CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security can be defined as processes and mechanisms by which computer-based equipment, information and services are protected from unintended or unauthorized access, change or destruction. Examples of impact include breach of confidentiality, loss of data integrity and systems availability.

The Issue

The airline industry relies on computer systems extensively in its ground and flight operations. Some systems are directly relevant to the safety of aircraft in flight, others are operationally important, and many directly impact the service, reputation and financial health of the industry.

As IT systems become increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and critical systems become reliant on technology, Cyber Security has become an increasing concern in civil aviation.

The Vision

To assist airlines in developing a robust cyber security strategy and to drive coordination of global efforts in addressing cyber threats to civil aviation.

IATA Position

- IATA believes the threat to commercial aviation from the cyber environment is real and likely to grow.
- We encourage airlines, airports, regulators and other key industry stakeholders to collaborate in the development and implementation of cyber security strategies and management systems.
- We are committed to providing leadership for industry development of relevant preparedness, responses and the sharing of information and incident data.

The Solution

IATA has put in place a three pillar strategy to address the cyber security threat. This includes work to understand, define and assess the threats and risk of cyber-attack, advocacy for appropriate regulation and mechanisms for increased cooperation throughout the industry and with and between Governments.

In 2013, IATA developed the first iteration of a toolkit to assist airlines in understanding and better defining the risks to their organizations. This includes a situational assessment of cyber security in the industry, an introduction to cyber threats, a framework for assessing risk and guidance material for setting up a cyber security management system.

Looking forward, work will continue to further define the threats and devise strategies to combat them, both within the airlines and across the industry. IATA will work with regulators to advocate for coordinated and outcome focused regulation, and with industry partners to agree a common framework.