



Purpose

To provide clarity and guidance to commercial air carriers when operating assisted departure flights.

Background

All commercial air carriers are required to transmit APIS data for all passengers and crew on board flights arriving and departing the United States.

APIS Requirements for Assisted Departure Flights

- APIS for Assisted Departure Flights is required to be transmitted 72-hours in advance of departure.
- **Crew manifests** must be transmitted separately from passenger manifests.
- **Passenger manifests** may be transmitted to CBP:
 - Up to the securing of the aircraft when using **interactive** methods, additionally:
 - A Flight Closeout message is required to be transmitted no later than 30-minutes after the securing of the aircraft to reflect passengers as on board (OBD) or not on board (NBD).
- Commercial air carriers are responsible for comparing the travel document presented by the traveler with the information being transmitted to CBP to ensure that the APIS data is correct, the document appears to be valid for travel, and the traveler is the person to whom the travel document was issued.

APIS Transmission Options

Commercial air carriers have three options to ensure compliance with APIS transmission requirements.

1. Utilize existing connectivity to CBP via carrier and/or service provider system to transmit APIS (either interactive or non-interactive) and receive a DHS response message. *This is the preferred and most secure method.*
2. Contract with a service provider or vendor that has APIS transmission capabilities in place.
3. Utilize the CBP eAPIS website (<https://eapis.cbp.dhs.gov>) and create an APIS manifest by:
 - a. Manually entering all traveler data, or;
 - b. Upload an APIS manifest as manifest.txt document file (*must be in UN/EDIFACT format*), or;
 - c. Use the eAPIS generator at <https://www.cbp.gov/document/forms/apis-generator-spreadsheet> to create a .txt file to upload.

Landing Rights

Landing rights approval must be obtained from CBP at the port of arrival. For assisted departure flights, CBP is requiring initial APIS transmission 72-hours prior to departure to obtain Landing Rights.

Please direct any questions to your CBP National APIS Account Manager.

Contact information may be found on the eAPIS website.