Competition Law Guidelines & Antitrust Policy

This Antitrust Policy sets forth the rules of conduct and compliance procedures that govern all IPATA activities as it relates to antitrust and competition matters. It is intended to prevent the occurrence of an actual antitrust violation, to prevent inadvertent conduct that might give the appearance of an antitrust violation, and to protect IPATA and its members from any accusation of wrongdoing in the course of or arising out of participation in IPATA activities.

This Antitrust Policy has been endorsed and adopted by IPATA’s Board of Directors. It shall be made available to all IPATA members, who must specifically agree to comply with this Antitrust Policy. Any violation of this Antitrust Policy will result in immediate suspension from membership in IPATA and immediate removal from any IPATA office.

Compliance with the antitrust laws is a serious matter. Both companies and individuals can be prosecuted or sued for violations of the antitrust laws. Antitrust compliance is the responsibility of every IPATA member, relying on their own legal advice. It is not the responsibility of IPATA or its staff to ensure that its members comply with antitrust law in their own activities.

This Antitrust Policy has been prepared to acquaint you with general principles of antitrust compliance and to provide you with enough knowledge to recognize an area of antitrust risk in your activities with IPATA. The antitrust laws are very complex and vary by jurisdiction. No summary can address every issue or situation that may arise. IPATA urges and expects its members to seek guidance and advice from local antitrust counsel whenever there is any concern regarding the antitrust implications of any action or any specific antitrust issue.

Any questions you may have concerning IPATA’s Antitrust Policy should be directed to administrator@ipata.org.

General Statement of Full Compliance: The purpose of IPATA is to promote the safe and humane transport of family pets and other animals. Trade associations such as IPATA make a meaningful contribution to the business community and to the general public. There are many legitimate and accepted trade association aims and activities that benefit the industry, customers, and the public. All activities of IPATA are to be conducted fairly, responsibly, and in good faith, and with the intent, purpose, and effect of furthering the goals of IPATA.

IPATA’s policy is that all of its activities, and those of its members and participants, shall be conducted in full compliance with the competition laws of all jurisdictions including the antitrust laws of the United States, the E.U. and other countries. No officer, employee, or agent of IPATA has any authority to engage in any conduct that does not comport with this Antitrust Policy, nor to authorize, direct, approve, or condone such conduct by any other person.

Membership: Membership in IPATA is open to all companies within the industry on a non-discriminatory basis as set forth in IPATA’s Membership Requirements. IPATA members shall not be restricted in any respect in the ways they decide to conduct their businesses as long as they comply with IPATA’s Code of Ethics. Participation in IPATA is voluntary. All actions of IPATA members remain voluntary, and each IPATA member remains free to make independent, competitive business decisions.

Conduct of Meetings: The following guidelines for the conduct of meetings are designed to assist IPATA, its members, and its participants in preventing even the appearance of engaging in activities that violate the antitrust laws and apply to all IPATA meetings, whether held in person or via electronic means.

Generally, draft agendas for the meetings will be available to each attending person known to IPATA. It is the intent and policy of IPATA to encourage inquiries regarding the agenda in light of this Antitrust Policy so that compliance to the Antitrust Policy may be ensured. Meeting presenters and participants shall be informed of this Antitrust Policy and the need to comply therewith in the preparation and presentation of their materials.

The “Antitrust Statement” is to be distributed (in paper copy or electronically) and read prior to any IPATA meeting by a person designated by the leadership conducting the meeting. This will be noted on the agenda as “Review Antitrust Policy.” In any minutes prepared for the meeting, it will be noted that “The Antitrust Policy was reviewed with the group.”

Effective: October 2017