International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

TAG-MRTD/18-WP/9
22/4/08
English only

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

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 5 to 8 May 2008

Agenda Item 1: Activities of the NTWG
Agenda Item 1.9: Report on Test Methodology Being Developed for MRTDs and e-MRTDS

REPORT ON TEST METHODOLOGY BEING DEVELOPED FOR MRTDs AND e-MRTDs

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document describes the work ongoing within ICAO and ISO SC17/WG3 to develop and standardize a test methodology for electronic machine-readable travel documents (e-MRTDs). The history of the work to date and the work programme moving forward are described.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In September 2003 WG3 agreed that a task force should be created to look at a test methodology for supporting the e-Passport. This new task force (Task Force 4 or as it has often been referred to, TF4) determined that work should initially focus on durability testing for machine-readable passports in general, as well as, those that incorporated contactless integrated circuits. That work has continued since its inception and has realized a final Working Draft of the Durability Test Methodology.

2.2 WG3 sought formal approval of the work of TF4 within ISO by requesting approval of a new work item (NP) by ISO Technical Sub-Committee SC17 (ISO/SC17). That approval was given in October 2006 as recorded in ISO/SC17 Resolution 571/06, which foresaw the development of three (3) initial Parts of a Multi-Part Test Methodology Standard for MRTDs as follows:

RESOLUTION 571/06 - NEW WORK ITEM PROPOSAL FOR WG3

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17 agrees that a NP for Test Methods for Machine Readable Travel Documents (WG3) shall be raised. The NP will be for a multipart standard, three parts of which will undergo concurrent NP and CD ballot, as follows:

Part 1: Durability of the ePassport Booklets
Part 2: Contactless interface
Part 3: Logical Data Structure and PKI protocols

SC17 notes that further parts of this standard will also be developed in the future. SC17 thanks all the contributors to the work on the above NP including SC17's WG1, WG4 and WG8, as well as, SC37.

2.3 During implementation of the NP programme the responsibility for development of the *Contactless interface test methodology* was transferred to Working Group 8 of ISO/SC17 so that it could be published as a passport specific annex in ISO/IEC 10373-6. This led to a two (2) Part layout for the initial version of the Multi-Part Test Methodology Standard for MRTDs, as follows:

Part 1: Physical test methods for passport books; and
Part 2: Test for application protocol and logical data structure.

2.4 To realize the earliest transition of the Test Methodology to that of the International Standard, ICAO will submit the ICAO Technical Report Versions of Part 1 and Part 2 to ISO directly and request that they be transitioned through ballot from ICAO standards – hence "*Enquiry Drafts*" - to ISO Standards. ICAO is able to make this direct request of ISO since it is a Category "A Liaison Organization" of the ISO/SC17 Technical Sub-Committee. The voting process would be the new ISO established five (5) month fast-track ballot procedure (as different from WG3s fast-track procedure). The contents of the ICAO Technical Report(s) would be balloted as "Final Draft International Standard(s)".

2.5 TF4 will continue to enhance and expand the Test Methodology beyond that defined within ICAO Technical Reports. The intention is for WG3, and specifically TF4, to take over the maintenance of the new Multi-Part Test Methodology Standard for MRTDs once approved as the International Standard through five (5) month ISO fast-track balloting.

3. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

a) note the work done to date on test methodology;

b) endorse the approach to be taken by ICAO to transition the initial Technical Reports to International Standards; and

c) endorse the continuing work plan on this topic.

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