

FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

(Third Meeting, Montreal, 12 to 16 February 2001)

Agenda Item 3: General revision of Annex 9 – Chapters 2 and 3

REVISION OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL EMBARKATION/DISEMBARKATION CARD (ANNEX 9, APPENDIX 5)

(Presented by the Secretary)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At its second meeting the FAL Panel, in the context of its review of Annex 9 provisions related to embarkation/disembarkation cards (E/D cards), observed that there was also a need to review and update Appendix 5 in view of changes in declaration requirements of States. In addition, recent work of the TAG/MRTD has resulted in changes in the specifications for presentation of identification data in passports and other official travel documents; these changes should also be taken into account in the interest of consistency.

2. The purpose, format and information requirements of the E/D card vary widely among Contracting States. Standardization, even on a regional level, is a daunting prospect in view of the fact that the form applies to passengers in other modes of transport besides civil aviation and the fact that the government agency requiring the data can vary from State to State. Moreover, since each State's version of the form is used only in that State, the impact of this lack of standardization on the facilitation of border-crossing formalities is relatively low; hence standardization efforts, while desirable from the standpoint of passenger convenience, are not given a high priority at this time.

3. Nevertheless most E/D forms do have in common the requirement for identification details which are contained in the machine readable zone of a passport or other machine readable travel document. Rather than pursue the worldwide standardization of a paper form, it is recommended that ICAO encourage Contracting States to develop systems for capturing these data by machine from the travel documents and storing the information in computerized record systems, with the objective to eventually eliminate the completion of paper forms by hand.

4. With this in mind it is proposed:

- a) that Appendix 5 be updated to appear as in the Attachment to this paper, specifying requirements for certain passport details (all of which are available in the machine

readable zone), supplemented by a few statistical data elements which the individual State may require;

- b) that Standard 3.10 be amended to provide that only the information requirements (not the format) of the E/D card be standardized (see FALP/3-WP/5); and
- c) that a new Recommended Practice be introduced, replacing existing Recommended Practice 3.9, to read as follows:

“Recommended Practice.— *Contracting States which require the collection of identification information from departing or arriving passengers should develop systems for the electronic capture of this information from machine readable travel documents.*”

5. ACTION BY THE PANEL

- 5.1 The Panel is invited to consider the proposals in paragraph 4 above and advise the Secretariat of its views concerning possible adoption.
