



**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 3.2: Compliant Machine Readable Passports

**CURRENT STATUS OF STATES IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
DOCUMENT 9303 - COMPLIANT MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS**

(Presented by the ICBWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper is intended to summarize states' current status in relation to machine readable passports (MRPs) with the April 2010 deadline. It notes states that have not yet implemented MRPs, and States that are issuing passports that do not comply with Doc 9303 specifications.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As stated in Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, Standard 3.10, states should have begun issuing only MRPs in accordance with the specifications of Doc 9303, Part 1, no later than 1 April 2010.

2.2 A key role of the ICBWG is to monitor the status of states in relation to MRP issuance and Doc 9303, *Machine Readable Travel Documents*, compliance in order to provide advice and assistance where appropriate.

2.3 Due to difficulties in obtaining official status directly from some states, the information in this paper comes from a variety of intelligence sources, and is based on the best information available to the ICBWG at the time of reporting.

3. NON-MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT ISSUANCE

3.1 There are seven ICAO Contracting States that are not issuing MRPs. All States, however, have projects underway to begin issuing MRPs in the short term.

3.2 From the information ICBWG has available, the non-MRP states are as follows: Afghanistan, Algeria, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Libya, and Mauritania. Additional information on States' status is available at Appendix A.

3.3 The status of both Djibouti and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is that ordinary passports appear to be non-MRP, though they are issuing diplomatic, service and official MRPs.

4. **NON-COMPLIANT MRPs**

4.1 States who are not yet issuing MRPs are the clearest form of non-compliance, and as indicated above, these States have projects underway to address the situation. There are, however, states that believe they are issuing Doc 9303 compliant machine-readable passports, when their documents do not actually meet the specifications. The focus of ICBWG work is therefore moving from the April 2010 deadline, towards non-compliant MRPs.

4.2 In the course of monitoring MRP status, the ICBWG has identified a small number of states confirmed as having issues that affect, or may affect, the compliance status of their MRP. These states are as follows: Benin, Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Iran and Tajikistan.

4.3 The ICBWG, through the Secretariat, has corresponded with the above five states, drawing attention to the issues with the documents, and offering assistance. To date, only one State (Congo) has responded to the Secretariat. ICBWG understands OSCE has worked with Tajikistan to resolve their issue.

4.4 There are a small number of states where intelligence from border authorities, anecdotal reports, or visual inspections using resources such as "Keesing Document Checker", indicate there may be a compliance issue. These include: Laos, Guinea Conakry, East Timor and Somalia. The ICBWG is undertaking further investigation with regard to these States.

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

5.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) note the information provided and the approach the ICBWG has taken; and
- b) approve, in principle, that the ICBWG continue to identify and communicate issues of non-compliance.

APPENDIX A

NON-MRP TABLE

Country	Comments
Afghanistan	Australia providing assistance. Outcome expected in 2011 at the earliest.
Algeria	eMRP expected by 2011
Central African Republic	Part of CEMAC (ECCAS) MRP project for Central African States. No expected date available.
Djibouti	Keesing shows their diplomatic and service passports to be MRP, but their ordinary passports to be non-MRP.
DPRK (North Korea)	Keesing shows diplomatic, service and official passports are MRP, but ordinary passports are non-MRP.
Equatorial Guinea	Part of CEMAC (ECCAS) MRP project for Central African States. No expected date available.
Kiribati	Australia Department of Immigration is providing assistance. MRP expected 2012.
Libya	eMRP was expected in late 2011 (contract awarded but expected date now unclear due to political situation).
Mauritania	eMRP expected in 2011.

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