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Spring update, IATA, ATOL and ABTA changes



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## Is it spring yet?

This edition was meant to be a spring update, but after a few short balmy interludes last week, there now appears to be hailstones lashing against the office windows and you could be forgiven for thinking we are back to Winter again. Thankfully TTC's conference season finally got underway at the excellent Advantage Conference in Malaga last weekend, offering a few brief days of respite.

Unfortunately, the weather isn't the only thing changing with unbearable and metronomic regularity. In this edition, we have a reminder of the imminent **IATA rule changes**, some **mandatory tinkering of ATOL terms** and news of **ABTA's planned consultation for Principal Members**. If that wasn't enough, there is also a brief roundup of some other big changes lumbering into view on the horizon.

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or comments.

Matt Purser and Martin Alcock  
**The Travel Trade Consultancy**



### IATA Rules changes

IATA announced back in 2012 that their rules were changing from 1 June 2013. Thankfully, the changes aren't as far reaching as first mooted, but they may still have an impact on your business and given there is rarely any "wiggle room" when dealing with IATA it would be unwise to ignore them.

As a reminder, you can find some more details about the main changes taking effect in June, together with some information on our IATA Rule Change Health Checks [here](#).

If you have any questions on the new rules, or need any assistance in complying, you can [contact us](#).



### ATOL: The Tinkermen

In recent weeks, ATOL have made a number of changes affecting your renewal fees and the mandatory small print in both agency agreements and T&Cs. Here is a round up:

#### 1. Agency Agreements



### ABTA Principals Consultation

ABTA recently launched a consultation of members on how sales made as Principal will be protected in future.

Presently when it comes to sales that do not need financial protection by law, an ABTA

ATOL Agency Agreements written in a standard format have been a requirement since May 2012 but an additional agency term now needs to be inserted. Follow this link for more information on [Agency Term 12](#).

## 2. Terms and conditions

For ATOL holders, an additional paragraph is now required in the booking terms and conditions. The following link contains details of the new wording required under the ["Your financial protection" section](#).

## 3. Renewal fee deadline change

For all September 2013 ATOL renewals, the deadline for lower application fees has moved forward by 2 weeks to **15 August 2013**. If you submit your ATOL renewal application in full before this date could save you up to £180 on your application fees. Not a lot in the grand scheme of things but better in your pocket!

Principal Member has the choice of voluntarily protecting them through ABTA anyway.

As a result, bookings of single elements such as hotels, car hire or excursions could be fully protected by one member but not by another - less than ideal when trying to present a clear protection message.

The ABTA board are proposing changes that could make it a membership requirement to fully protect all Principal sales, regardless of legal requirement. If approved, the changes could come into force as early as 1 January 2014.

ABTA Members should have received a consultation pack from ABTA by now and can have their say before the consultation period closes in July 2013.

As if that wasn't enough, there are even more changes on the horizon:

### **Air Travel Trust reform:**

**What we can expect:** A clearer idea of how UK government plans to step away from underwriting the cost of ATOL failures and an appeal for fresh ideas from the UK travel trade as to how things can be simplified.

**Next steps:** Government "Call For Evidence" is expected late May but the timetable has slipped before so don't hold your breath.

### **Package Travel Directive reform:**

**What we can expect:** Wide reaching proposals from Europe that could saddle agents with greater financial responsibility, mandatory cooling off periods and a whole host of other ill conceived requirements.

**Next steps:** A draft of the European changes is expected late summer/ early autumn.



Finally Director, Matt Purser is running 5 races in 5 weeks for the excellent charity Reuben's Retreat and he would be delighted if you could spare some change.

You can find out more about the races as well as the great work being done by Reuben's Retreat and sponsor Matt [here](#).

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