



(11) Other tourism units and concepts (Cruise passengers and Stages of a trip)

Canada

Tuesday, July 18, 2006



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WTO Question -- Cruise Passengers

Regarding Canada's response to A.3.1,

WTO remarked that Canada is suggesting some modifications in the case of "cruise passenger" focusing on non resident visitors.

And then asked if there is a potential similarity of the "cruise passenger" issue in the case of resident visitors that should be clearly identified in the update of 1993 Recommendations?



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Cruise Passengers Non-residents

- The WTO proposal regarding “cruise passengers” suggests that even if the traveller does not disembark (set foot in the visited country), he/she would be considered a same-day or overnight visitor, depending on how long the ship is in Canadian waters.
- Canada’s response to this proposal was:
 - “Canada believes that cruise passengers (who do not disembark) should not be considered as visitors or tourists, similar to the way we treat “in transit” airport travellers who do not leave the ‘transit lounge’ and therefore do not “officially enter” Canada.”



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Cruise Passengers Non-residents

- Canada now changes its response to the following:
 - that even if the traveller does not disembark (set foot in the visited country), he/she should be considered firstly, a visitor, and secondly a same-day or overnight visitor, depending on how long the ship is in Canadian waters.
- Reasoning:
 - Travellers must meet the criteria that define visitors.
 - TSA:RMF Paragraph 2.21 – In-transit visitors are a special category of visitor.



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Cruise Passengers Non- residents

Reasoning continued:

- Ideally, these cruise passengers should be treated as international visitors to Canada so long the ship anchors in Canadian waters or docks at a Canadian port (whether or not the passenger disembarks).
- In practice, passengers on a cruise ship that docks at a Canadian port are counted as international visitors whereas passengers on a ship that simply anchors in Canadian waters (not necessarily docking) are not counted.
- At the port of call, Canada Customs uses the ship's manifest to “process” all passengers on board. Those who are cleared by Customs are considered as having entered the country – in a customs administration sense, whether they disembark or not.
- On the other hand, passengers on a cruise ship that simply anchors in Canadian waters, are not counted as international travellers/visitors to Canada because in practice, they would not have been processed or cleared by Customs.
- Therefore, we recommend that only passengers on a cruise ship that docks at a Canadian port should be considered international visitors whether disembark or not.





WTO Question -- Cruise Passengers

Is there is a potential similarity of the “cruise passenger” issue in the case of resident visitors that should be clearly identified in the update of 1993 Recommendations?



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Cruise Passengers Residents

- Resident passengers on a domestic cruise should be treated as visitors if they meet the criteria that define visitors.
- In contrast to the case earlier, where the ship anchors or docks and whether or not the passenger disembarks is not an issue because they are already in Canada.



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WTO question -- Stages of a trip

On a different issue,

Canada expresses its disagreement with UNWTO proposed new paragraph 42 b) regarding the inclusion of the term “stage” and its operationalization.

Is this disagreement only on a national perspective or also in a provincial one?

Would you see any potential usefulness for tourism analysis to identify a “travel route”?



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Stages of a trip

WTO Proposed 42 b)

- The term “visit” or “stay” refers to the sojourn in the place/s in which the visitor overnights.
- On the other hand, the term “stage” refers to the different places visited within the trip in which the visitor develops a tourism activity.



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Stages of a trip

- To clear up a slight misunderstanding it is not the inclusion of the term “stage” as such, with which we are in disagreement, but it is with the proposed use of the term “trip” as synonymous with “stage”. This will bring confusion as to the number of trips.
- In the background material:
- As a consequence, a trip from place A to place B can be made of many other **intermediate “trips”** to all places between A and B where there have been stop overs, or the crossing of international borders. The traveler going from A to B will refer globally to his/her trip to B, but **for each of the stop-overs, trips might also be identified.** From the point of view of the traveler, we will say that his/her trip from A to B is made of stages in the intermediate places, whereas for the **intermediate places visited, those will be identified also as trips.**





Stages of a trip

- Canada recommends that the term “trip” be defined in a generic way so that it applies to travel and not exclusively to tourism.
- Trips refer to all return travel and trips can be taken by a person who can be either a ‘tourist’ (i.e. a visitor) or by an ‘other traveller’. Hence, some trips will be ‘tourism trips’ while others will be ‘other trips’.
- The definition then becomes the following:
- The term “trip” refers to travel by a person from the moment he/she leaves his/her place of residence until he/she returns: it thus refers to a round-trip that might be made of various visits.
- The term “tourism trip” is then defined as a trip taken by a visitor.



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Stages of a trip

- In the WTO proposal
 - “Stage” has no duration but has a tourism activity.
 - A “visit” is an overnight.
 - A stage refers to a stay where there was a tourism activity, regardless of the duration of the stay.
 - A visitor refers to an overnight stay. This means that a visit refers to also a stay where there is a tourism activity.
- Therefore, if you expand the term “visit” to include same day stays where the visitor developed a tourism activity, then there is no need for the term “stage”.





Stages of a trip

- In Canada, the term ‘visit’ is not limited to ‘overnight’, that is, we have a provision for ‘same-day visits on overnight trips’ as well as on ‘same-day trips’ whereas the WTO proposal limits a visit to ‘place/s in which the visitor stays overnight’.
- Thus we recommend the following definition of “visit”:
- The term “visit” refers to a stay be it overnight or same-day in the places visited during a trip.





Stages of a trip- Operationalization

- It would be ideal to get information on “travel itineraries” or “travel routes” This information can be used not only to produce “routing analytical studies”, but also to allocate the dollars spent on transportation fares to places where the production occurred.
- However, the collection of this information can have a significant impact on response burden, depending on how the information is collected in the survey.
- In Canada, this information is collected in the International Travel Survey. This has no significant increase on response burden, since the respondent to the survey is asked to report information on one particular trip only.
- However, in the domestic travel survey, this information is not collected since the respondent is asked to report information on **all** trips that he/she took during the preceding month. While this information would be very useful to have, a decision was made not to collect this information in order to keep the response burden at acceptable levels.



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