknowledged as accepted or accepted with errors, this date and time is used as the date and time the return is received. If a return is acknowledged as rejected, the return is considered not filed.

Participants should assure that the return transmission is started early enough to be completed prior to the end of the day (11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time) on the return due date. To avoid late filing, IDOR recommends that participants schedule transmissions to allow for timely correction and retransmission in the case of a rejected transaction.

Electronic Payment

An electronic payment initiated on the due date for the next available settlement date will be considered timely paid. We recommend payments be initiated one or two days before the due date for settlement on the due date.

Payment by Paper Check

To be considered timely paid, the payment and accompanying voucher must be postmarked no later than the due date. However, if the taxpayer is mandated by IDOR to pay electronically, but instead makes payment with a paper check by mail, the postmark provision does not apply. In this case, the payment by check must be deposited as collected funds to IDOR's account on or before the due date.

Section 6 - Monitoring and Suspension

IDOR will monitor the quality of electronic transmissions and return data. If the quality is unacceptable, IDOR will contact the electronic filer, software developer, or transmitter. IDOR will also monitor complaints about participants and issue warning or suspension letters as appropriate. IDOR reserves the right to suspend the electronic filing privilege of any participant who varies from the requirements, specifications, and procedures stated in this guide or any corresponding administrative rules, or who does not consistently transmit error-free returns. When suspended, the participant will be advised of the requirements for reinstatement into the program.

Section 7 - Communications Using HTTPS

The HttpsPost Utility Program transfers files to and from IDOR's Gateway server via the Internet using Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology. The utility runs as a stand-alone application. The utility supports both a graphical user interface (GUI) mode of operation, as well as a command line mode suitable for batch processing.

Installation consists of copying the executable file, HttpsPost.exe, to an empty directory or folder. For convenience in launching the application in its GUI mode, place shortcuts to the executable on the desktop or in the START menu. Simply launching the executable without command line arguments starts the application in its GUI mode.

You can download a free copy of this utility program, complete instructions, and documentation from the [Electronic Transmitter Information Webpage](#) on IDOR's website at tax.illinois.gov. You may also use your own program for transmitting files if you choose.

Section 8 - Specifications

Structure of Transmission

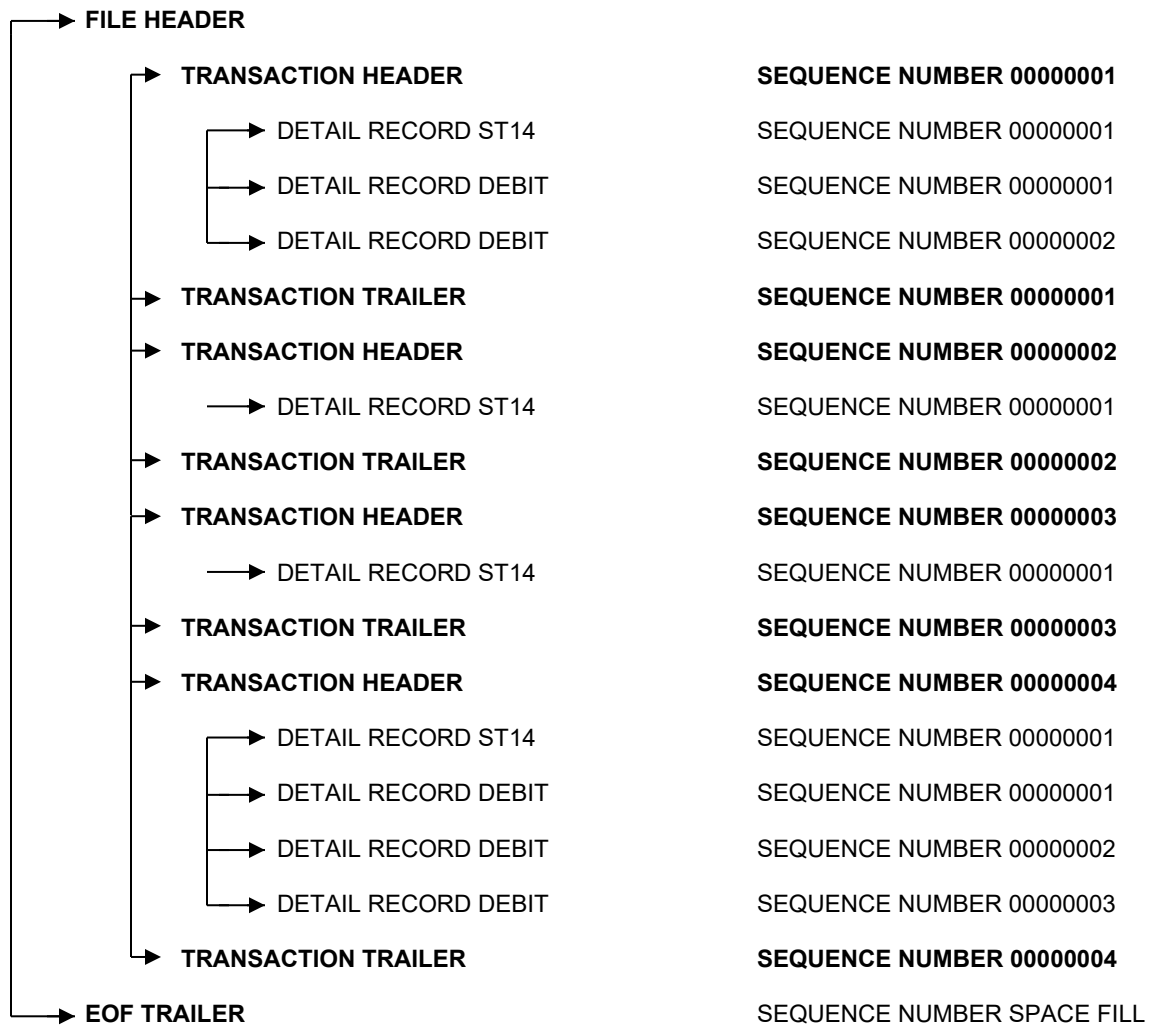
The illustration on the following page shows the structure of electronic transmissions. The "HEADER SEQUENCE NUMBER" (Field 050) of the "TRANSACTION HEADER" should start at "00000001", and the "HEADER SEQUENCE NUMBER" (Field 040) of the "TRANSACTION TRAILER" should match the number in the "TRANSACTION HEADER".

The "HEADER SEQUENCE NUMBER" (Field 040) of the "ST-14" document should always be "00000001".

The "SEQUENCE NUMBER" (Field 040) of the Debit Detail Record should start at "00000001" and increment.

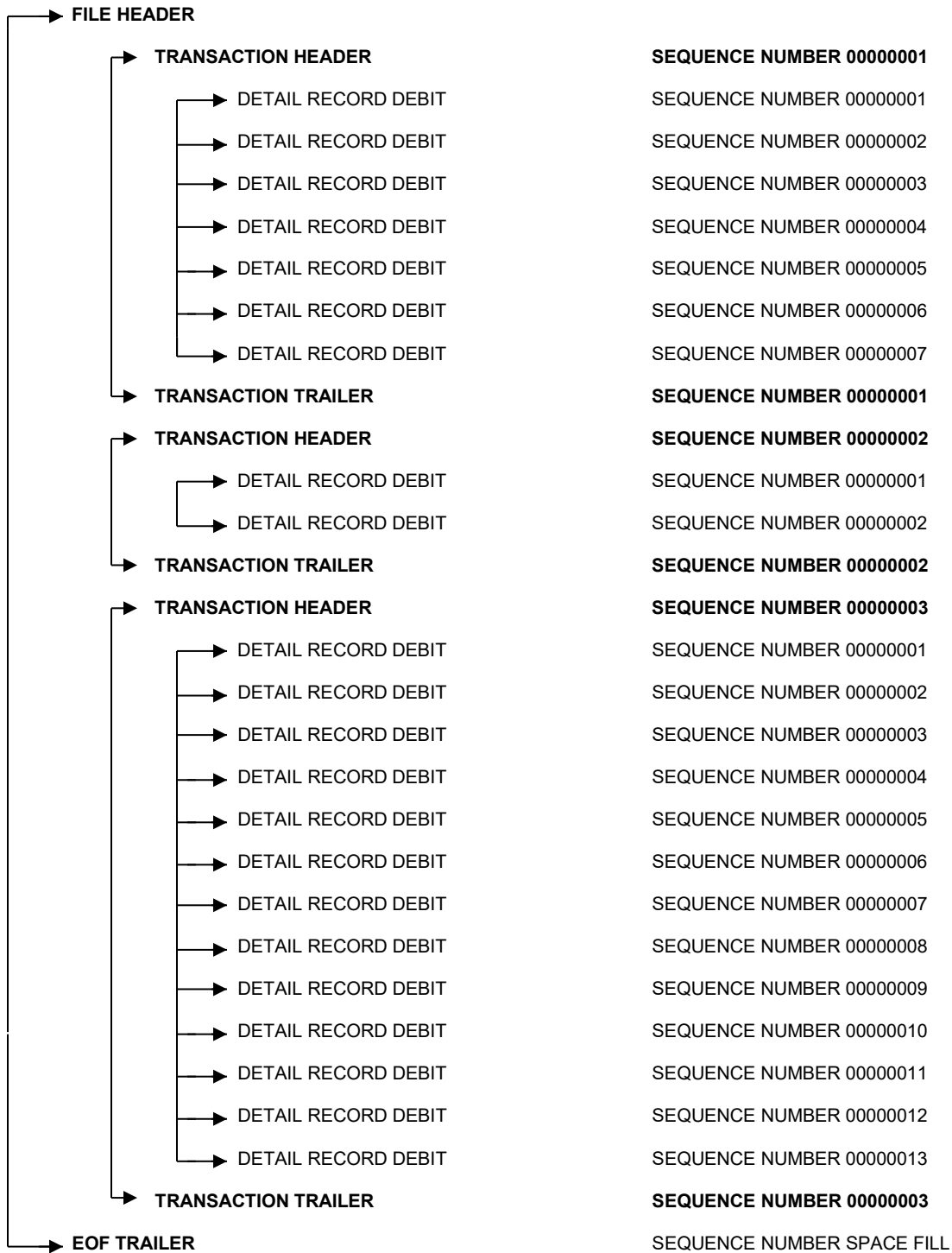
Section 8 – Specifications (continued)

Structure of Transmission – Returns and Payments



Section 8 – Specifications (continued)

Structure of Transmission – Stand Alone Payments



Section 8 – Specifications (continued)

Data Format

All **financial data elements** are 13-byte, dollar and cents, with the decimal implied two positions from the right. They are “unsigned”, meaning they can only be positive figures.

Examples: \$1.23 = “0000000000123”;
\$12.30 = “0000000001230”;
\$123.00 = “0000000012300”, and;
\$1230.00 = “0000000123000”.

EXCEPTION 1: In the DEBIT DETAIL RECORD FIELD 110, “DEBIT PAYMENT AMOUNT”, is 10-byte, dollar and cents, rather than 13-byte.

All **rates** are 6-byte, with the decimal implied one position from the left. They are “unsigned”, meaning they can only be positive.

Examples: 6.5% (or .065) = “006500”;
1.0% (or .01) = “001000”;
1.75% (or .0175) = “001750”, and;
.5% (or .005) = “000500”.