



# Carrier Interface including timeline and registration

*10 February 2022*

# Which are the new Systems to be applied?

## Entry / Exit System (EES):

As of the end of September 2022, EES will record and store electronically, the date, time and place of entry and exit of travelers, crossing the borders of the Member States applying EES. It will also calculate the duration of their authorized stay and will generate alerts, when the authorized stay has expired.

## European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS):

As of May 2023, travelers from visa exempt countries will be required to have a travel authorization to enter Member States applying ETIAS, for a short stay.

# Which travellers are concerned?

## EES:

Travelers who require a single or double entry visa for entering the Schengen area.

## ETIAS:

Travelers who are exempt from a visa requirement for intended stays in the territory of the Member States of a duration of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period.

## Detailed information about in and out of scope travellers

EES: Art. 2 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2226.

ETIAS: Art. 2 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240.

# Who is affected and how?

## Who?

Air and sea carriers, as well as international carriers transporting groups overland by coach.

## How?

Prior to boarding, carriers have the obligation to verify whether travelers holding a short-stay visa, issued for one or two entries, have already used the number of entries authorized by their visa.

When ETIAS enters into operation the carriers shall also have the obligation to verify that travelers, subject to the travel authorization requirement, are in possession of a valid travel authorization. Carriers shall submit the query, both for EES and ETIAS, through the carrier interface.

# What is being done now and how will it look like in the future for land carriers?

## Currently

Companies check the passports of these travellers to verify whether their single or double entry visas have been used. If they have not been used, these passengers can board.

## In the future

Carriers, at the earliest 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure, are obliged to send verification queries, in order to check if a traveler is “OK” or “NOT OK” to travel to Member States applying EES and/or ETIAS, in terms of single and double entry visas or ETIAS obligations. Carriers will receive an answer, depending on the traveler's status regarding single, double entry visa or ETIAS.

# How will the verification be done?

- A Carrier Interface will give the possibility to carriers to send verification queries in order to check if a traveller is “OK” or “Not OK” in terms of single and double entry visa obligations to enter the Schengen Area.
- Connection to the carrier interface shall be done either through a dedicated connection network or an Internet connection.
- Carriers should ensure that only duly authorised staff will have access to it and that a verification query shall be introduced at the earliest 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure.

# How will carriers be able to use the carrier interface?

- Carriers have to register with eu-LISA in order to have access to the carrier Interface.
- Carriers can access that interface through:
  1. a system-to-system interface;
  2. a web interface (available to carriers on a public website);
  3. or through an application for mobile devices.

# Why register?

- Carriers will have to register in order to query eu-LISA's IT Systems for receiving information on the status of travellers regarding EES and ETIAS.
- After EES enters into operation, registered carriers will be assisted by ETIAS Central Unit and eu-LISA, regarding operational and technical issues.



# When and how to register into the carrier interface?

Registration for carriers has already started by eu-LISA, since September 2021. For more information on registration please follow the web link:

<https://www.eulisa.europa.eu/Newsroom/News/Pages/eu-LISA-is-Starting-Carrier-Registration-for-EES-and-ETIAS.aspx>

# If different carriers are involved, who should perform the verification?

The status of the travellers should be checked by the first carrier, transporting the traveller into a European country applying EES/ETIAS.

# What happens if a traveller is refused entry at the borders?

## Carrier held responsible

If a carrier boards a traveller without querying the Carrier Interface, then if this traveller is refused entry at the borders, the same carrier shall be obliged to assume responsibility and transfer the traveller back. Penalties may be applicable for the carrier in this case.

## Carrier exempt from responsibility

If a carrier, after querying the Carrier Interface, transports a traveller to the external borders of Member States applying EES and/or ETIAS, who were “OK” to travel but during the border check this traveller was refused entry due to unforeseen (for the carrier) reasons, then the same carrier will not be subject to a penalty but will need to assume responsibility and transfer the traveller back.

Carriers who transport only EU citizens from outside the Schengen area into its territory will be obliged to query for them?

No. EU citizens are exempt from EES and ETIAS Regulations.

Carriers who transport travellers within the territory of the Schengen area will be obliged to query for them?

No. Checks on passengers' status shall be performed only when crossing the external borders of Member States applying EES and/or ETIAS.

## Timeline for EES/ETIAS EIO

- EU regulations: 2017/2226 (the “EES Regulation”) and 2018/1240 (the “ETIAS Regulation”) set out the necessity to query EES and ETIAS in order to receive details regarding the status of travellers arriving to the Schengen Area
  - The Entry/Exit System (EES) will replace the manual stamping of passports with an electronic record of entries and exits. **As of September 2022**, carriers will need to verify whether third-country nationals travelling to the EU on a short-stay, be it a single or double entry visa, have already used the number of entries authorised by their visa.
  - **From May 2023 onwards**, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will require carriers to verify, prior to boarding, that their visa-exempt passengers have a valid travel authorisation to enter the Schengen Area.

## Implementation Recommendations for Carriers to get ready for the Entry into Operation

eu-LISA strongly advised all carriers to conclude their registration no later than the end of February 2022 in order to ensure that carriers will be able to check single and double entry after the launch of the system.

After the end of February registration will still be possible, however eu-LISA will not be in the position to guarantee that all the necessary tasks in order for the carriers to achieve compliance with the EES Regulation would be accomplished prior the launch of the system. Therefore, carriers might face potential negative effects on their normal operations.

To get ready for the go Live, each carrier needs to execute all the Pre-defined Test Cases during the Compliance phase with a successful status before **the 31<sup>st</sup> of July**



# Thank you



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