



For Immediate Release:
August 12, 2005

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IATA Changes Lead to Airfare Discrepancies - Part II

Portland, Oregon – August 12, 2005 - In January of this year, IATA implemented one of the most extensive changes in how International airfares are calculated. The basis of these changes is the elimination to any reference as to where the ticket was sold and/or ticketed. The underlying changes resulted in extensive programming alterations in all booking tools, including the Global Distribution Systems (GDS). As reported by Topaz International on January 18th, there were many pricing errors found when these new changes were tested.

During July, Topaz International again tested the functionality of the GDS's to see if the errors were corrected and to determine if the pricing calculations were done correctly. Our results showed that the majority of our test itineraries were calculated correctly, and improvements were made over the previous study. However, there continue to be some errors with itineraries originating in West Africa. The result of these tests indicates it is imperative that all Corporate Travel Managers continue their vigilance over the validation and verification of all pricing tools in their resident GDS's. This will ensure that as changes are made, the GDS programming is performing as promised.

About TOPAZ International

Topaz International provides strategic support to the corporate travel management professional. With over 25 years of experience analyzing travel related expenditures, Topaz is a world leader in airfare & hotel auditing, providing benchmark information and consultancy services to improve the delivery of corporate travel services.

For more information about the complete line of travel audit products, as well as other services, please contact Michele Simon, michele.simon@etopaz.com, or call 800-888-2423.

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Topaz International is a member of the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) and the National Business Travel Association (NBTA).

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