INTERPOL

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

I-Checkit

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. WHAT IS I-CHECKIT?

INTERPOL's I-Checkit is a screening service that complements and enhances existing national border security systems. It allows partners in the private sector to conduct advance checks on identification documents against INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database.

Q2. WHAT IS THE STOLEN AND LOST TRAVEL DOCUMENTS DATABASE?

INTERPOL's SLTD database enables INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and other authorized law enforcement entities – such as immigration and border control officers – to ascertain the validity of a travel document (passports, identity documents, visas) in seconds.

Details of stolen and lost passports are submitted directly to the STLD database by INTERPOL NCBs and law enforcement agencies via INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure global police communications system. Only the country which issued a document can add it to the database.

Prior to the implementation of I-Checkit, only law enforcement officials at INTERPOL NCBs and other locations with access to INTERPOL's databases through the I-24/7 system – such as airports and border crossings – could query the passports of individuals travelling internationally against the SLTD database in order to immediately determine if the document has been reported as stolen or lost.

As of May 2017, over 73 million stolen and lost travel documents from 174 countries were recorded in the SLTD database. This number continues to increase as more documents are added to the database.

Q3. WHO CAN USE I-CHECKIT?

I-Checkit is currently used by airlines and cruise lines. Further development areas include the banking, financial and hospitality sectors.

All partners are carefully selected in compliance with INTERPOL's rules and regulations and must be endorsed by the INTERPOL NCB in the country where they are registered.

Q4. WHO ARE I-CHECKIT'S MAIN STAKEHOLDERS AND HOW DO THEY BENEFIT FROM THE SERVICE?

1. Border police, customs & immigration, Ministries of Interior, intelligence agencies and INTERPOL NCBs use I-Checkit as an additional screening capability to strengthen border security;
2. Technology service providers such as those providing document verification solutions may choose to integrate I-Checkit to complement their service offering;
3. Professional associations including the International Air Travel Association (IATA), World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) and World Economic Forum (WEF) have launched initiatives aimed at enhancing security and improving passenger travel and see I-Checkit as a recognized platform to test and support their initiatives;
4. Regulatory bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (icao), International Maritime Organization (IMO), and European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) consider I-Checkit as an innovative solution to reinforce their international standards and regulations.

Q5. WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR AN I-CHECKIT SCREENING?

Only the travel document number, country of issuance and document type (i.e. passport, ID card or visa) are required for a screening against the SLTD database. These elements are not considered "nominal data" under INTERPOL's legal framework and are used in accordance with INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data (RPD).

Q6. WHEN DOES SCREENING TAKE PLACE?

I-Checkit screenings can occur at different stages depending on the nature of the industry in which it is implemented. For the airline industry, for example, screening takes place at check-in, whether it is online, at airport kiosks or at the counter.

For the maritime sector, it is a three-stage process: seven days before departure, 24h before departure and on the day of departure.

For other industries whose needs are less time sensitive, screenings can either occur directly when a client attempts to access a service, or as a batch screening of current or recent client information.

Q7. HOW LONG DOES THE I-CHECKIT SCREENING TAKE?

Although processing times can vary depending on network connectivity, screenings are normally processed **in 30 milliseconds**.

Q8. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

- I-Checkit provides early identifiers and alerts law enforcement and carriers about passengers travelling on lost or stolen travel documents;
- It is a simple and effective means to improve customer due diligence (Know Your Customer);
- For the travel industry, it mitigates the risks associated with repatriation costs for passengers travelling with stolen or lost travel documents. Hence it improves the chances of compliance with national legislation and may help reduce the risk of infringement costs and financial liabilities associated with non-compliance and security breaches;
- It can assist in ensuring that flight operations remain optimised by limiting disruptions to departures from undocumented or illegal travellers;
- Insurance premiums – I-Checkit can serve as a complement to insurance policies and may help reduce insurance premiums;
- A partnership with INTERPOL is likely to be perceived favourably by customers and may positively impact business operations, image and reputation.

In the travel industry, I-Checkit acts as an additional layer of protection for companies that are already covered by national screening systems such as Advance Passenger Information (API), Advance Passenger Processing (APP) and Passenger Name Record (PNR). I-Checkit can also be used for the purposes of staff vetting, identifying the movement of wanted Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and detecting human trafficking and human smuggling.

Q9. WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE WILL BE SENT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

The type of response received depends on the data restrictions imposed by participating INTERPOL member countries. In the event of a positive match (also known as a 'hit'), the company can receive a hit notification message that potentially includes:

- Travel document information: the type of document, the document number and issuing country;
- The passenger's itinerary information extracted from the private entity's check-in system (if applicable);
- Recommendations on how to proceed to follow up the hit.

Q10. DO PRIVATE ENTITIES PAY TO USE I-CHECKIT?

Yes. Private sector companies are charged a yearly subscription fee to access I-Checkit. The annual fee covers the costs incurred by INTERPOL to deliver the service. As a not-for-profit organization, INTERPOL aims to provide policing capabilities that benefit the international community and, as a result, I-Checkit is based on **a cost recovery model**.

Proceeds generated by I-Checkit are reinvested into INTERPOL's activities that support the key areas impacted by increased screenings. That includes teams involved in hit follow-up activities, enhancing database quality management, I-Checkit training sessions and the actual delivery and continuous improvement of the service. It is also envisaged that part of the subscription fees may be used to provide operational and material support to highly impacted NCBs.

Q11. HOW DO PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES JOIN I-CHECKIT?

The implementation process includes three stages:

1. The pilot phase, which includes the following key steps:
   - Non-disclosure agreement
   - Preparation workshop
   - Scoping document
   - Agreement signature
   - Endorsement from the NCB where the company is registered and, in the case of carriers, the NCB of departure
2. Three-month trial phase to test the solution in a real environment
3. Pilot review to ascertain whether I-Checkit is suited to the company's needs
4. Full rollout

Q12. IS THE CONNECTION TO INTERPOL'S DATABASES SECURE?

Yes. Access is facilitated through a secure connection via the I-Checkit screening solution, allowing the user's system to instantly transmit data to be screened against INTERPOL's databases via an encrypted Virtual Private Network (VPN). Extensive testing has shown that this solution is as secure as INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system.

Q13. IS INTERPOL GRANTED DIRECT ACCESS TO PRIVATE COMPANIES' DATABASES AND VICE VERSA?

No. INTERPOL does not have direct access to private companies' databases, nor do private companies have access to the SLTD database. Instead, a 'push' system is implemented, in which required data is extracted and sent via the I-Checkit solution for screening. It is important to note that private entities cannot search or modify the information held in the SLTD database.

Q14. HOW DOES I-CHECKIT COMPLY WITH DATA PROTECTION RULES?

Only the travel document number, type of document and country of issuance are screened against the SLTD database. These elements are not considered nominal data under INTERPOL's existing Rules for the Processing of Data (RPD).

Q15. WHAT IMPACT DOES I-CHECKIT HAVE ON THE OPERATIONS OF PRIVATE ENTITIES?

I-Checkit acts as an additional layer to existing security protocols within industries that already have a security framework in place. I-Checkit is meant to provide advanced passenger screening in order to expedite document verification processes and deliver an end-to-end experience that is secure, seamless and efficient.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the I-Checkit team at I-Checkit@interpol.int