

# Recommended Practice 1701 I

## **Background:**

The International Traveler Scheme aims to bring registered travelers schemes together under one overall program. The purpose of an International Traveler Scheme is to expedite passenger movements of identified, pre-screened and assessed as low-risk passengers through all border controls, including immigration and customs. A registered traveler scheme is a program that allows travelers expedited passage through automated border control systems following successful background checks and the recording of biometric data.

## **Problem:**

A number of countries world-wide have established, or are in the process of establishing national, bilateral and multilateral registered traveler schemes. Passengers applying to multiple states within the Scheme may not be accepted by all the states to which they have applied. The development of agreed criteria for the potential disqualification of participants including agreement on the eligibility and status of passengers will foster interoperability. Passengers should benefit from a standardized application process and an enhanced travel experience by gaining access to a range of registered traveler programs operated by participating states where access would be otherwise unavailable.

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## INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER SCHEME

RECOMMEND that Governments work together to develop commonalities between national registered traveler schemes to facilitate joining these together within wider multilateral initiatives. Where Governments offer registered traveler schemes, airlines underpin Government promotional activities and the facilities offered by airport operators support these schemes.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A number of countries world-wide have established, or are in the process of establishing national, bilateral and multilateral registered traveler schemes.

1.2 The concept of a registered traveler scheme is to provide pre-assessed low-risk travelers with expedited passage through border controls.

1.3 These schemes deploy an automated process to:

- Check that the passenger is in possession of a genuine, valid travel document or token
- Verify the passenger's biometric data against the travel document or token or a pre-existing biometric identifier supplied by the passenger during enrolment to ensure the travel document is presented by the rightful owner.
- Grant or deny admission according to pre-established specification.

### 2. SCOPE

2.1 Whilst each registered traveler scheme is unique, commonalities do exist; It is recommended that:

2.1.1 Operationally

- Registered traveler schemes may be separately developed and operated by a Government or jointly developed and operated between Government and Industry.
- Where a charge is levied, the scheme should offer travelers a more bespoke service, i.e., web-based application including forms and the ability to schedule interviews
- The scheme should facilitate an increased efficiency in traveler clearance times
- Procedurally and practically clear for travelers to understand and operate

### 2.1.2 Eligibility

- The scheme should be open to nationals from more than one country
- Age restrictions may apply
- Membership should be time limited, invariably linked to the length of the travel document.
- Continued eligibility requires passing regular background checks.

### 2.1.3 Enrolment

- Enrolment is voluntary in all schemes
- All registered traveler schemes should collect biographic data and may request supplementary data
- Each scheme will capture a minimum of one biometric

### 2.1.4 Background checks

- Regular background checks are conducted against national databases
- These may include biometric data and criminality checks.

## 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of a Registered Traveler Scheme is to allow travelers expedited passage through automated border controls following successful background checks and the recording of biometric data.

Governments should benefit from initiating a registered traveler scheme by enhancing security of the border through the use of biometrics, reducing illegal immigration, allowing more effective deployment of resources towards potentially higher-risk travelers and being able to obtain additional advanced information on travelers. Governments may also benefit in that additional sources of information may be utilized that they would not normally have access to in the identification of low-risk travelers.

Airlines may indirectly benefit from the additional vetting of travelers within the scheme, which offers greater security on the identity of the traveler and their admissibility by border control authorities. Where schemes incorporate direct transit points, airlines should additionally benefit from on-time departures where a passenger is transiting an airport and is required to make a border crossing, leading to cost efficiencies and the provision of better customer service.

Airport operators should expect a reduction in queue length and times which will facilitate a more efficient use of space and a possible deferment of infrastructure requirements and costs.

The vision is to ultimately create an International Traveler scheme which will bring registered traveler schemes together under one overall initiative. An International Traveler Scheme should enhance a passenger's travel experience by granting them access to a range of registered traveler programs operated by participating countries where access would be otherwise unavailable. The Traveler should also benefit from a standardized application process, access to expedited automated border crossings and the creation of a more seamless journey.

The recommendations also seek to assist Governments and Industry in designing data requirements for the implementation of a registered traveler scheme which may facilitate multilateral agreements.

## **4. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Recommended Practice, the following definitions apply;

### **4.1 Admission**

The permission granted to a passenger to enter a State by the public authorities of that State in accordance with its national laws.

### **4.2 Automated Border Control (ABC)**

An automated control system that authenticates travel documents and/or tokens and permits, or denies, admission to a traveler according to a pre-established specification.

The ABC may additionally verify the passengers' biometric data against the travel document and/or token or a pre-existing database containing biometric data. It may also register the entry or exit of the country.

### **4.3 Biometrics**

Biometrics are any means by which a person can be uniquely identified by evaluating one or more distinguishing biological traits. Unique identifiers include fingerprints, hand geometry, iris, retina, facial image, hand vein geometry, voice waves, DNA, and signatures.

### **4.4 International Traveler Scheme**

An umbrella initiative that seeks to bring countries existing registered traveler schemes together.

#### **4.5 Registered Traveler Scheme**

A registered traveler scheme allows pre-assessed low-risk travelers expedited passage through automated border control system following successful background checks and the recording of biometric data.

#### **4.6 Token**

A personalized secure credential that permits the authorized traveler to gain admission via automated border controls, subject to passing background checks and, in some instances, producing a valid travel document.

#### **4.7 Travel Document**

A passport or other official document of identity issued by a State or organization, which may be used by the rightful holder for international travel.

### **5. Data Fields**

In an effort to facilitate multilateral agreements the following represents a composite list of the information Governments may request for the Registered Traveler Scheme application process. This list is not exhaustive.

#### **Biographic Information**

- Last, First and Middle names
- Gender
- Date of birth

Governments may additionally request;

- Surname or Academic title, prefix or suffix
- Maiden Name
- Alias
- Height
- Eye Color
- Town/State/Province of birth

#### **Nationality and Citizenship**

- Country of birth
- Country of Citizenship
- Immigration Status
- Nationality

### **Travel Document**

- ✈ Travel Document type and number
- ✈ Expiry date
- ✈ Date of issue

Governments may additionally request;

- ✈ Government issuing the document
- ✈ Visa information
- ✈ Information on other travel documents

### **Contact Details**

The following contact fields are primarily utilized to contact fee-paying applicants;

- ✈ Country of primary residence
- ✈ Address if different from primary residence
- ✈ Commencement date for current address
- ✈ Full current address details
- ✈ Previous address history where the above covers less than 5 years
- ✈ Mailing address if this differs from the current address
- ✈ Home, Business and Mobile Telephone Numbers
- ✈ Email Address
- ✈ Invoice Address
- ✈ Preferred language and method of communication whether email or mail

### **Employment**

The following information may be requested to inform background checks;

- ✈ Employment status and commencement date
- ✈ Occupation
- ✈ Employer name, address and telephone number
- ✈ Additional employment history where the above covers less than 5 years

**Travel History** Governments may additionally request;

- ✈ Boarding Pass available at time of enrolment
- ✈ Average number of flights per year
- ✈ Travel history over a specified period

### **Criminality, Immigration and Customs Offences**

Whilst the following information is not widely requested, it is utilized by Governments to inform background checks;

- Criminal conviction details
- Waiver of Inadmissibility details
- Customs offences
- Immigration offences

### **Membership and Payment Details**

Those Governments operating fee-paying registered traveler schemes may seek to establish:

- Where Governments offer varying levels of membership, the type of membership the applicant requires
- Payment method and bank details

### **Terms and Conditions**

- All Governments seek to ascertain that the applicant understands the terms and conditions of the scheme before proceeding.