



COVID-19: GOVERNMENT MEASURES WEBSITE AND TIMATIC

(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper presents an overview of IATA's actions during the Covid-19 crisis in relation to compiling the global government entry/exit regulatory requirements, airport entry/exit measures, and airline operational requirements, with the objective to provide IATA member airlines and other industry stakeholders with a repository of applicable measures in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak.

1. Introduction

1.1 COVID-19 has brought the aviation industry to a standstill. Governments have locked down economic activity in order to control the spread of the disease and mitigate the impacts, imposing restrictions on travel, of which the majority comprise either partial or total bans on international flying. Accordingly, getting the aviation industry back in the air will be an unprecedented challenge and requires collaboration across the value chain and with governments.

1.2 Since the declaration of the outbreak by the WHO, IATA was tasked to create an online portal to compile all government-imposed restrictions to air travel on a global scale. The IATA's COVID-19 Government Measures website includes information in relation to: border closures, entry/transit restrictions, applicable health requirements (eg. Health declaration forms, passenger locator forms, quarantine periods and curfews), closure of airports, flights suspensions, airline requirements, airport procedures, aircraft procedures, crew procedures, and repatriation flight information.

1.3 IATA's Government Measures website rapidly became a one-stop shop not only for airlines, but for States and airports where all the above-mentioned information was contained and updated on a constant basis, reflecting the rapidly changing scenario that the operation faced as the crisis emerged.

1.4 [IATA's Travel Center](#) (TIMATIC) is kept as an additional and parallel source specifically for the airlines as this system provides the necessary information for airline staff to assess a passenger's ability to fly at the time of check-in, specifically in relation to entry/exit requirements, reducing as much as possible the number of inadmissible passengers.

1.5 However, one of the biggest challenges while managing the information being disseminated had to do with the time a State enacted a regulation or change there-of, and its entry into force. Industry dealt with cases of a single State changing a regulation three times during the same day and with immediate enforcement, resulting in operational impact to the airlines who got caught, while in flight, to two conflicting requirements – one imposed prior to take-off, and the next one upon landing, causing confusion and limitations to passengers and crew alike.

2. **Proposals**

2.1 A key success factor to an orderly restart of the industry entails governments allowing enough time for airlines to adapt to the changing regulatory environment when reopening their borders. It is imperative for States to allow for a minimum 48-hour timeframe in between a regulatory change is made and enforced. This will ensure airlines adapt accordingly to the specific requirements set therein.

2.2 In addition, airlines require precise and where possible harmonized information to ensure a smooth transition into restarting the operation. States must consider the complexity of the operational aspects and aim to harmonize the requirements to facilitate the entry and exit of passengers and crew.

2.3 States are strongly encouraged to formally communicate in writing any change of measures in the operation. In some instances, we were faced with verbal communications by local authorities which TIMATIC does not support as a credible mean to change their systems. This in turn delayed updating the corresponding information for airlines on a timely manner.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 The Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation Directors of the South American Region is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information presented in this working paper;
- b) Urge Contracting States to allow for a 48-hour timeframe in between a regulatory change is mandated and enforced, to ensure airlines adapt their operations accordingly, providing clear information on the measures being imposed to both passengers and crew respectively;
- c) In the case ICAO should come up with a similar Covid-19 portal, explore IATA's collaboration and leadership in this regard.

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