

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Fifteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

Agenda Item 2: Report of the Document Content and Format Working Group

Agenda Item 2.2: Document format and durability issues

**COMMENTS ON THE MRP DATA PAGE THICKNESS
CONFORMING TO ICAO DOC 9303 MRTD**

(Presented by the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWG))

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The attachment to this paper presents the results of a survey of the practices of one hundred and forty two (142) countries with respect to their data page thickness. It was found that thirty-eight (38) countries had a data page thickness below the ICAO minimum recommended measurement of 0.25 mm (0.01 in.).

1.2 Data page location comparison revealed that sixty-six (66) countries had their data page on an inside cover and seventy-six (76) countries had their data page as an inside page.

1.3 The data page was secured in one of several ways, on the cover either with a fairly thick lamina or a thin security film. On an inside data page the photo and biographical details were either protected by an ultra thin security film or a thick rigid material such a polycarbonate.

1.4 The below minimum data page thickness can occur when this ultra thin film is used in association with an inside data page.

1.5 If the passport with an inside data page is read in a swipe reader using the cover as additional support for the inside page, there are no readability issues and the total thickness of the cover and data page meet the thickness requirement.

1.6 It can be argued that the ultimate data page thickness is not as important as to whether or not it can be read properly in "swipe" readers. Consideration has to be given to the opacity of the inside page and ultra thin film, so that they are opaque enough not to cause readability issues with optical readers.

1.7 A wording modification is proposed that will address the practical aspects of data page thickness and remove the specified minimum data page thickness.

1.8 The suggested wording change is as follows:

1.9 **Part 1 section IV para 2.4.1.** Selection of the minimum data page thickness is at the discretion of the issuing State or organization, bearing in mind that it must pass through passport swipe readers and thus be durable. It also must not be so opaque as to interfere with the readability of the data page in optical passport readers.

1.10 An alternate option is to include the cover thickness with the inside data page thickness in the calculation to measure the minimum data page thickness.

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

2.1 The Document Content and Format Working Group invites the TAG/MRTD to:

- a) consider amending the wording in para 2.4.1, Section IV of Part 1 — *Machine Readable Passports*, by way of an amendment to Doc 9303, Part 1, Fifth Edition 2003; and
- b) consider an alternate means of measuring the data page thickness by including the passport cover thickness in the calculation of minimum thickness for the data page. Approval of this concept would be dealt with by means of an amendment in wording to Doc 9303, Part 1, Fifth Edition 2003.

ATTACHMENT

THICKNESS OF DATA PAGE ON AN INSIDE COVER

Number	Count	Country	Thickness (um)	Data page location	Update (3/2004)
77	1	MALAYSIA	300	IFC	
78	2	ANDORRA	322	IBC	
79	3	SAMOA	400	IFC	
80	4	PHILIPPINES	410	IFC	
81	5	SWAZILAND	418	IBC	x
82	6	CHINA	420	IFC	
83	7	ANGOLA	421	IBC	
84	8	COTE D'IVOIRE	422	IFC	
85	9	SAUDI ARABIA	425	IFC	x
86	10	MACAO	428	IBC	
87	11	BRUNEI	440	IBC	x
88	12	UNITED NATIONS	440	IFC	
89	13	BURUNDI	445	IBC	x
90	14	KENYA	450	IBC	
91	15	SINGAPORE	450	IBC	x
92	16	NAURU	450	IFC	
93	17	EGYPT	452	IFC	
94	18	U.S.A.	453	IFC	
95	19	UKRAINE	455	IFC	x
96	20	CAMBODIA	456	IBC	
97	21	CZECH	460	IBC	
98	22	TAIWAN	460	IFC	x
99	23	CHILE	462	IBC	x
100	24	BARBADOS	469	IBC	
101	25	JAPAN	470	IFC	
102	26	HONG KONG S.A.R	480	IBC	x
103	27	PERU	483	IFC	
104	28	SOUTH AFRICA	492	IBC	x
105	29	BAHRAIN	502	IFC	x
106	30	MOLDOVA	504	IBC	
107	31	ITALY	504	IFC	
108	32	OMAN	507	IBC	
109	33	KYRGYZ	512	IBC	
110	34	SOLOMON	527	IFC	
111	35	TUVALU	530	IFC	
112	36	NEW ZEALAND	530	IFC	
113	37	GUATEMALA	534	IFC	
114	38	TURKMENISTAN	537	IBC	
115	39	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	538	IFC	
116	40	SLOVAKIA	540	IBC	
117	41	BAHRAIN	540	IBC	
118	42	TRINIDAD, TOBAGO	546	IBC	
119	43	GEORGIA	550	IBC	
120	44	MEXICO	550	IFC	
121	45	PARAGUAY	551	IFC	
122	46	RUSSIA	560	IBC	
123	47	FIJI	568	IFC	
124	48	MAURITIUS	570	IFC	
125	49	GREECE	575	IBC	
126	50	VENEZUELA	582	IFC	
127	51	TAJKISTAN	583	IBC	
128	52	BELARUS	585	IBC	
129	53	KIRIBATI	586	IFC	

THICKNESS OF DATA PAGE ON AN INSIDE COVER (Cont'd)

130	54	DOMINICA	594	IFC
131	55	ZIMBABWE	608	IBC
132	56	BELIZE	618	IBC
133	57	ERITREA	625	IBC
134	58	GUINEA	628	IBC
135	59	QATAR	630	IFC
136	60	INDIA	631	IFC
137	61	IRELAND	667	IBC
138	62	LAOS	670	IBC
139	63	HAITI	680	IFC
140	64	ZAMBIA	688	IFC
141	65	LUXEMBOURG	745	IBC
142	66	INDONESIA	867	IFC

x

THICKNESS OF DATA PAGE ON AN INNER PAGE

Number	Count	Country	Thickness (um)	Data page location	Update (3/2004)	Without film (Not finished)
1	1	SPAIN	103	Page 2		
2	2	BULGARIA	118	Page 2	x	
3	3	ESTONIA	118	Page 3		
4	4	NICARAGUA	120	Page 2		
5	5	LEBANON	122	Page 2		
6	6	CROATIA	128	Page 2	x	
7	7	SEYCHELLES	140	Page 2		
8	8	BELGIUM	144	Page 2	x	
9	9	SYRIA	155	Page 2	x	
10	10	NAMIBIA	155	Page 31		
11	11	NIGER	160	Page 2	x	
12	12	BOSNIA, HERZEGOVINA	160	Page 2	x	
13	13	ROMANIA	160	Page 2		
14	14	VIET NAM	165	Page 4		
15	15	GHANA	171	Page 31	x	
16	16	CANADA	176	Page 2		
17	17	ARGENTINA	185	Page 3	x	
18	18	BOLIVIA	194	Page 3		
19	19	MADAGASCAR	195	Page 2		
20	20	HUNGARY	200	Penultimate		
21	21	MICRONESIA	205	Page 1		
22	22	POLAND	208	Page 2	x	
23	23	ECUADOR	213	Page 2		
24	24	UNITED KINGDOM	222	Page 31		
25	25	PORTUGAL	223	Page 2		
26	26	AUSTRALIA	225	Page 2		
27	27	TUNISIA	227	Page 2		
28	28	KUWAIT	230	Page 2		
29	29	CYPRUS	232	Page 2		
30	30	SRI LANKA	232	Page 2		
31	31	MONGOLIA	235	Page 2		
32	32	RWANDA	235	Page 3		
33	33	UGANDA	236	Penultimate		
34	34	MALTA	240	Page 31	x	
35	35	JORDAN	243	Page 3	x	
36	36	COLOMBIA	245	Page 2	x	
37	37	PANAMA	245	Page 2		
38	38	SIERRA LEONE	246	Page 2	x	
39	1	HONDURAS	259	Page 2	x	
40	2	CHAD	260	Page 2		
41	3	LATVIA	264	Page 3		
42	4	NIGERIA	270	Page 33		
43	5	MONACO	275	Page 2		
44	6	CUBA	275	Page 2		
45	7	MALDIVES	287	Page 2		
46	8	THAILAND	291	Page 2		
47	9	SLOVENIA	295	Page 2	x	
48	10	NORWAY	314	Page 2		
49	11	SWITZERLAND	320	Page 2		
50	12	DENMARK	330	Page 2	x	
51	13	EL SALVADOR	330	Penultimate		
52	14	BURKINA FASO	340	Page 2	x	
53	15	COSTA RICA	340	Page 2		
54	16	AZERBAIDJAN	347	Page 4		
55	17	SWEDEN	350	Page 2		

THICKNESS OF DATA PAGE ON AN INNER PAGE (Cont'd)

56	18	YEMEN	353	Page 2		
57	19	JAMAICA	358	Page 2		
58	20	ICELAND	362	Page 4		
59	21	FINLAND	365	Page 2	x	
60	22	ISRAEL	374	Page 2	x	
61	23	KOREA	430	Page 2		
62	24	FRANCE	445	Page 2		
63	25	LITHUANIA	610	Page 2		
64	26	GERMANY	615	Page 2		
65	27	NETHERLANDS	818	Page 2		
66	1	URUGUAY	107	Page 4		x
67	2	MALAWI	110	Page 2		x
68	3	UZBEKISTAN	111	Page 3		x
69	4	COMOROS	112	Page 2	x	x
70	5	MACEDONIA	115	Page 2	x	x
71	6	KAZAKHSTAN	115	Page 32		x
72	7	ALBANIA	122	Page 2		x
73	8	AUSTRIA	133	Page 2		x
74	9	ARMENIA	135	Page 3		x
75	10	LIECHTENSTEIN	143	Page 2		x
76	11	TIMOR-LESTE	220	Page 2	x	X

**MRPs BY LOCATION, THICKNESS, AND STANDARDIZATION
OF DATA PAGE**

