International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TAG/MRTD)

TWENTIETH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 September 2011

Agenda Item 2:   Activities of the NTWG
Agenda Item 2.8 Revision of Machine Readable Travel Documents (Doc 9303)

REVISION OF MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (DOC 9303)

(Presented by the NTWG)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   At its Nineteenth meeting in December 2009, the TAG/MRTD endorsed TAG/MRTD/19-WP5 on the integration of supplement information into Doc 9303.

1.2   Beside confirmation of this integration activity, the TAG/MRTD was also invited to consider the publication of new (revised) editions of all three parts of Doc 9303 at the same time.

1.3   Since the publication of the latest edition of Doc 9303 several technical reports have been approved by the TAG/MRTD for inclusion in Doc 9303.

1.4   This working paper provides an update on the status of the integration and revision discussions and suggestions for the way forward.

2.   **BACKGROUND**

2.1   Doc 9303 presently consists of:

    a)   Part 1 - sixth edition, published in 2006;

    b)   Part 2 - third edition, published in 2005;

    c)   Part 3 - third edition, published in 2008; and

    d)   Supplement to Doc 9303 - Release 10, published in 2011.

2.2   The present tenth release of the Supplement contains 134 issues. In the period after TAG Nineteenth the issues have been analyzed and proposals for integration into new editions of Doc 9303 have been made in a "Supplement clean-up report".

2.3   It is common practice that when new editions of Doc 9303 are issued, existing endorsed technical reports will be integrated into the standard. Assuming approval of technical reports presented to the TAG at this Twentieth meeting, five technical reports are candidates for such integration.

2.4   The NTWG recognized the fact that Doc 9303, part 1 and part 3, contain duplicate, mainly general, information. Volumes 2 of part 1 and part 3 are almost entirely identical, however the parts are issued as separate documents. As a result, maintenance of part 1 and part 3, keeping the specifications consistent is complex and time consuming.

2.5   Issuing parts, 1 and 3, of Doc 9303 as separate documents has proven to be necessary to comfort the audience, who are the users of the standard. In the paper based editions of Doc 9303 it was the only way to issue the information in a comprehensive way, with complete sets of specifications for the different form factors of machine readable travel documents.

2.6   Since 2009, ICAO issues Doc 9303 in electronic (pdf) format. This new approach allows the user to download the complete standard, free of charge, or parts of it as he chooses. The electronic format opens up the possibility to improve maintainability (see 2.4) as well as the readability (2.5) through a new, more efficient structure.

3.   **DOC 9303 REVISION**

3.1   This working paper proposes that the creation of the new editions of Doc 9303 be a combination of efforts, to be conducted in three phases.

3.2   Phase 1would consists of the restructuring of Doc 9303. In designing this new structure the following requirements should be taken into account:

a) specifications that presently appear in more than one part of Doc 9303 should appear only once. This applies for both physical (Volume 1) and electronic (Volume 2) specifications;

b) as a result Doc 9303 will consist of a single set of specifications for td1, td2, and ID3 size documents. This set of specifications consists of various (pdf) files in which general (applicable to all MRTDs) as well as MRTD type specific specifications are grouped;

c) the users of Doc 9303 expect specifications related to MRTD types. Therefore for each MRTD type, clear references will be made to help the user access the relevant subset of specifications applicable for that document type; and

d) machine readable visas are considered to be of a different nature than the other types of MRTDs, and will therefore be specified in a different part of Doc 9303.

3.3   Phase 2 will be the "Supplement clean-up" activity. This phase concerns the incorporation of Supplement clarifications, or re-writing of relevant text, in the newly formatted Doc 9303. The basis for the editing of Doc 9303 is the Supplement clean-up report.

3.4   Phase 3 concerns the incorporation of the existing endorsed Technical reports into the newly formatted Doc 9303. Presently this means incorporation of the following Technical Reports:

   a) "CSCA countersigning and Master List issuance" V1.0;

   b)   "Supplemental Access Control for Machine Readable Travel documents" V1.01;

   c) "LDS and PKI Maintenance" V1.0 (if endorsed at TAG_20);

   d) "Machine Reading Options for td1 size MRTDs" V1.0 (if endorsed at TAG_20); and

   e) "Machine Assisted Document Security Verification" V1.0 (if endorsed at TAG_20)

3.5   Drafts of the revised Doc 9303 are planned to be presented to the TAG-MRTD at its Twenty-First meeting. To achieve this, review cycles will be carried out by the NTWG.

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

4.1   The TAG/MRTD is invited to confirm the:

   a) restructuring of Doc 9303 as described in paragraph 3.2 of this working paper. The resulting format will be subject to review cycles by the NTWG and ICBWG;

   b) continuation of the supplement clean-up activity as described in paragraph 3.3; and

   c) incorporate of endorsed technical reports into the new edition of Doc 9303 as described in paragraph 3.4.

— END —