



## **FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)**

### **NINTH MEETING**

**Montréal, 4-7 April 2016**

#### **Agenda Item 3: Amendments to Annex 9**

### **AUTOMATED BORDER CONTROL**

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association)

#### **SUMMARY**

This working paper proposes moving the only existing provision pertaining to Automated Border Control (ABC) systems to subsection I “Inspection of travel documents” and creating two new Recommended Practices within that same subsection.

The use of ABC systems has facilitation and security benefits for both Governments and Aircraft Operators, these include: Processing increased numbers of low-risk passengers quickly, conveniently and cost-effectively whilst maintaining the security and integrity of borders. The automated approach will help to optimize the process and allows resources to be focused on potentially higher-risk travellers, enhanced security through the use of biometrics and improved image can translate into economic benefit and attractiveness to tourists and business travellers.

In recent years use of ABC systems has increased and is clearly a valuable tool for Governments and airlines to facilitate the travel of increased passenger loads in the next 15 to 20 years. Given this fact and the immense benefits of automated clearance systems it would be prudent to augment ABC provisions within Annex 9.

#### **Action by the FAL Panel:**

The FAL Panel is invited to consider the proposals described in this paper and agree that Annex 9 be amended, as set out in the Appendix.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The rapid increase in the number of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) containing biometric data facilitates innovative automation concepts and enables integrated secure processes at borders that rely on machine-assisted control. With international travel and the exchange of goods constantly growing, increasing throughput capacity is vital for border control

authorities, airlines and airport operators. New technologies can be used not only to increase security but also to enhance convenience, e.g. to reduce queuing time at border control.

1.2 An Automated Border Control (ABC) system can improve the management and control of travel flows at the border by reinforcing checks while speeding up border crossing of regular travelers. This can enable border guards to cope with the ever-rising number of border crossings without compromising security. Some Governments have even suggested that security is enhanced because additional border officers' resources can be focused on potentially higher risk travelers.

1.3 IATA, in cooperation with ACI and FRONTEX, has co-authored an "ABC Implementation Guide", the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of which was released in November 2015. The Guide is intended for project managers in charge of implementing ABC solutions at airports. At the same time, IATA is monitoring the progress made by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) regarding its own developing ABC guidelines. IATA promotes the use of ABC systems globally, monitors ABC implementations/upgrades, and supports government and airport implementations by providing guidance material and case studies.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Given the benefits for both Governments and Aircraft Operators, IATA proposes the introduction of a new Recommended Practice that Contracting States should consider introducing ABC systems in order to facilitate and expedite international passengers.

2.2 IATA also proposes a subsequent Recommended Practice containing guidance on inspection techniques that builds upon widespread issuance of eMRTDs, as well as existing Recommended Practices in Chapter 3 related to the use of the PKD and INTERPOL databases when inspecting eMRTDs.

2.3 Additionally, IATA proposes to move the existing Recommended Practice 3.4.1 related to ABC systems into the subsection on Inspection of travel documents in order to group the provisions on ABC.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Facilitation Panel is invited to agree with:

- a) creating two new Recommended Practices within Chapter 3 subsection I "Inspection of travel documents",
- b) moving the existing Recommended Practice 3.4.1 pertaining to ABC systems from subsection A "General" to subsection I.

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## APPENDIX

*Amend* Annex 9 as follows:

### Chapter 3: Entry and departure of persons and their baggage

Delete paragraph 3.4.1 in subsection A and move the provision to subsection I.

#### I. Inspection of travel documents

**3.36 Recommended Practice.**— *Each Contracting State should consider the introduction of Automated Border Control (ABC) systems in order to facilitate and expedite the clearance of persons entering or departing by air.*

**3.36.1 Recommended Practice.**— *Contracting States utilizing ABC systems should, pursuant to 3.9.2 and 3.10.1, use the information available from the PKD to validate eMRTDs, perform biometric matching to establish that the passenger is the rightful holder of the document, and query INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database, as well as other border control records to determine eligibility for border crossing according to pre-defined rules.*

**3.36.2 Recommended Practice.**— *Contracting States utilizing ~~Automated Border Control (ABC)~~ systems should ensure that gates are adequately staffed while operational to ensure a smooth passenger flow and respond rapidly to safety and integrity concerns in the event of a system malfunction.*

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