

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Information Management and Technologies Branch (IMTB)
Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Systems Description

EDP (Electronic Data Processing) systems are those used to gather or update the information needed for the operational support of immigration programs. Immigration-related programs and services are delivered using integrated clerical, manual and EDP systems. The EDP component consists of the sub-systems listed below. All sub-systems are linked to each other, either by a full computer connection (interface), or by common data elements that allow comparisons of information across systems.

(1) Immigration Data System Overseas (IDSO) & Immigration Data System Canada (IDSC)

IDSO and IDSC are used by overseas offices to maintain records of all applications for permanent resident status. Both systems provide information used in recruitment and selection processes. The data are case-oriented and can only be accessed by providing the case serial number recorded on the landing record.

(2) Landed Immigrant Data System (LIDS)

The Landed Immigrant Data System (LIDS) retains a permanent record of individuals granted permanent residence. Its main purpose is to create an official name index, which is used by immigration officers in Canada and abroad to verify an individual's status in Canada. It is also legal proof of residence for citizenship, Old Age Security, Family Allowance, welfare, etc. In addition, information from the system is the sole source for all of CIC's reports on permanent residents.

(3) Visitor Information Data System (VIDS)

VIDS retain a permanent record of all persons granted permission to enter or remain in Canada for a temporary period (whether as visitors, students, temporary workers or permit holders). The system's main purpose is to provide an official name index which is used by immigration officers in Canada to verify an individual's status in Canada. Information from VIDS is also used to produce the Department's reports on visitors and permit holders. Data used in the annual report to Parliament on Minister's permits are retained here.

(4) Field Operational Support System (FOSS)

The FOSS database is a central repository of information on all persons who have been or are wanted to be seen by Immigration staff. FOSS is the main operational support system for Immigration operations in Canada. The system is comprised of numerous components including query functions, status entry, document creation, refugee monitoring, case processing support, medical profiles, registry functions, client name and address, statistical functions, airport primary inspection line functions, access and security, appeals and litigation, quality assurance and records maintenance. All Immigration staff that work with the public and the staff that support these officers use FOSS. It is also used at all international airports by Customs inspectors and by a number of specialized groups, such as: Case Management, Query Response Centre, Social Insurance Registry, Immigration Health, Immigration Statistics, External Affairs Protocol Office and the U.S. Immigration Offices at Detroit and Buffalo. There are over 8 million client records and over 6.5 million document reference records.

(5) Computer-Assisted Immigration Processing System (CAIPS)

CAIPS is the Department's automated system for application processing outside Canada. Information is entered in the system from application forms and supporting documentation submitted by applicants for immigrant and visitor visas, returning residence permits and student and employment authorizations.

(6) Stand Alone Immigration Reporting System (STAIRS)

STAIRS is used to capture immigration and visitor information from non-CAIPS immigration missions overseas. It allows operational data for a mission to be produced and transmitted to National Headquarters for further processing. There are at present 7 STAIRS missions overseas. The system enables users to search by applicant and/or dependent in an automated case index; to print non-immigrant visas; to conduct tracking by case status; and to produce operational reports and key indicators.

(7) Case Processing Centre System (CPC)

The CPC system supports the processing of all in-Canada applications for the following six lines of Business: in-Canada sponsorship of relatives; extension of tourist visas; extension of work permit applications; extension of student visa authorizations; applications for landed immigrant status from in-Canada; and applications for landed immigrant status for refugees. The system will interface very closely with the FOSS system, and with the AVRES (automated voice response enquiry system).

(8) Citizenship Registry System (CRS)

The CRS manages all processes related to citizenship: grants (of citizenship), proofs of citizenship certificates. The main functions are: Collect Fees; Collect Data; Certificate Preparation; Clearance; Decision: Scheduling; Log In (results) and File Retention. All record scheduling and workflow data related to citizenship processes are kept in this database and there is an interface with FOSS.

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