

## Duplication in Border red tape for General Aviation (Mexico and Canada)

### By Patrick Gilligan, COPA v-p of operations

Mexico's electronic Advance Passenger Information System (eAPIS) and soon to be Canadian Border Services Agency, Interactive Advance Passenger Information (IAPI) will make cross border flying much more complicated and may dissuade pilots from flying across the border.

**Canada:** Interactive Advance Passenger Information (IAPI) is scheduled to be launched by October 2015 and Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) will require that all GA Canadian and U.S. pilots provide advance information prior to: flying to Canada, and then waiting for a board/no board clearance to proceed.

Eventually exiting Canada will also require reporting but has yet to be determined when this will be implemented.

COPA is taking part in CBSA's General Aviation Working Group meetings, a quasi-consultation process. CBSA IAPI will try to accommodate GA/PA but their mandate is clear.

Read below the declarations of Canadian Prime Minister and U.S. President in February 2011 Beyond the Border and read the misinterpretation between the Leaser's declaration and the bureaucrat's implementation.

The original intent was to enhance our security and accelerate the legitimate flow of people... Unfortunately Canadian Border Services Agency are unintentionally introducing new barriers with a new requirement, suitable for the airline industry but modified to fit GA; the Interactive Advance Passenger Information system is a duplication of data already submitted to the U.S. eAPIS, making it much more difficult for Canadian and American General Aviation/Personal Aircraft pilots to cross borders into Canada, consequently deterring growth and causing further economic hardship to our sector of aviation, private business and tourism.

### From the Action Plan of 2011 <http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/news/bap-paf-bbg-tpf-rcc-ccr/pm-and-us-president-obama-announce-shared-vision> :

"The Declaration establishes a new long-term partnership that will accelerate the legitimate flows of people and goods between both countries..."

"This Declaration demonstrates the continued commitment of Canada and the United States to ensuring our common security..."

"Canada and the U.S. will develop a joint action plan on perimeter security and economic competitiveness that will set out a range of initiatives in the four key areas to improve both countries' ability to manage security risks, while facilitating the flow of people, goods and services."

"In addition to the Declaration, the two leaders also announced the creation of a United States-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) that will reduce red tape by making regulations in a range of sectors more compatible and less burdensome in both countries – which is especially important for small businesses."

### From a joint statement by Canada, U.S. and Mexico <http://pm.gc.ca/node/35122>

"We will also streamline procedures and harmonize customs data requirements for traders and visitors. We will facilitate the movement of people through the establishment in 2014 of a North American Trusted Traveler Program, starting with the mutual recognition of the NEXUS, Global Entry, SENTRI and Viajero Confiable programs."

"The effective exchange of information and coordination among law-enforcement authorities will remain essential."

"Our countries will also develop a new outreach mechanism in 2014, through which experts and stakeholders will be able to share their perspectives on our agenda and propose new lines of action."

### **Mexico:** From Rick Gardner, AOPA's Regional Representative in Mexico

As of December 31, 2013, Mexico is now requiring that all airline as well as charter and private aircraft flying to and from Mexico, file an electronic APIS prior to flight. So far, we are not aware of the Mexican authorities sanctioning any private flight for failing to submit an APIS.

While there are still no specific details for when the evaluation period for Mexico APIS transmissions will end and when enforcement begins, many pilots want to file their APIS to be in compliance and avoid any potential issues in the future.

The only option available for filing a Mexican APIS is through a “for profit” portal. There is, up to this point, no public portal available to upload and submit a Mexico APIS like there is for other countries (USA and CARICOM\* countries) <http://www.caricomeapis.org/> .

We have meetings in process with Mexican Immigration authorities to reach clarification and to address the many issues and questions arising from the current process in the hope of reaching a more workable solution to comply with this new regulation in the near future.

\*CARICOM eAPIS countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St.Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St-Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.