

Monday, October 19, 2009

New mandatory security rules for travel to US

EFFECTIVE October 31, all passengers travelling to, from, within or over the United States will have to supply Secure Flight Passenger Data.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has developed the Secure Flight programme to enhance the security of domestic and international commercial travel through watch list matching.

As a result of the new rules, all international airlines will be required to collect Secure Flight Passenger Data and transmit it to the USA's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ahead of travel.

To avoid potential inconvenience to mutual customers, from October 31, Qantas has advised that it will require all travel agents to enter the following information into affected passengers' bookings via the agent's GDS:

- Full name as it appears on the passenger's passport
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Redress number (if available)

(A redress number is a unique number that may have been issued to the passenger by the TSA on request by the passenger)

Through the current screening requirements, data is collected at departure. The new rules will require the agent to obtain the information and enter it into the PNR at the time of booking. Qantas expects to have an automated process in place shortly for all Qantas US travel bookings, which will request that the travel agent enter Secure Flight data if it is missing at defined periods before departure.

Further information on GDS commands for entering this information can be found on the Qantas Industry Sales Site at qantas.com/agents under the category of training and at gdstraining.qantas.com.au. Additional information including 'Frequently Asked Questions' has been enclosed to assist with consultant enquires.

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SAA: 'Instant upgrade fares' launched within Africa

FROM October 17, SAA has introduced a new fare product offering between South Africa and Ghana called Instant upgrade fare.

The fares are business class fares with the applicable fare basis which is JUP, however it is bookable in A-class (first class).

This will give passengers the opportunity to purchase a first class ticket for the business class fare, when travelling on a B747-400, subject to A-class seats being available. Business class rulings will apply for the JUP fares.

Fares are available from R27 450 ex JNB and US\$3 399 ex LOS. Fares are excluding taxes.

The product is available for sale and travel until February 28, 2010.

