



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

19. Request to Finalise Testing for Changes to Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) Applications through Global Distribution Systems (GDS) and ETA/CTA Applications through Airlines

Purpose

To encourage GDS providers and airlines to finalise testing for changes to ETA and CTA applications.

Dear Provider

ETAS Bulletins from CPS Systems forwarded late last year, early in 2008 and as recently as March 2008 alerted your organisation to planned changes to Australia's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) and Crew Travel Authority (CTA) applications. These changes are designed to strengthen the security and integrity of Australia's borders. These changes involve introducing new Visa Status Messages returned by the application and enquiry processes and they have been designed to have as little impact as possible on business users.

CPS Systems has advised the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) that testing undertaken to-date by airlines and Global Distribution System (GDS) providers has been straightforward and no performance issues have been identified.

CPS Systems has also reported that a smaller than expected number of airlines and GDS providers have tested the ETAS (Electronic Travel Authority System) changes. This low take-up rate is a matter of concern for DIAC as the deployment of the ETAS changes commenced in mid April 2008.

I would strongly encourage your organisation, if it has not done so already, to finalise its testing arrangements as soon as possible.

Action Required

I would be grateful if your organisation could advise CPS Systems (email: John.Leplaw@cps.com.au) of its planned date for finalised testing.

Todd Frew
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Previous advice regarding system changes is available in DIAC Bulletin 17 'Changes for ETA applications through GDS' and DIAC Bulletin 18 'Changes for ETA and CTA Applications through Airlines'.