

# Speakman calls for standardisation of codes

Travel Counsellors has called for accommodation suppliers to develop a common standard for destination and hotel codes.

Inconsistent destination and hotel codes are a major gripe for agents, according to Paul Speakman, IT director at the home-based agency chain.

Speaking at the conference, Speakman said suppliers often change codes, which can cause them to drop off the travel agency system.

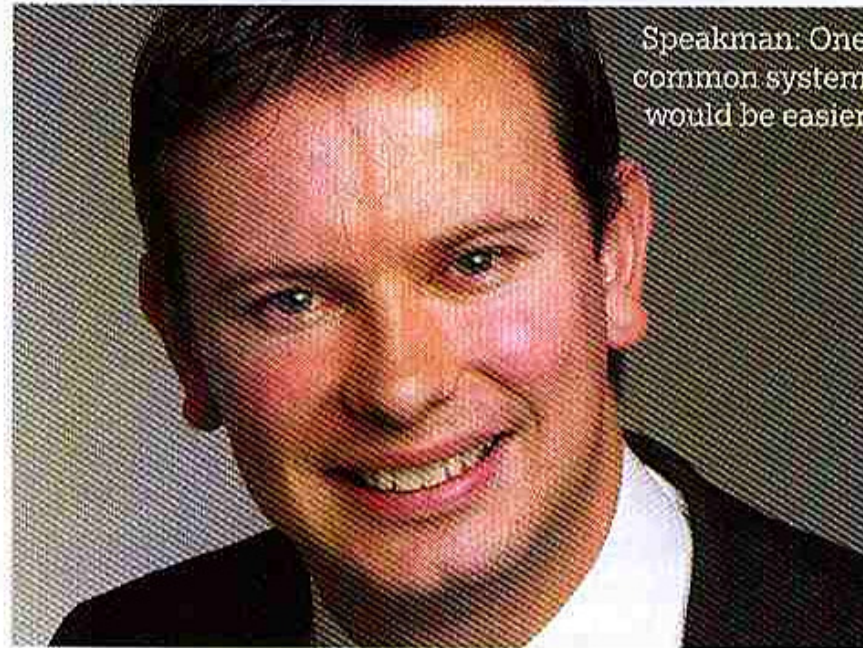
"The main problem we

have is inconsistent codes for hotels and places. It would be good if all bed banks had standard codes. Some have reindexed their hotel identities and then they drop off the system because they have renamed them," he said.

Similarly, Speakman said operating XML feeds to a number of bed banks was difficult to manage.

"We have 20 XML feeds to bed banks, and 15 are live, but they all work differently.

"One common system would make it easier for us. They are difficult to integrate



Speakman. One common system would be easier

**"It would be good if all bed banks had standard codes"**

and some of them do not work well because of poor data.

"Some insist on us holding images and descriptions locally, which is awkward because it leads to more maintenance," Speakman added.