

PASSENGER DATA



What is it?

API

➤ Advanced Passenger Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API) refers to a passenger's identity such as full name, date of birth and nationality. API is typically obtained from travel documents such as passports. API is transmitted to government authorities as a single manifest listing all passengers on a flight ("batch API") or individually for each passenger as they are checking in ("interactive API").

PNR

➤ Passenger Name Record

Passenger Name Records (PNR) are collected by airlines solely for their business purposes. PNRs contain information about bookings made which can include as little as a name, an itinerary and a ticketing/ticketed indicator. Accuracy is not guaranteed and PNRs can contain sensitive personal data.

What is it used for?

➤ Passenger data can be a useful tool for governments' border control or security processing as it can help them pre-identify travelers and patterns. However, API and PNR are located in different systems and their transmission requires programming by the airlines, which can take 3 to 6 months for a standard API request and 6 to 12 months for a standard PNR request. They also provide different benefits, which means that a State should carefully assess its needs before embarking upon a data exchange program.

Strong global standards and guidelines are in place to assist States. It is essential that States understand and follow them to ensure swift compliance by the airlines and maintain smooth passenger movements at airports.

➤ Basic Principles

- Alignment with standards
- Cooperation with industry and other States (data protection)
- Efficiency: necessary data only



TO FIND OUT MORE



API-PNR Toolkit **NEW**

IATA, ICAO and WCO have developed an online Toolkit which include introductory presentations and videos, dynamic checklists and reference material to help you design passenger data programs that are harmonized, efficient and valuable.



Contents

- What is API, Batch API, Interactive API, PNR
- Key Principles: Alignment, Cooperation, Efficiency, Single Window
- Data Elements
- Transmission Timings and Frequency
- Message Standards
- Modes of Transmission
- PNR, Privacy and Data Protection
- Benefits of Standard Transmission
- How to Set Up a Passenger Data Program

API-PNR Days

A series of regional workshops called “API-PNR Days” will be organized to explore these concepts and share best practices within each region. Please refer to IATA’s website www.iata.org/events for more information and to register.

For More Information

IATA, ICAO and WCO are available to assist States in aligning their passenger data plans and programs with international standards and airlines’ capabilities. They can be reached at passengerdata@iata.org

