



| ICAO



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ICAO **TRIP**  
SYMPOSIUM

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## ePassports – Benefits and Challenges

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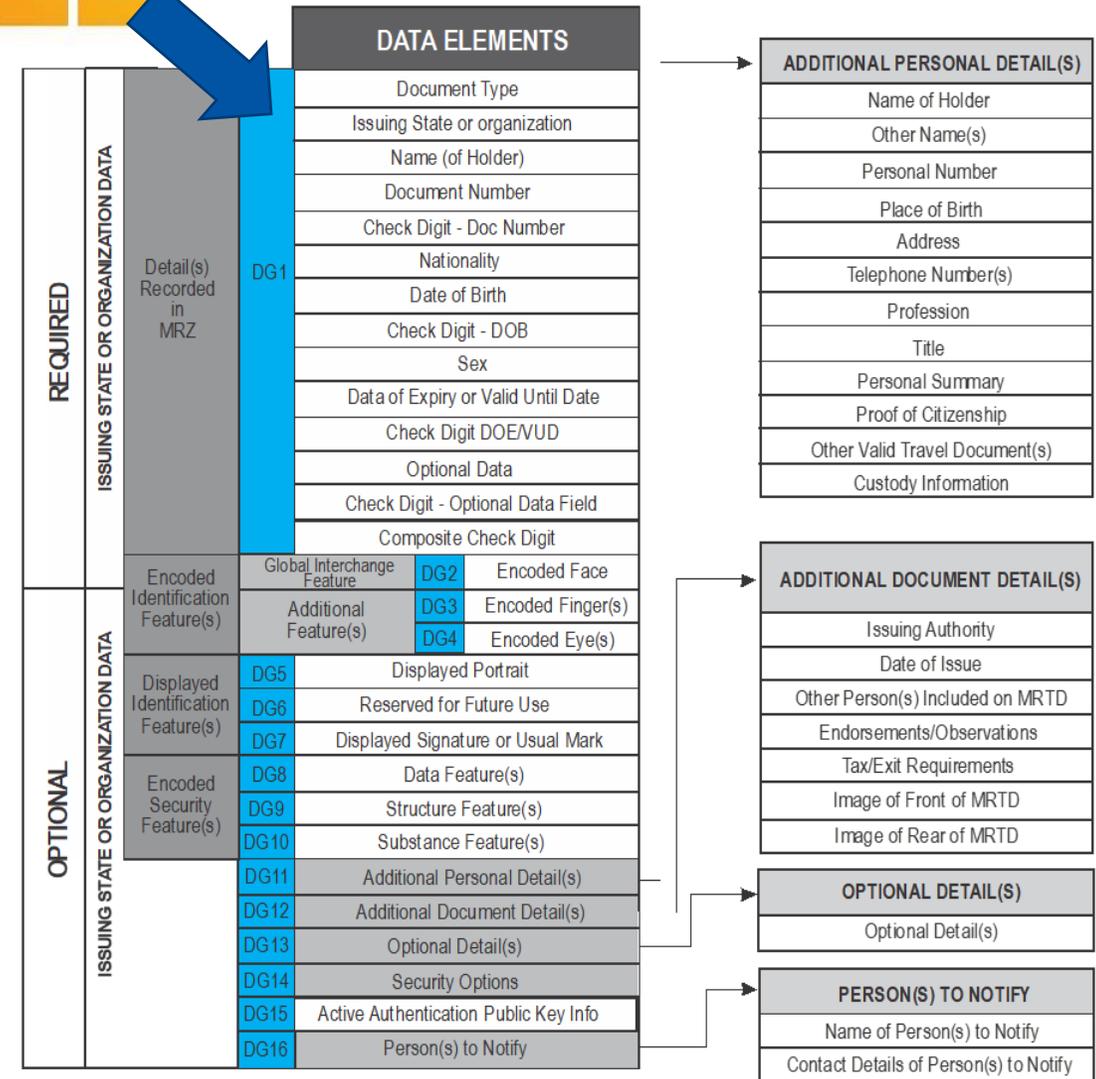


# ePassports:

The ePassport chip contains data elements from the biodata page, and can include other additional details.

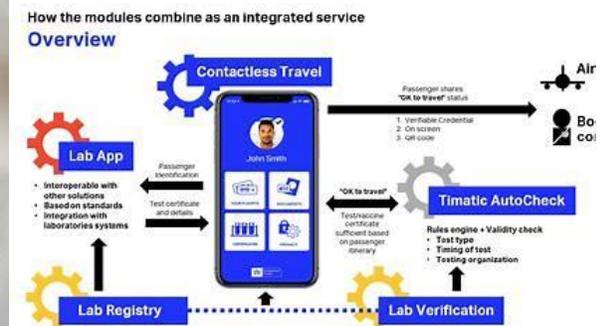
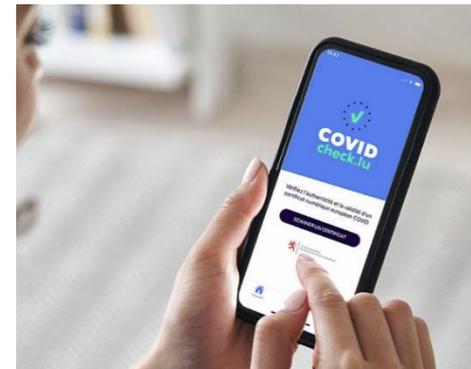
Biodata and the biometric image are digitally signed by the issuing authority's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), and can be verified using shared digital certificates.

The signed packet of data is powerful, and opens up possibilities that the physical passport alone cannot.



## Benefits:

- Security – image and biodata on the physical passport are replicated and signed and cannot be altered
- Facilitation – can provide automated clearance when read and validated
- ePassports – mature, anti-skimming, data protective and patent free
- ePassport data and associated technology investments can facilitate other use cases (travel continuum, digital credentials, self sovereign ID)



## DRIVERS

Political/Prestige

Belief it is a mandatory standard already

Assume improved visa-waiver status

More secure document  
Facilitation

“Do what I say”  
says the politician

## IMPLICATIONS

Book costs

Expensive technical infrastructure up front

Biometrics

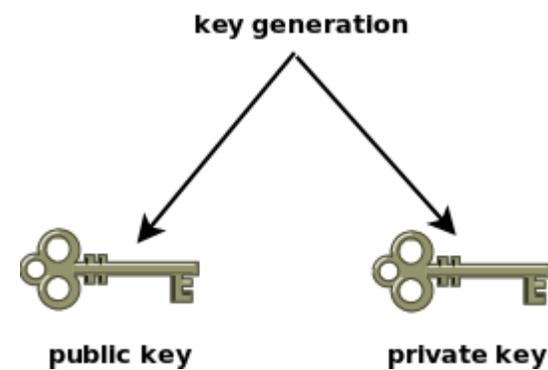
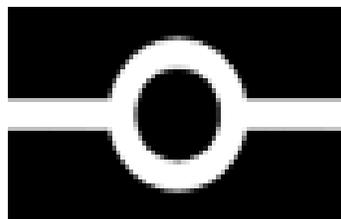
Sustainability over time (higher cost/volatility)

**Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) must be used**



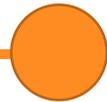
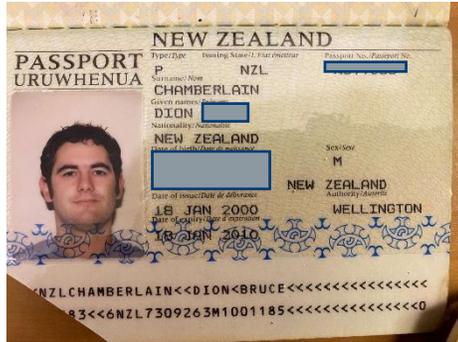
**IF you read and validate the chip**

# What is happening 'on the ground'?

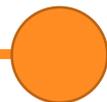
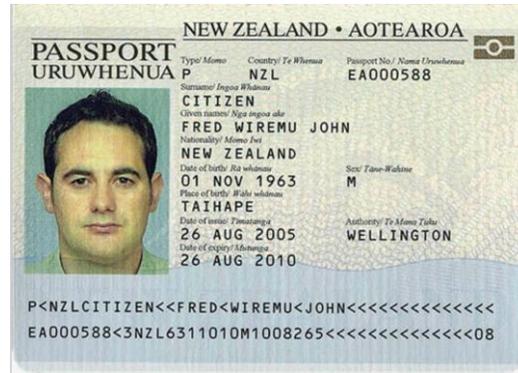




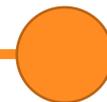
# Passports Timeline: Transformation



1985  
Machine-readable



2005  
ePassports



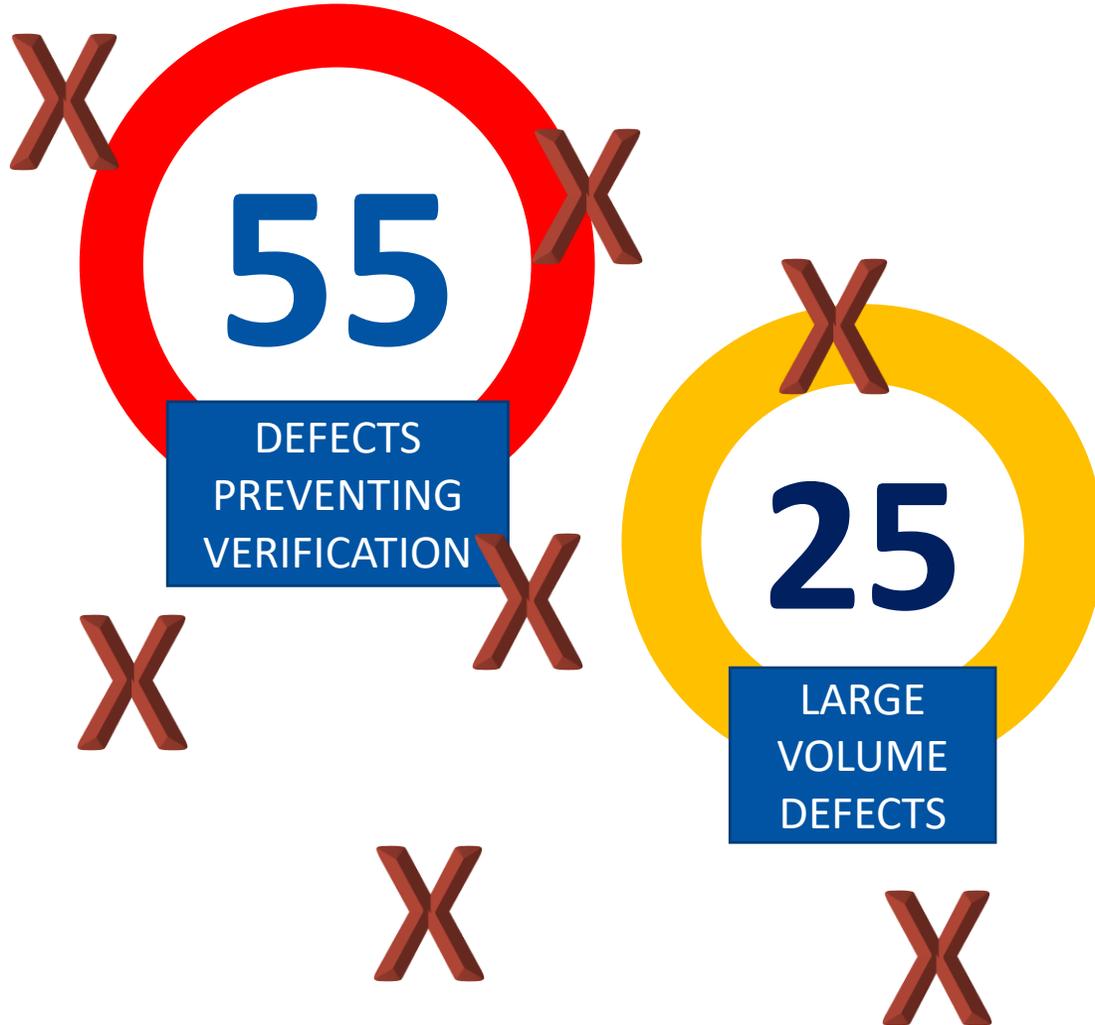
2023  
Digital Travel Credentials



# What if countries are stretching too much?



# Data and research of 140 ePassports.....



Under pressure to issue an ePassport, some States are:

- Losing control of the issuance process (outsourced), the CSCA and most of the fee
- Losing control of their data
- Passing significant cost on to their citizens (sometimes 3-4 times more)
- Increasing risk and undermining security
- DTC from this foundation? **Really?**
- **Is this what we mean by No Country Left Behind? At what expense?**

## Key questions...

Does every State benefit equally from having an ePassport?

Does every State have the fundamentals in place to issue a secure ePassport (identity, technology, expertise)?

Does every State have the economic and operating context to sustain the ongoing costs of an ePassport implementation?



**NO**



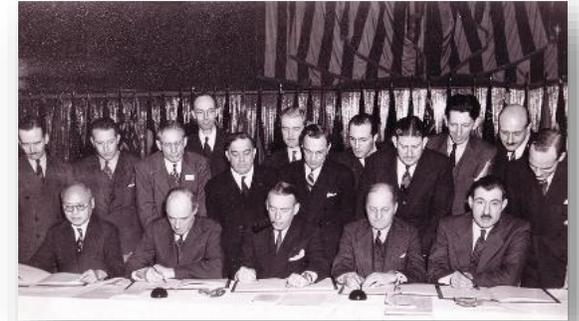
## Example: this Small Island Nation:

- Has a population of 11,000
- Receives three flights per week
- Has an MRTD that sits at number 43 on the Henley Visa-Waiver Index (above 90 ePassports)
- What is the driver for change? Does it warrant spending money on an ePassport – or forcing their citizens to pay for one?
- Who benefits if we create a mandatory Standard?



## What we know ...

- ePassports are **NOT** a mandatory standard under Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention
- Strengthening Evidence of Identity processes should take priority over any upgrade to ePassports (Air Transport Council (ATC) has agreed this)
- We need to work together to ensure Member States have the foundation upon which to implement new technologies
- Pressure is creating bad outcomes for those **stretched in the middle**
- We need more data ... from borders



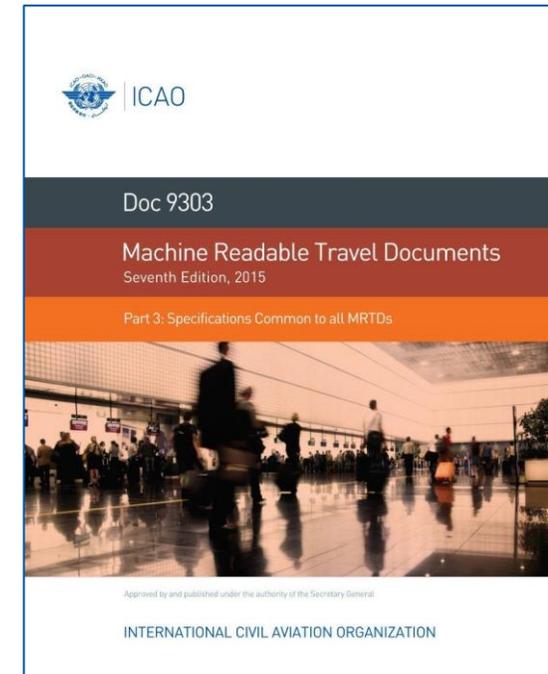
ICAO TRIP Guide on  
**EVIDENCE  
OF IDENTITY**



ICAO Security and Facilitation

## ICAO and ICBWG Work

- Guidance and advice
- Non-compliance group – identifying issues and notifying States
- Doc 9303 Compliance Scheme
- Ongoing analysis on Feasibility of ePassports as a Mandatory Standard





# Thank You

