

Passenger Information Notification for Persons Travelling to Canada via Commercial Carrier

REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PASSENGER INFORMATION TO THE CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA)

All commercial carriers are required under Canadian law to provide the CBSA with Advance Passenger Information / Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) data relating to all persons on board a commercial conveyance bound for Canada.

This passenger data is gathered from travellers by commercial carriers for their own business purposes and is stored in carriers' automated reservation and departure control systems.

The CBSA does not require carriers to collect or provide any additional PNR data elements that the carrier does not already record for its own business purposes.

OBJECTIVES OF CANADA'S API/PNR PROGRAM

The API/PNR program is designed to protect Canadians by enabling the CBSA to perform a risk assessment of travellers prior to their arrival in Canada in order to identify persons who may be subject to closer questioning or examination on arrival in Canada because they may pose a potential threat to Canada's safety or security.

The CBSA is committed to the delivery of its mandate of protecting the safety and security of Canada while doing so in a manner that respects and upholds individuals' fundamental rights to privacy.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Passenger data includes some information for which an individual could reasonably have an expectation of privacy. Such information is protected under the *Privacy Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The CBSA has instituted further policies and guidelines designed to protect the privacy of personal information processed by the CBSA in the administration of Canada's API/PNR program. In this regard, it the policy of the CBSA:

- to protect and to manage this data in accordance with the *Customs Act*, the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*, as well as the relevant CBSA and Government of Canada policies pertaining to the management and security of information;
- to disclose, allow access to, or use data elements only when authorized to do so by law under section 107 of the *Customs Act*, the *Protection of Passenger Information Regulations made under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, subsection 8(2) of the *Privacy Act* (Immigration), and to the extent permitted by CBSA policy and guidelines;

- To share API/PNR data with outside agencies only for certain specified purposes to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians, or for any judicial proceedings or as otherwise required by Canadian law;
- to retain the data for the minimum period necessary for customs and immigration targeting and analytical purposes, or to otherwise meet the requirements of Canadian law; and,
- to limit access to the data to authorized CBSA officials.

YOUR RIGHTS

Persons whose API/PNR data has been provided to the CBSA by a carrier pursuant to the requirements of Canada's API/PNR program have the right to request a copy of the API/PNR data that is held within the CBSA's Passenger Information System (PAXIS), and the right to ask that any errors be corrected, or where this is not possible, that a notation be included to indicate that the information is incorrect.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions, a Fact Sheet and links to technical memorandums are available about this program on this site.

HOW TO REACH US

For more information about this program, please email the Canada Border Services Agency at API-IPV@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.

To seek access to your API/PNR data or file a concern, complaint or request for correction, contact in writing:

Canada Border Services Agency
Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator
Leima Building
410 Laurier Avenue West, 11th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L8, CANADA