Attention Airline Industry Colleagues

Over the past several years a group of dedicated members from various Airlines, States, and airline Industry Service Providers have collaborated in working towards the standardization of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.

The main objective of the group was to identify a manner in which PNR data can be standardized and incorporated into the acquisition and provision of passenger data that would be most beneficial to all stakeholders. In addition, these standards must continue to support the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines as well as being able to meet individual State legislative requirements on the acquisition and provision of PNR data.

With the administrative lead and support of IATA this group which is now known as the Passenger Name Record Government (PNRGOV) Working Group has recently finalized and gained WCO and ICAO approval for a PNR message standard that is quickly gaining popularity worldwide. The use of a standard message format for the provision of PNR data streamlines the process and assists in decreasing the need for Airlines and States to manage multiple individual data provision specifications. To obtain more detailed information on the progress that has been made with the PNRGOV Working Group please contact IATA at IATA Site Registration to register to obtain access to the PNRGOV website where all meeting minutes and progress to date can be obtained.

With the increase in border control agencies requiring airlines to provide passenger data, there is a need to reinforce the global standards that have been jointly developed to maintain a level of standardisation and ongoing compliance. To date, numerous airlines have already begun to send PNR data utilizing the PNRGOV message format with great success. With its growing interest, it is anticipated that within the next few years that more airlines and States will be accepting and processing the PNRGOV message. Currently nine countries require PNR data and another 25 are preparing to engage in a PNR data collection program in the near future, the PNRGOV message will provide a consistent standard method for the provision of PNR data from airlines to border control agencies.

Information and specifications of the PNRGOV message can be found on the WCO website at WCOOMD.ORG. These specifications coupled with the ICAO Doc 9944 PNR Guidelines, will assist you in understanding what PNR data is and the method in which it can be distributed.

We look forward to assisting you further as you analyze your PNR data requirements and determine if the PNRGOV message format would benefit your organization. Should you have any questions or

would like to discuss data acquisition or provision in greater detail we encourage you to contact any one of the following representatives from the ICAO Member States or the IATA organization.

Australia Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS)
Michael Odgers, Director, Industry Engagement
Michael.Odgers@customs.gov.au

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
Kathy Therien, Senior Program Advisor, API/PNR
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United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)
Robert Neumann, Acting Director, Traveller Entry Programs
Robert.Neumann@dhs.gov

United Kingdom Border Force
Ian Neill, Acting Director Border Systems Programme
Ian.Neill@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

We look forward to further streamlining air passenger data processing and working with you to standardize the collection and acquisition of PNR data.

Sincerely,

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Michael Odgers, ACBPS   Kathy Therien, CBSA

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Ian Neill, UK Border Force   Robert Neumann, US CBP