



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

20. Cut over Date for Changes to Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) Applications through Global Distribution Systems (GDS) and ETA/CTA Applications through Airlines

Changes to Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) Applications and Enquiries.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has streamlined its offshore visa and border entry systems and procedures.

Bulletins announcing changes to processing of ETA and Crew Travel Authority (CTA) applications have been distributed to Airlines and Global Distribution Systems (GDS) over the last 12 months.

The changes involve introducing new Visa Status Messages returned by the application and enquiry processes, which have been designed to have as little impact as possible on business users.

The changes were released for airline and GDS testing in early March 2008 and were implemented for the first compliant reservation systems on 21 April 2008.

Positive Results already achieved.

Testing undertaken to-date by airlines and GDS providers has been straightforward and no compatibility or performance issues have been identified requiring any change to airline systems.

We have also received positive feedback regarding the benefits for both system users and clients. The new Visa Status Messages mean that far fewer clients will be directed to contact an Australian Embassy, adding to passenger facilitation at check-in and enhancing security.

When will the arrangement be implemented?

This arrangement will be fully implemented on

Monday, 1 September 2008. All airlines and GDS will be required to use the new arrangements from this date as the current arrangements will be switched off.

If you have not undertaken testing or switched over to the new arrangements.

As this is a mandatory change taking effect from 1 September 2008, if you have not undertaken testing please contact CPS Systems email John.Leplaw@cps.com.au to discuss your testing needs.

Who to Contact.

For further information contact:
CPS Systems Pty Ltd
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Where can you find further information?

Further information on this change is included in the current version of the ETAS Manual:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/eta/manual/index.htm>

or

<http://www.immi.gov.au/>

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