

## **A Ticket, A Test**

### ***ICC AOKpass and Getting the World Moving Once Again***

*Executive summary:* ICC AOKpass is an international standard procedure based on the creation of a digital passport that allows the user to demonstrate compliance with the medical requirements imposed by the authorities through the simple scan of a QR-code.

To balance the need for anti-COVID preventive measures with the need to restart air transport and tourism, we propose the adoption of the “A Ticket, A Test” strategy and of the ICC AOKpass platform.

This strategy envisages that all passengers undergo a molecular or antigen test as close as possible to departure, and in any case within 72 hours prior, in one of the accredited (public or private) clinics associated with ICC AOKpass. In case of a negative test result, the clinic will activate the relevant digital pass on the ICC AOKpass app so that the requesting passenger can demonstrate compliance with the procedure to the relevant authorities.

The implementation of such an international standard would allow the creation of “100% COVID Tested Flights”, avoiding the need to subject passengers to the obligation of a quarantine, thus allowing to restart intercontinental travel.

#### *Premise*

- Current measures to contain the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the aviation industry, such as temperature screening, deep cleaning, and *ad hoc* testing for symptomatic individuals, have been unable to restore passenger confidence in air travel.
- Summer air traffic levels were only a small percentage of pre-pandemic levels and it is expected that these will continue to decrease during the winter.
- This decrease in air traffic has a direct impact not only on the aviation sector, but also on small and medium enterprises that depend on the arrival of foreign tourists and/or trade and professional relationships outside their country.
- Three factors prevent interregional and intercontinental travel from restarting:
  - o Passengers are concerned that they might be sitting in the vicinity of individuals (symptomatic or asymptomatic) who have COVID-19.
  - o Having to undergo a quarantine in the country of visit and in the country of origin is a considerable disincentive to travel.
  - o There is no international standard that most countries apply and no standard platform that users can use to prove their compliance.
- Quarantines are ineffective and present several challenges:
  - o They do not prevent contagion during the travel itself.
  - o They add extra-burdens on the receiving country.
  - o In many countries, quarantine rules can be difficult to enforce.
  - o If an incoming COVID-positive passenger quarantines with other people, they could cause the creation of new clusters.

### *ICC AOKpass*

ICC AOKpass – a digital passport that allows its users to demonstrate their compliance with the medical requirements imposed by the authorities through the simple scan of a QR-code – offers a way of mitigating risks associated with travel without resort to more stringent measures such as quarantine.

The application (for Android and iOS) is based on blockchain and can be used in the following use cases:

- (Air, land, sea) travel.
- International trade.
- Vaccination carnet.
- Events.

ICC AOKpass upholds the highest privacy standards, by only storing the authentication signature of the medical practitioner confirming that the individual is compliant with the medical requirements in the blockchain. All personal and medical user information is only stored on the user's smartphone. Once the pass is created, the medical practitioner's digital signature becomes an entry in the blockchain, which is immutable. By doing so, the technology prevents fraud.

### *A Ticket, A Test*

The greater maturity and availability of molecular and antigen tests enable us to move to a much more proactive strategy to get the world moving again: "A Ticket, A Test."

Such strategy is based on the systematic testing of all passengers and crew members on a flight using antigen (rapid) and molecular (PCR) tests as close as possible to departure, and in any case within 72 hours from the scheduled flight time.

As an experiment run by Aéroport de Paris between La Réunion and Paris shows, pre-departure testing almost eliminates the risk of contagion, by reducing it fivefold to a mere 0.12%.

We believe that the systematic testing of all passengers before departure should become the norm and should be accepted as a valid alternative to quarantining upon arrival.

To make this operationally viable, we believe that pre-departure testing should be coupled with the use of technologies, like ICC AOKpass, to:

- Systematise pre-departure testing.
- Standardise all testing results into the same format (an easy to read QR-code).
- Simplify and expedite procedures at the airport.
- Prevent fraud.

Furthermore, the creation of 100% COVID Tested Flights coupled with the use of an internationally available technological platform, like AOKpass, would address consumer concerns in air travel. This strategy would create incentives to increase passenger demand and allow for the reopening of intercontinental routes, which will ultimately preserve the global economy and save our SMEs.

### *Ongoing and Agreed Pilots*

ICC AOKpass is already operational and can be easily and rapidly deployed for additional pilots.



### *Business Model*

There are no implementation costs for governments to adopt ICC AOKpass. The only cost is a symbolic contribution for each pass created to be paid by the passenger. The amount will depend on the country in question (developing vs developed) and on the overall volume of passengers. This amount will be added to the price of the air ticket to preserve a pleasant and simple travel experience for the passenger.

### *Long-Term Objective*

ICC has two key objectives:

- To help reopen international travel and shape regulations so they that allow for the use of digital passports for holding health data in line with AOKpass' key design features.
- For AOKpass to become the standard platform used for re-opened international and regional air routes.

### *Contacts*

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The project sponsors are [redacted], [redacted] of the International Chamber of Commerce, and [redacted], [redacted] at the International Chamber of Commerce.