

IFMA19 CONGRESS NEWSLETTER RE-VAT on Congress Fees.

Dear IFMA Member,

This e-mail will only be of interest to those attending or planning to attend IFMA19. Several of you will already be aware from an e-mail sent out by Edward Majewski to those who have registered for the congress, and those who "Expressed an Interest", explaining the changes that have had to be made to VAT (Value Added Tax = sales tax) payments on the Delegate Fee and the Accompanying Person Fee.

It was with considerable irritation and annoyance that Edward had to take the decision yesterday to change the VAT situation on delegate fees for IFMA19. He recently received information regarding another conference running into problems with the VAT office in Poland, and took advice again to see whether the process regarding VAT for IFMA19 was what it should be. It would seem that the interpretation of the rules has changed and his advisors have all now recommended that all Delegate and Accompanying Person Fees must have VAT added to them. A VAT invoice will be issued showing the VAT, but the organisers will not be able to offer the fees "VAT free" to anyone – EU or non EU based, registered for VAT or not.

This is extremely irritating for Edward as I know he went through a very thorough process on VAT regarding the congress fees, taking advice from professional advisors, before devising the rather complicated VAT Rules table and system in the Registration Process. With VAT in Poland at 23% - this is not something he can waive. (He had been keen that wherever it was possible delegates should not have to pay VAT to try to keep the cost down.)

Those delegates who have registered and have already paid and who did not pay VAT will be contacted (at this stage this is expected to be relatively few people) and asked to pay the VAT element. This situation does not affect Accommodation or Pre and Post Congress Tour Fees – they were already inclusive of VAT.

The IFMA19 Congress registration system is fully operational and the necessary changes have been made. You will still be asked when registering to choose a category (e.g. EU – registered for VAT, EU – private person not registered for VAT, Non EU, private person not registered for VAT) – but all categories will now have to pay VAT.

Paper submission is not affected – **the deadline for submission is this Sunday 31st March.**

The impact of this is that the delegate fee effectively becomes PLN (Zloty) 2952 (2400+23%VAT) and the Accompanying Person PLN 2071 (1700+23%VAT). You can find a useful currency conversion website here <http://www.xe.com/> - use the currency converter below the chart selecting the appropriate amounts and currencies. (Note: this does not give you tourist rates – but should be the rate the bank uses to do the conversion – and they will often add a charge for the conversion when making payments). **The final date for Early Bird registration rates is 30th April.**

We sincerely hope this situation will not adversely affect your attendance at the congress – and, as a bye note, the new delegate fee including VAT is still a touch less than the New Zealand IFMA18 congress fee two years ago.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Congress.

Best Regards,
Tony.

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Hon. Secretary

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IFMA Website - www.ifmaonline.org

The 19th IFMA Congress will be held in Warsaw, Poland, 21-26 July, 2013

Congress Website - www.ifma19.org/