



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

TWENTIETH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 September 2011

Agenda Item 3: Activities of the ICBWG

Agenda Item 3.1: Communications Strategy for the November 2015 Deadline

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE NOVEMBER 2015 DEADLINE

(Presented by the ICBWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this working paper is to draw attention to the approaching 24 November 2015 deadline for non-machine readable passports (MRPs). As of this date, non-MRPs in circulation will no longer be compliant with Annex 9. It also proposes that the Secretariat makes a concerted effort, through high level communications, to ensure states are aware of the deadline and its implications.

2. COMMUNICATIONS FOR 2015 DEADLINE

2.1 In accordance with Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, Section 3.10.1, states should ensure that passports issued after 24 November 2005, which are not machine readable, have an expiration date that falls before 24 November 2015. This effectively means all non-machine readable passports should be out of circulation by this date.

2.2 Anecdotal evidence and feedback received at MRTD-related events, suggest that States may not be aware of the 2015 deadline and the implication for their citizens that hold a non-MRP which will expire after November 2015. Some states may require a reasonable amount of time to withdraw and replace non-MRPs in order to comply with Annex 9.

2.3 Anecdotal evidence also suggests that some states mistakenly believe the 2015 date is a deadline for the introduction of ePassports.

2.4 In order to communicate information about the deadline in an effective and timely manner, the Secretariat needs to begin immediate dissemination of key messages. The messages will require high level support from ICAO, in the form of a state letter, heightened general communications and inclusion in any strategic communications plan for the short to medium term.

2.5 Key messages for states should note the implications for non-compliance, including the additional scrutiny of citizens holding non-MRPs, and the possibility that non-MRPs will not be accepted by border authorities after November 2015. The fact that the deadline is not related to the compulsory introduction of ePassports should also be included in communications.

3. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) note the content of the working paper
- b) advise the Secretariat to include the 2015 deadline in its strategic communications plan; and
- c) highlight the need for communications to states on this issue as soon as possible, to raise awareness and ensure states have adequate time to comply.

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