



ELECTRONIC IMMIGRATION CLEARANCES FOR TRAVEL, ENTRY AND/OR STAY

Working Paper 7

New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

TAG/MRTD 19

19th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents

Areas to be covered

- Background
- ICAO current guidance
- The need for guidance
- Next steps



Background

- A work item to address the issue of electronic visas, including database, card, and chip visa methods was approved as part of the NTWG workplan by TAG 15
- A draft Technical Report detailing progress of work by the NTWG was presented to TAG 16.
- At the NTWG Brussels meeting March 2009 it was agreed that at the Technical Report would focus on database solutions over contactless chip technology
- At the NTWG meeting in Sydney in October 2009, it was agreed that to have the Technical Report apply more broadly to types of immigration clearances, that term “e-visas” should be replaced by *Electronic Immigration Clearances for Travel, Entry and/or Stay (EICTES)*.



Current ICAO guidance

- Document 9303, Part 2 – Standards provided for physical visa counterfoils
- No existing standards or guidelines for electronic immigration clearances/ e-visas
- ICAO currently advises against multiple ISO/IEC 14443 contactless chips in a single e-MRTD



Why do we need standards/guidance?

- It is practical for States to harmonise their passport reading methodologies with those used for EICTESs in order to ensure interoperability at border inspection, transit and airline check-in.
- As e-passports will conform to an interoperable standard, it is logical that guidance should be provided to ensure that the current ICAO Document 9303 Part 2 is compatible with this vision.



Next Steps

- In developing its work on EICTES, the NTWG will undertake the following:
 - Suggest possible areas for ICAO informative guidance on the development of EICTES; and
 - Examine potential areas where standardization may be desirable.
- Continue work towards a Technical Report for TAG consideration
- Once agreed, standards and guidance could result in amendments to Document 9303 Part 2

