



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

NINETEENTH MEETING

(Montréal, 7 to 9 December 2009)

Agenda Item 2: Activities of the NTWG
Agenda Item 2.2: Revision of the Logical Data Structure Technical Report

REVISION OF THE LOGICAL DATA STRUCTURE TECHNICAL REPORT

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG))

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At TAG-MRTD/17, the New Technologies Work Group requested that the TAG endorse the revision of this report to be known as Logical Data Structure Technical Report Version 2.0.

1.2 Specifically, the work item describes the nature of the Logical Data Structure Technical Report and sought concurrence in drafting the revision of Version 1.7, which has been codified into the Sixth Edition of Doc 9303, to be characterized as Version 2.0.

1.3 In pursuing the work as endorsed by the TAG at that time, a number of issues have arisen and the approach that we need to take now appears clearer. This Working Paper describes the present status and requests endorsement to proceed.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The review of the current LDS version is intended to emphasize policy considerations to ensure that the revisions are driven by those policy considerations and conclusions. To that end, a sub-working group within the NTWG has been established to initially focus on those policy areas as well as to work closely with technical experts as the project proceeds.

2.2 This sub-group has:

- created and distributed a stakeholder survey;

- held meetings to collect thoughts and considerations that should be taken into account from both Government and non-government organizations; and
- organized and distilled the inputs into a plan to proceed to serve as a point of departure to define our next steps.

2.3 These efforts have resulted in the recognition that much work remains to be done and that that we need to continue the exploration of Government needs and requirements over the coming decade.

3. PRESENT STATUS

3.1 While the current LDS is meeting current needs as previously defined, the ePassport chip is currently under-utilized with respect to potential for enhanced facilitation as well as other improvements. In addition, some border and immigration authorities may not be fully aware of the capabilities of the ePassport, or, may even perceive the technology it represents to be a threat to their jobs.

3.2 It is important to acknowledge that border, immigration and passport-issuing authorities can face budget shortfalls which may limit the ability to fully exploit the potential of chip technology in using a revised LDS.

3.3 The sub-group is now beginning to carry out its terms of reference by developing a plan to educate stakeholders, especially those in Governments, of the already-existing opportunities associated with travel document functionalities already enabled or potentially made feasible by LDS revision.

3.4 These efforts will be directed toward, but not limited to, uses of the personal data in the MRZ, and in particular through the data captured in the chip. As well, use of the photo and the use of optional DG's such as DG 7.

3.5 These areas of focus will also emphasize a variety of enhancements to chip protections against vulnerabilities such as counterfeiting, copying and unauthorized reading.

4. NEXT STEPS AND AVENUES FORWARD

4.1 The sub-group will continue as well as expand the outreach to stakeholders, especially key decision makers in order to make tangible the benefits of the use of chips, biographies and biometrics that expanded use of the ePassport represents.

4.2 The sub-group will convene meetings to develop and refine the policy and technical issues associated with revising the LDS.

4.3 Based on the experience with LDS thus far, it is estimated that the total effort will take as long as five years through to finalized specifications. The operational timeline for next steps as envisioned is:

- Conduct sub-group meetings and develop a draft report from now through May 2010
- Distribute that draft report and seek comments through July 2010
- Edit and revise the draft report accordingly by September 2010
- Distribute the revised draft to the NTWG for collective comments in October 2010

- Have the draft of policies/functionalities ready for TAG-MRTD/20 review and comments
- Solicit all comments, incorporate revisions and have final draft of policies/functionalities and preliminary draft of technical specifications ready for submission to TAG-MRTD/21
- Complete the Technical Report through to publication of final technical specifications in late 2013 or early 2014

5. **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

5.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) approve continuation of the on-going research and development work being carried out by the NTWG for revision of the Logical Data Structure and the development of a Technical Report for subsequent consideration and adoption by the TAG/MRTD; and
- b) decide that this Technical Report be guided within the program plan and timeline outlined above.

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