



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TAG-MRTD)**

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 5 to 8 May 2008

Agenda Item 1: Activities of the NTWG

Agenda Item 1.2 Informative Appendix 1 to Section III - Security Standards for MRTDs

INFORMATIVE APPENDIX 1 TO SECTION III - SECURITY STANDARDS FOR MRTDs

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This Working Paper is intended to apprise the TAG-MRTD on the need to update and rewrite the Informative Appendix 1 of 9303 Part 1 and to advise on steps that have been taken thus far to accomplish that.

2. PRESENT SITUATION

2.1 Nearly five years ago, work was completed on a paper that was originally entitled "Minimum Security Standards for MRTDs". That paper was published and broadly distributed.

2.2 The paper was widely regarded and considered by travel document authorities to be very useful and essential. Because of its utility and sound, pragmatic guidance, the paper was incorporated into 9303 as an Appendix.

2.3 The document of focus in this Working Paper is therefore now known as Informative Appendix 1 to Section III of 9393 Part 1, Passports.

2.4 While the guidance covered in this Appendix has served the travel document community well over these years, many security threats have arisen, new approaches to old threats have been employed and, most significantly, technology has advanced and evolved dramatically. Therefore, the time has come to update and rewrite this important specification guidance.

2.5 In order to carry out this work, the NTWG in concert with ISO WG 3 Task Force 1 defined the scope of work, sought individuals to contribute to the project and set about the redrafting task.

3. **DISCUSSION**

3.1 The need to rewrite this Appendix was discussed and then authorized as a Work Item for the NTWG, through the collaboration of Task Force 1, at the NTWG meeting in Singapore in September 2007.

3.2 The nature and anticipated scope of work was discussed at the Task Force 1 session as well as the subsequent WG3 meeting in Berlin in October. Volunteers to contribute were called for. As well, a general announcement was posted to the NTWG and ISO web sites to further elicit contributions.

3.3 A group of government and ISO representatives has been working since that time to review and rewrite the Appendix.

3.4 Working by telephone and email, from November through March, a draft has been developed and has gone through a number of iterations of comment and rewrite. The group met collectively in Fredericksburg, Virginia during March 19-20 to refine and prepare a draft intended for broad circulation, comment and revision, as needed. That work is now underway.

3.5 The timetable is to have the current draft in form suitable to circulate among NTWG for review and comment in the week of May 12 with comments due no later than May 31. The appendix will then be redrafted accordingly and distributed for final review and approval by NTWG at its upcoming meeting in September.

4. **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE TAG-MRTD**

4.1 The TAG-MRTD is requested to approve the NTWG to publish the Appendix in the next issue of the Supplement 9303 and thereby incorporating the Appendix into 9303 Part 1.

4.2 The TAG-MRTD is further requested to authorize incorporation into this Appendix, if so determined, the requirement for digitized photos as requested by WP/13.

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