

FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

(Third Meeting, Montreal, 12 to 16 February 2001)

Agenda Item 3: General revision of Annex 9 – Chapters 2 and 3

PASSENGER FACILITATION ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE

(Presented by Mr. D. Benjamin, U.S.A.)

1. It is recognized that the electronic interchange of data and documents makes it possible to facilitate and shorten the time needed to process arriving air passengers, and thus results in savings for the airlines and government administrations concerned, and improved facilitation for the passengers.

2. At the procedural level, airlines are already prepared to use electronic data interchange for passenger processing on airplane arrivals, but lack of standardization of processes by the administrations concerned make the use of standard data transmissions to expedite passenger clearance impossible at this time.

3. The International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention) and Montreal Protocol No. 4 of May 1998 urge States to use electronic data interchange techniques.

4. ACTION BY THE PANEL

5.1 Recognizing the importance of exchanging information in a computer environment to improve passenger facilitation, the panel is invited to:

a) elevate Recommended Practice 3.14.2 to the rank of a Standard to read as follows:

“Contracting States shall introduce a system of Advance Passenger Information (API) which involves the capture of passport or visa details prior to departure and the transmission of the details by electronic means to the authorities in the destination country. In doing so Contracting States shall follow the joint World Customs Organization (WCO)/International Air Transport Association (IATA) Guideline on advance Passenger Information, except that the data elements to be transmitted as set forth in the Guidelines should also include the nationality of the passport holder expressed in the form of the Alpha-3 Codes specified in ICAO Doc 9303.

- b) in support of the Standard in paragraph 5.1, to adopt a new recommended practice as follows:

“Recommended Practice 3.XX.X.— *To avoid extra handling time during check-in, the use of document reading devices to capture the information in machine-readable documents should be encouraged.*”

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