

Business Travel Update

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A Business Travel Update provided by Professional Travel

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FEATURED ARTICLE

OP-ED: NOW IS THE TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT MANDATES

In countless meetings over the past two decades plus, I've heard the same disappointing response to questions about travel policy enforcement. No matter how logical a best practice in travel management may seem, the refrain of "we don't mandate" or "we're not a mandate culture" basically means "we don't manage travel" or "we don't really manage travel."

To manage travel, like any other corporate activity, corporations have to require—aka mandate—certain standard operating procedures. Companies do this all the time with almost every other corporate process and purchase, and nobody even thinks about questioning those mandates.

Can you imagine an employee saying, "I know you get supplies at Vendor A, but I think Vendor B really works better for me?" Or, "I spent hours on the Web last night and I found a PC that's cheaper than our internal price! Don't worry, we can work out those compatibility issues later." Or my personal favorite, "I know I'm only due three weeks vacation, but I'll be more productive with four." [BTN 6/22/09 \(Full Story\)](#)

TSA EYES SECURE FLIGHT CLARITY

The Transportation Security Administration this month clarified aspects of the Secure Flight program, noting that names on boarding passes do not have to exactly match those on government-issued photo IDs, in an attempt to overturn some misperceptions about the program. BCD Travel in a memo to account managers this month noted, "Conflicting statements and compliance dates issued earlier this year by various entities in the corporate travel industry have caused confusion over the program. Some of that confusion now is being cleared up by the TSA and airlines."

[BTN 6/22/09 \(Full Story\)](#)

H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE

The breakdown of the number of laboratory-confirmed cases is given in the [table and map](#). [WHO 6/29/09](#)

WAIT TIMES FOR AIRPORT SECURITY LINES ARE NO LONGER POSTED ONLINE

Recently, while reporting a story, I discovered that looking up the average wait times at airport security lines is about as frustrating as actually waiting in line at a checkpoint.

The TSA used to have a Wait Time Calculator for terminals across the country, but that online service is shuttered through 2009, at least. That left sites like FlightStats without current data for even the major airports. (For instance, I tried searching for data on New York City and Chicago airports over the past week, and wait-time data has been unavailable.)

iPhone users can download apps (of course) that include security wait times. TSAwait, \$1 in the iTunes app store, was relying on the TSA wait times calculator. They still use the most recent information from the TSA at 400 airports and more than 700 checkpoints, but they're working off old data that has probably changed. [NewsWeek 6/11/2009 \(Full Story\)](#)

COMING SOON - PAY FOR CHECKED BAGS ONLINE

Save time and money when you check in online. [US Airways \(More Information\)](#)

SOUTHWEST LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN

Southwest Airlines is encouraging customers to continue traveling despite the current economy. The timely campaign inspires consumers to move forward, get back out there, and keep flying to the important events and people in their lives with the tagline "Grab Your Bag. It's On."

[TravelMole 6/2/09 \(Full Story\)](#)

THESE TIPS FOR TRAVELERS COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

How would you respond if you were checking into your hotel on an international vacation and your friend yelled, "Hey, what room are you in?"

Seems like an innocent enough question. The best answer, according to security experts: say nothing. You don't know who may be listening with the idea of targeting you or your hotel room. Even during seemingly harmless situations, travelers need to be what

security professionals describe as "situationally aware." "Situational awareness is the foundation of personal security," says Robert Siciliano, a personal security expert and the author of "The Safety Minute."

The need to maintain situational awareness extends to every minute you're on vacation -- whether you are walking down a street, riding a bus or shopping in a crowded market, Siciliano says. Even in hotel lobbies, thieves can be lurking. [CNN 5/27/09 \(Full Story\)](#)

HANDHELD CORP. TRAVEL APPS ACCELERATE: MOBILE BOOKING, CHECKIN, EXPENSE APPLICATIONS USE SOARS

Use of handheld mobile device applications by corporate travelers has skyrocketed in recent months as some of the largest and newest travel technology providers have entered the market with mobile applications, offering flight status updates, itinerary management, hotel bookings and expense report management.

Meanwhile, suppliers have started to adapt some processes, such as mobile barcode airline boarding passes, which are beginning to make mobile devices an essential part of the travel process ([BTNonline, April 16](#)). [BTN 6/22/09 \(Full Story\)](#)

USEFUL LINKS

MOBIL BOARDING PASS INFORMATION

[Air Canada](#) [Air France](#) [American Airlines](#)

[British Airways](#) [Continental Airlines](#)

[Delta Air Lines](#) [Lufthansa](#)

[Northwest Airlines](#)

[United Airlines](#) [US Airways](#)

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