

GAZETTE



The Law Society

...conveyancing software applications accredited to Revenue & Customs' recently launched on-line submission process, which could make the headache of rejected stamp duty land tax (SDLT) forms a thing of the past.

The programmes enable practitioners to file the eight-page SDLT document via the internet without having to print it out - avoiding the notorious scanning process that has led to so many rejected forms, delay and confusion.

To submit forms electronically, firms should register on-line at www.SDLT.co.uk to receive its software.

Practitioners will need to complete a direct debit register with the government gateway to obtain a unique identification number - which takes up to seven days.

...software can be installed on either a single computer or across an entire network and allow default answers to be set to the questions and data to be stored off-line.

Completed forms are validated before being submitted electronically. The data entered is encrypted using government-approved software and sent on-line to the government gateway. From there, it is passed on to the Revenue, which decrypts it. Upon receipt of the completed application, the Revenue provides a submission report to the conveyancer confirming validation and submission.

Archie Courage, director of Newcastle-based IT company Courage & Co, which developed the SDLT.co.uk software, said: 'Of the 1.7 million SDLT transactions per year, the Revenue is expecting 1.2 million of them to be submitted electronically.'

'E-submission is not going to be compulsory, but in my view, there will be very strong encouragement from the Revenue for conveyancers to use it.'

Extract from Law Gazette 15 Sept 2005