



FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

SEVENTH MEETING

Montréal, 22-26 October 2012

Agenda Item 4: Developments on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data

WCO/IATA/ICAO API CONTACT COMMITTEE

(Presented by the Secretary)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Contact Committee of the WCO/IATA/ICAO *Guidelines on Advanced Passenger Information (API)* (otherwise known as the API Contact Committee or API CC) was established by the WCO Council in 2004 to enable the API Guidelines to be managed and maintained by the three Organizations. As the Guidelines are a cornerstone of counter-terrorism measures, the Committee was established to permit timely changes to them.

1.2 Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States are represented on the Committee. The Secretary General of the WCO may invite representatives of (WCO) non-member governments or of any international organizations to attend meetings as observers.

1.3 The Contact Committee deals with issues arising from the application of the API Guidelines and, in particular, seeks means to keep the Guidelines current and reflective of the needs of Members and of industry.

1.4 The scope of the API CC includes promoting the application of the Guidelines for administrations developing API systems, examining questions relating to the interpretation and application of the Guidelines, examining proposals for amendments to the Guidelines and its Appendices thereto, and acting as a platform for the exchange of information on issues of common interest related to providing advance passenger information to relevant authorities.

1.5 The Committee is required to adopt a report reflecting the discussion on the agenda items and the conclusions reached at each meeting. It is also required to submit the details of any proposed changes to the Guidelines and the Appendices (that include the UN/EDIFACT PAXLST message) thereto to the WCO's Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), to the Secretary-General of ICAO and to IATA's Passenger Services Conference, for their approval.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Meetings of the API CC are convened by the Secretary General of WCO and held at WCO Headquarters, Brussels. Meetings are held annually. To date, the Contact Committee has held six meetings, the most recent held from 11-12 October 2012.

2.2 Items considered during the meeting included:

- a) the development of an informal, unofficial “Umbrella document” on API and PNR, titled *Management Summary on Passenger-related Information*. To be published jointly by the WCO, ICAO and IATA, it is a “living document” that would be updated as necessary. The document, still in draft form, will be finalized during the intersession;
- b) Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) (i.e. proposed amendments) to the API Guidelines (Annex 9, Standard 3.47.2 requires a State to “follow the WCO’s Data Maintenance Request (DMR) process for any deviation from the [PAXLST] standard”);
- c) a final review of the revised API Guidelines that have been expanded to include interactive API (iAPI) specifications;
- d) Version 12.1 as the baseline PNRGOV document that is to be used as the international PNR data transmission standard (FALP/7-IP/11 refers);
- e) a presentation on the ICAO Public Key Directory by Dr. Eckart Brauer, former Chairman of the ICAO PKD Board; and,
- f) joint ICAO/WCO/IATA training and/or assistance seminars to States on API and PNR.

2.3 States interested in participating in future API CC meetings are requested to contact the WCO Secretariat (SP.Sahu@wcoomd.org or Michael.Weeding@wcoomd.org) or the ICAO Secretariat (jthaker@icao.int).

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