



REGISTRAR BULLETIN

TRAVEL AGENCY FRAUD

Travel agencies looking to sell their business should be aware that there have been several recent incidents of fraud perpetrated on the selling agency. The fraudsters are interested in purchasing agencies who currently have IATA/BSP ticketing ability and entice the seller with a deposit payment for the agency and then ask to operate the agency before approvals have been received from TICO and from IATA/BSP.

Registrants are reminded that the owner on record with TICO remains responsible for the entity until the new owner has been approved by the Registrar. Section 15 of the *Travel Industry Act, 2002* provides that the Registrar must be notified in writing within 30 days after the issue or transfer of any equity shares, if the issue or transfer results in any one shareholder, or any associated shareholders, acquiring or accumulating beneficial ownership or control of 10% or more of the total number of all issued and outstanding equity shares of the registrant.

Agencies are therefore being warned to be extremely vigilant and should not permit proposed new owners to operate the agency until all legal documents and approvals have been completed. The selling agencies that have been caught by this fraud and who are still legally on the record as being the owner, are being held responsible for the fraud. If you have any suspicion regarding a person proposing to buy an agency, please contact TICO or IATA/BSP at the telephone numbers below:

TICO: 1-888-451-8426 ext 229

IATA/BSP: 1-514 847-0202 ext 3457

Michael Pepper
Registrar
Travel Industry Act, 2002