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EasyGO ▪ SELF-SERVICE BORDER CROSSING SYSTEM

Biometrics gives effective support to cross the borders at Václav Havel Airport Prague.

Company Vítkovice IT Solutions a.s. successfully gave a start to self-service border crossing system, so called eGATE in December 2011. This system is named EasyGo in Czech Republic and can be used by passengers arriving at Terminal 1.

Václav Havel Airport Prague was the first airport in Central and Eastern Europe to offer this kind of equipment. Czech Republic took up to similar solutions operating in states like Portugal, Germany, Great Britain, Finland, and Nederland since 2007.

It is not common that biometrics application which increases safety, gives also benefits to users, but eGATE system is example of such application. Holders of biometric passports can use thanks to eGATE effective self-service during crossing border. Even the name EasyGO indicates solution which simplifies procedures but keeps requested rate of security.

EasyGO can be used by citizens of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland (CH), who are also biometric passport holders and over age of 18 at the same time.

Process of border crossing step by step

Border crossing itself takes a few steps and it is very effective; insist on safety and user´s comfort.

1) System verifies type of the passenger's travel document at first. Passenger puts document on reading-terminal which is placed by the entrance to self-service gate. Terminal is supplemented by the information display. In a case of fulfilment all conditions to use the EasyGO, system unloads electronic data and first automatic door opens. Traveller walk in internal area of the gate and the entrance doors closes automatically.

2) Already when passenger enters the gate, system uses the sensors in entrance frame and recognizes passenger's height to set up the ideal height of camera towards traveller´s face. Camera automatically starts scan traveller´s face and system makes biometric comparison of scanned face and data saved in chip in passenger's travel document.

3) During the comparison procedure system also makes another controls such as authenticity of electronic data (PA – passive authentication, AA – active authentication or CA – chip authentication), also the optical part of travel document is controlled using the data correctness control in machine readable zone (MRZ) and control of optical security components attendance.

4) Verification in inquisitive evidences realized in full conformity with Schengen codex methodology and EU regulations is the last step.

5) When all conditions for successful self-service border crossing are fulfilled, exit door opens and traveller leaves gate. System also controls if there is no luggage or other objects left inside the gate and also check if all system parts are working alright then is the system ready to check-out next passenger.

What are the operating parameters and actual experience?

Self-service border crossing doesn´t take more than 15 – 18 seconds. Operation is under permanent monitoring of Foreign Police members, who are informed in detail about the border crossing process and can make effective measures of manual border crossing in a case of non-standard status identification. Current data shows that nearly 95 % of travellers don´t need any assistance when using system EasyGO.

Operating data confirm the fact, that system is positively apperceived by passengers. We can see this from usage frequency and traveller´s reaction after successful passage through the gate. Also the elders appreciate this new system of border crossing; system recognized passages by people over the age of 80. Meaningfulness of such system is shown especially in peak hours. EasyGO system was already used by travellers from all member states of EU, CH and EEA. System is mostly used by travellers from Czech Republic, Great Britain and Ireland.

System is operated by Foreign Police and supported also by Václav Havel Airport Prague. System EasyGO is nearly identic to solution, which is operated in Frankfurt am Main. Important fact is that we increase passenger's comfort and keep the security level at the same time.

entrance door
sensors
exit doors
ePassport reader
information display 1
information display 2
face scanner

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