

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
Secure Flight Program**

Authority:

The 9/11 Commission Report recommended that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) take over watch list matching from the airlines. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004 codified this recommendation and required DHS/TSA to assume from the airlines the function of conducting pre-flight comparisons of airline passenger information to federal government watch lists. TSA will implement the Secure Flight program to meet this Congressional mandate. The Secure Flight Final Rule provides the regulatory authority for the implementation of the Secure Flight program and became final December 29, 2008.

Description and requirements of Secure Flight

Secure Flight is a program that will match limited passenger information against government watch lists to identify known and suspected terrorists, prevent known and suspected terrorists from boarding an aircraft, facilitate legitimate passenger air travel, and protect individuals' privacy. Secure Flight will add data elements that airlines do not currently collect and the airlines will transmit the data no later than 72 hours prior to flight time. If a reservation is made within 72 hours of the flight the data will be transferred at the time the reservation is made.

Under the Secure Flight Final Rule, TSA will require airlines to collect and transmit to TSA the following information:

- Passenger full name which matches the form of ID used for the travel (required)
- Itinerary (required)
- Date of Birth (required)
- Gender (required)
- Redress Number (optional)
- Passport # (if available)

Timeline

Secure Flight has provided the following implementation dates to airlines: By May 15, 2009, domestic airlines must be able to transmit full name and domestic itinerary. By August 15, 2009, domestic airlines must request and collect full name, date of birth, and gender for passengers on domestic flights. For all other airlines and flights, airlines must be prepared to request and collect this information by October 31, 2009. To be prepared, E-Gov Travel Service (ETS) vendors and Travel Management Centers (TMCs) are working with the online booking engine suppliers and Global Distribution Systems to begin implementation May 15th for name and itinerary, August 15th for DOB and gender, and October 31st for passport.

Secure Flight has been addressed over the last three months at ETS User Group meetings in terms of awareness and how ETS will collect the required data. Each ETS vendor will be presenting their implementation approach to their User Group in April. CWSatoTravel briefed their Migration Managers in March.

Impact to Travelers

Federal travelers will need to have an updated travel profile or provide the additional data during the reservation process, or at the airport.

Airlines can not issue the boarding pass until the data is transmitted to TSA and TSA responds with authorization to print a boarding pass. Airlines are not required to transmit data for reservations created prior to the implementation timelines, but may voluntarily choose to do so.

Privacy

TSA conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and issued a System of Records Notice (SORN).

The General Service Administration (GSA) has an accepted Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for ETS that is currently valid and has been signed off by the GSA's Chief Privacy office. This new data will fall under that same assessment process which identifies it as Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). All E-Gov Travel Service (ETS) vendors have received Certification and Accreditation and all have Authority to Operate so for ETS, this is business as usual.

Communications

The Secure Flight Communications Team is implementing a comprehensive stakeholder communication plan which includes information dissemination to the Agency travel points of contact, the ETS vendors and TMC community, and we have posted information to the GSA website. TSA has a website that is very informative, it can be found at:

http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/secureflight/index.shtm