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Safety, Security, Quality and Efficiency



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

# ICAO Regional Seminar on MRTDs, Biometrics and Border Security

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# ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (APIs)

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# OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- API Processes
- Zimbabwe Airport Systems
- API Processes in Zimbabwe
- Interactive Advanced Passenger Information
- Conclusion



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# INTRODUCTION

- Document integrity is a significant factor in the security of global travel system because it:
  - Promotes facilitation of border control and clearance formalities
  - Prevents unnecessary delays
  - Enhances airports and State security systems
- The introduction by ICAO of standardized specifications for travel documents which include biometric identification has greatly strengthened the security of travel documents.



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# INTRODUCTION (Cont)

- To further enhance air travel security, ICAO is encouraging States to introduce a system of advance passenger information.





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# API PROCESSES

- This involves the capture of a passenger's biographic data and flight details by the carrier during the check-in process.
- API provisions are based on Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) 3.47; 3.47.1 and 3.47.2
- These SARPs require only data elements in machine readable format.
- Zimbabwe is implementing API systems at its international airports.



## ZIMBABWE: AIRPORT SYSTEM





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# API PROCESSES IN ZIMBABWE

- The Departure Control procedures at Zimbabwe's international airports (Harare, Victoria Falls and J.M.Nkomo airports) are on a Common User terminal Equipment (CUTE) system.
- All check in and departure processes are done on the Airline's Departure Control Systems (DCS) and these vary in functionality and interface.
- All airlines operating in Zimbabwe are compliant to this requirement on their (DCS).





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# API PROCESSES

- The CAAZ and The Department of Immigration are working on the possibility of having a link between Immigration and all airlines DCS in order to facilitate data transfer as no information is kept in the CUTE system.
- Airlines DCS electronically transmit to the border control agencies at the destination after the flight departs.
- Risk management is therefore done when the flight is already airborne.
- While it enables the efficient and expedited clearance of low – risk persons, the API system normally permit identification of potentially high – risk travellers only after a flight has departed.



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# Interactive Advance passenger Information

- Risk management and identification could potentially be greatly enhanced by ‘Interactive API (iAPI)’ programmes that allow destination States to prevent such persons from boarding flights at the place of departure.
- From the point –of –view of aviation security, API only permits the identification of possible high – risk travellers after a flight has departed.



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# Interactive Advance passenger Information

- In order to combat illegal migration, drug smuggling, terrorism and other threats to national security a more sophisticated form of API; interactive API (iAPI) – addresses the increasing needs of aviation security and immigration.
- The distinguishing feature of iAPI is that it provides for passenger- by – passenger online interchange of electronic messaging between the aircraft operator and the border control agency in the State of destination (as opposed to one API message for all passengers on a flight).



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# Interactive Advance passenger Information

- When a passenger checks-in for a flight, his/her information flows from the airline's departure control systems to the destination's border control authorities. They, in turn, send a real time electronic message response to the carrier, allowing or disallowing the passenger to board the flight in question.
- This allows aviation security to be substantially enhanced as destination States can proactively prevent potentially high – risk passengers from boarding flights at the place of departure.



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# Interactive Advance passenger Information

- The iAPI system serves as an enhanced facilitative process:
- As the use of an iAPI system reduces the exposure of airlines to penalties associated with transporting inadmissible passengers.
- It enhances risk management and security processes
- It permits fast and efficient border clearance formalities.
- However, Zimbabwe has not yet introduced the iAPI system





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# Conclusion

- We believe that there is need for harmonization and uniformity in API systems and that States should consider introduction of iAPI systems in order to help combat terrorism, illegal migration, drug trafficking, and threats to national security.
- Zimbabwe is ready to play its part to ensure safe global air travel.



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**THANK YOU**