International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) States Civil Aviation Authorities Directors General Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Aviation Recovery and Restart
14 April 2021

Agenda Item 1: **Update and Follow-up on the ICAO Council's Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Phase II and New Phase III Measures**

IATA TRAVEL PASS

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association – IATA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Reopening of international borders without quarantines and reinstatement of air traffic service during and after the Covid-19 pandemic depends on State´s capacity to minimize the risk of importation in its greatest extent possible, consistent application of standards and best practices in accordance to ICAO CART recommendations, and rebuilding passenger confidence in the correct application of biosafety measures throughout the travel journey. Measures adopted by government usually involve, among others, the requirement for passengers to present both to airline and government proof of negative Covid-19 test and/or vaccination certificates to be able to travel. Digital passes, including IATA Travel Pass, offer a win-win solution for governments, passengers, and airlines by providing confidence in the Covid-19 test and vaccine verification status of travellers. This Working/Information Paper sets out IATA´s position on the issue and the actions needed to support the airline industry in its recovery efforts.

Action:	IATA urges States to engage with industry and explore acceptance of the IATA Travel Pass solution as the most effective means by which borders can remain open without the need of imposing quarantine or self-isolation requirements to international travellers in an effort to regain traveling public´s confidence, reducing the increasing problem of fraudulent certifications presented by passengers while enhancing the overall passenger experience through the use of technology.
Strategic Objectives:	• Security & Facilitation

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Covid-19 pandemic has had a devasting effect on global air transport. Recognizing the need to restart the industry and adopt technological solutions to speed up this process, IATA has developed the Travel Pass – a solution that combines biometric identity recognition and health credential certificate validation to facilitate the passenger´s journey when traveling internationally in line with complying with all local country border and health control requirements.

1.2 Governments around the world will introduce the necessary risk mitigation measures against the importation of COVID-19 prior to opening their borders or removing travel restrictions including quarantines.

1.3 Among these measures, governments will likely require either verified testing and/or eventually vaccination proof as a condition of international travel during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4 IATA is committed to working with government in developing country roadmaps for the safe reopening of borders and removal of all travel restrictions in the most effective and safe way possible.

1.5 IATA Travel Pass is a solution envisioned to future-proof against pandemics and to significantly improve security and passenger experience and facilitation. This solution will power existing airline customer mobile applications (apps), enabling travellers to understand country requirements and to store and manage their verified certifications for COVID-19 tests and/or vaccinations.

1.6 The IATA Travel Pass is based on decentralized principles, protecting data security and privacy. This gives passengers the option to share their information directly with governments and allows airlines to only receive a confirmation that the appropriate health information has been collected and verified.

1.7 Digital passes such as the IATA Travel Pass, offer a win-win solution for governments, passengers, and airlines by providing confidence in the COVID-19 test and vaccine verification status for travellers. It constitutes a more secure and efficient solution than current processes used to manage health requirements.

2. SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM STATES

2.1 IATA´s advocacy efforts are geared towards positioning the IATA Travel Pass as on of the options for States to effectively validate passenger health credentials.

2.2 IATA encourages States to adopt WHO or ICAO standards in relation to the issuance of test and vaccination certificates so that the app is used to its full potential.

2.3 IATA calls on States and more specifically, border control and health authorities, to accept the OK to travel confirmation (green tick) within the IATA Travel Pass App on the passenger´s phone in

an effort to reduce paper formats and physical transactions. Allowing this will help industry deliver the contactless travel experience outlined in the ICAO CART Take Off Guidance and to avoid queues associated with checking paper documents.

2.4 In this regard, IATA also calls governments to efficiently address the inter-agency cooperation needed within each State to avoid delays in the approval processes required to accept the Travel Pass as a viable solution for travellers.

3. SUMMARY

3.1 International air travel remains 88% down compared to 2019 levels because of travel restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19. IATA Travel Pass is a solution that allows the verification of test and vaccine status of arriving passengers by which is key to ensuring that governments have the confidence to safely reopen borders as the public health situation allows. IATA Travel Pass offers a win-win for governments, travellers, and airlines, while protecting public health.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 In light of the ongoing public health emergency and to better assist industry and States in the resumption of international air travel in keeping borders open with no travel restrictions, this Group is invited to:

a) Note the information provided in this working paper; and
b) Agree on the need to remove physical/manual processes and accept digital solutions like the IATA Travel Pass as a mean to validate health credential certificates effectively.

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