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ICAO efforts towards facilitating safe movement of cross-border transport workers and protection of their rights

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Setting the scene

The JAG-TSC wishes to:

‘[promote] the application by national authorities of operational protocols to facilitate the safe movement and protect the rights of cross-border transport workers during the COVID-19 pandemic’

ICAO is helping by (inter alia):

Promulgating guidance regarding such protocols – e.g. CART recommendations

Facilitating exchange – e.g. the HLCC

Providing competences and tools to underpin protocols – e.g. VDS NC and the



ICAO and CART early actions

Needs of transport workers noted and appropriate responses promoted from the beginning:

- CART recommendations, e.g. Rec 12: ‘...States are encouraged to facilitate access to medical and training facilities...for flight crew’; Rec 16: ‘Member States are encouraged to consider the temporary lifting of restrictions to air cargo operations’; Rec 18: ‘Member States should facilitate access for air crew to vaccination as quickly as possible’



ICAO and CART early actions

Needs of transport workers noted and appropriate responses promoted from the beginning:

- Joint statements on key worker designation with ILO and IMO, May 2020; with UN system Agencies on seafarers in Sept. 2020; with UN system on trade and supply chains in Sept 2020; with ILO, IMO, WHO and IOM on prioritizing vaccination of seafarers and aircrew in March 2021
- Extensive ICAO outreach on all matters through regular technical calls with

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ICAO'S HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON COVID-19



- 12 to 22 October 2021
- Fully virtual
- 1, 786 representatives
- 129 States
- 38 International Organizations

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ICAO'S HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON COVID-19



Main Outcomes of the ICAO HLCC

- international review of pandemic priorities
- new commitments to open borders through updated risk management and vaccination approaches
- build back better to address the elimination of emissions and future pandemic resilience



Strong political

“message”

Relevant key commitments:

- Establish bilateral, regional or multilateral Public Health Corridors or similar arrangements
- Facilitate air transportation of vaccines, essential medical supplies and personnel
- Provide support for the aviation sector, including economic and financial support
- Ensure operational readiness of aviation personnel
- Ensure the interoperability and mutual recognition of, and accessibility to, digital applications

Ministerial Declaration





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HLCC Facilitation Stream



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Recommendations



Facilitation operational measures - the pandemic and beyond



Enhancing national coordination and international cooperation



Enhancing digital data sharing for seamless/contactless processes



Future approaches – management of sustainable health-related FAL measures, passenger experience and implementation monitoring



Other Facilitation-related issues



Recommendations of some relevance to the JAG-TSC

- ❖ Usefulness of PHCs, including cargo PHCs, currently and in future
- ❖ Digital health proofs -> issuance aligned with WHO recommendations, interoperable with ICAO VDS-NC, subject to clear regulatory framework
- ❖ Reinforcement of efforts to deal with **unruly and disruptive passengers**
- ❖ Development of a strategic framework for implementation of mitigation measures to deal with public health emergencies at borders
- ❖ Recognition of the need to **respect and maintain existing agreed bilateral/regional air transport agreements** in future crises, even where any mutually agreed interim measures are introduced



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**Providing competences and
tools to underpin protocols –
VDS-NC and the ICAO Health
Master List**





CART Requirements for health proofs

Integrity



Could the data have been altered after issuance?

Authenticity



Can issuance by a trusted authority be confirmed?

Trustworthy/Verifiable



Are my systems capable of verifying integrity and authenticity?

Convenient to use



Will the certificate be efficiently read within existing processes and infrastructure?

Data protection



Compliant with legislation in state of use and state of nationality of the traveler

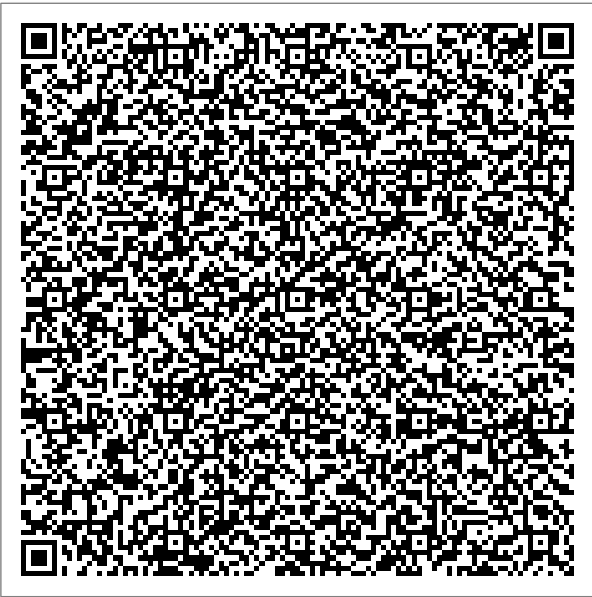
Interoperability



Will cross-border verification be possible?



ICAO Visible Digital Seal for Non-Constrained Environments (VDS-NC)



- Encodes minimum dataset for tests, vaccinations and recovery certificates
- Machine readable using standard barcode scanners (e.g. at check-in, bag drop, boarding gates)
- Digitally signed (optional for testing certificates), using the same infrastructure as used by more than 145 States issuing ePassports
- Easily verifiable for global interoperability (e.g. for all transport workers across the world)

Guidance and Technical Report published

<https://icao.int/vdsnc-spec>; <https://icao.int/vdsnc-guidance>



VDS-NC Main Distinctions

What it is NOT:

1. The VDS-NC is **not the primary medical vaccination document**. This function stays within the health-related environment: vaccination certificates will be treated and governed as health documents.
2. The VDS-NC **is not intended to replace any national/ multilateral vaccination document**.



International Certificate of
Vaccination or Prophylaxis

International Health Regulations (2005)

Certificat international de
vaccination ou de prophylaxie

Règlement sanitaire international (2005)

Issued to / Délivré à

Passport number or travel document number
Numéro du passeport ou du document de voyage

The Challenge of the current Health Credential Situation

In the absence of any common, globally interoperable format, can we help the system as-is, e.g. enhance verifiability of cross-border worker health proofs internationally

- > Work towards global verifiability to enhance recognition

Leverage ICAO and State knowledge and capabilities gained from experience to achieve these goals



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DIVDC (India)

No defined
trust registry



Common Formats of
Health Proofs used
in Travel

Smart Health Card (VCI)

The
CommonTrust
Network



VDS-NC (ICAO)

ICAO PKD



Digital COVID Certificate
EU

EU Gateway





Enhancing verifiability of International Health Proofs

Collect certificates
needed for
verification of
health proofs

Share the public
certificates in a
trusted manner

Ensure wide
capacities to utilize
the certificates to
verify international
health proofs

The ICAO Health Master List

A Common International Trust Registry

- 
- Health Public Key Cert 1
 - Health Public Key Cert 2
 - Health Public Key Cert 3
 - Health Public Key Cert n.



- **Open** - No certificate format requirements
- **Accessible** - No dependency on PKD participation status
- **Trustworthy** - Validation based on same requirements as for the ICAO PKD



The ICAO Health Master List

- Available from the ICAO public webpage, first version 31.01.2022
- Certificate collection leveraging ICAO's unique network position, list digitally signed by ICAO for trust
- Published in known, trusted, established format, easing use (especially in restricted border environments)

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ICAO Health Master List
provides trusted
information necessary for
verification

- Health Public Key
Cert 1
- Health Public Key
Cert n..



Software
with multi-
format
processing
logic



Automatic indication of
authenticity, integrity
and compliance with
rules



Scan a health proof barcode,
e.g. a VDS-NC barcode



Thank you!



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