



**COVID-19: STANDARDIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF SANITARY/HEALTH
REQUIREMENTS**
(Presented by IATA)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper presents an overview of IATA's actions during the Covid-19 crisis and guidance in relation to the operation. It stresses the need to collaboratively work with all industry stakeholders to standardize the applicable health and sanitary requirements. Finally, it calls upon ICAO and member States to harmonize their approach when reopening borders allowing for a safe reactivation of air transportation in the region.

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 IATA is in the process of developing a restart plan for the aviation industry based on the premise of coordination amongst all stakeholders to rapidly bring the airlines back to regular operations.

1.3 It is expected that governments may want to set up additional measures on a temporary basis to support the restart of air transport operations. Some measures may be implemented for a few months, like specific COVID-19 related health declarations, or physical distancing, while others, such as immunity certificates, may be requested for a longer period and withdrawn when states are confident that those mitigating measures are no longer needed. Generally, health screening should be proportional to the actual level of risk.

1.4 A key success factor to an orderly restart of the industry is to ensure harmonization of the sanitary protocols imposed by States, as well as to achieve standardization of health declaration forms which presents an operational burden to the airlines.

2. **Proposals**

2.1 In response to the Covid-19 emergency, States around the world have implemented measures, including, but not limited to: medical declaration and passenger contact tracing and their interoperability, health status declaration, temperature screening, COVID testing, immunity passports, use of PPE (Protective Personal Equipment), social distancing, and aircraft cleaning) measures.

2.2 IATA's restart plan (not yet published) has carefully analyzed each of these and provided industry's considerations on their impact to the operation while striking a balance with facilitation principles. It is of utmost importance that all potential measures should be aligned to a single standard and international rule (e.g. through ICAO, WHO) to avoid patchwork implementation and differing requirements across countries. Consultation with all relevant stakeholders is encouraged as per ICAO Annex 9 – Facilitation.

2.3 In assisting our member airlines through these difficult times, IATA has reviewed the entire air travel journey in line with the requirements being imposed or foreseen to be by States when reopening operations, both from the operational and medical aspects of it. As such, the following guidance material is available publicly, to date:

- [Guidance for Cabin Operations During and Post Pandemic](#)
- [Restarting aviation following COVID-19 Medical evidence for various strategies being discussed as at 21 April 2020 IATA Medical Advisory Group](#)

2.4 In addition, IATA, along with other international and regional organizations, has led a series of regional summits aimed to safely and efficiently restart the operation. The objective of these Summits was to collectively gather input from all stakeholders ensuring consensus for a harmonized approach in restarting the operation under the current circumstances.

2.5 IATA and all other international organizations participating under ICAO's Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) as well as the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (TF) are encouraged to continue their efforts in coordinating industry's response to public health risks.

2.6 Therefore, IATA desires to reiterate its willingness to collaborate under CAPSCA and the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force in achieving harmonization of health/sanitary requirements to promote a seamless, efficient and touchless experience for the traveling public.

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 ICAO, and all other organizations under CAPSCA, to push for the harmonization of measures being required under a public health emergency.
- c) Stress CAPSCA's leadership in establishing an international health repository, standardizing the health declaration forms so that passengers are only required, if need be, to complete a single and global electronic form recognized by all Contracting States, adaptable to any public health emergency;
- d) Consider IATA's expertise to actively contribute to the work led by CAPSCA and the ICAO Aviation Recovery Task Force.

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