



Bulletin FOR MEMBERS

The airline 2-D bar coded boarding pass: Will your airport be ready before the end of 2010?

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Introduction

ACI and IATA are actively working together to improve efficiency, reduce cost and enhance customer service in the industry. This is particularly important in the current, challenging economic period. To this end, ACI has been supporting IATA in its implementation of the Simplifying the Business (StB) initiative, an industry change programme that aims to lower cost and improve customer service.

The first StB project to be successfully implemented was the E-ticketing (ET) initiative and the industry is now a 100% ET-based operation — reportedly saving it US\$3 Billion annually. The next StB project to approach a critical milestone is the BCBP (Bar Coded Board Pass) initiative. IATA has mandated that all its member airlines should be able to issue the standard 2-D BCBP by the end of this year and that by the end of 2010, all boarding passes should be 2-D bar coded.

The purpose of this Bulletin is:

- to raise the awareness of airports to the BCBP project and the target date of 31 December 2010 for all boarding passes issued by airlines to be 2-D bar coded;
- to identify the potential benefits of the BCBP to airports;
- to encourage those airports that have not yet prepared plans to facilitate the airlines' migration to the BCBP to commence such planning with their airline partners; and
- to raise the awareness of airports to the resources that are available to help them in the planning and implementation of this migration.

The benefits of the BCBP for airports

Those airports that have already facilitated the airlines' migration to the 2-D BCBP have identified the following benefits to their business and operation:

Enhanced process efficiency

With BCBP printers and scanners, passenger processing systems work faster and generally have fewer stoppages, which has improved efficiency and reduced passenger queuing times.

Lower costs

Bar code readers and related equipment are cheaper to purchase and maintain than the conventional mag-stripe devices.

Improved security

The BCBP is enabling airports to scan the home printed boarding pass at the entry point to the security restricted area to verify that it is authentic and to prevent the use of the same boarding pass by more than one passenger.

Enhanced passenger flow management

The BCBP's are being used to log passengers at different points in the departure facilitation process, for example at the entrance to the security restricted area, at retail outlets, in airline lounges and of course, at the boarding gate. This is beginning to provide airports and airlines with better information to help manage their operations within the terminal. Moreover, it is providing statistical data which will help in the simulation and design of future facilities and processes.

Enhanced capacity through greater innovation

The BCBP standard includes the specifications to show 2-D bar code images on mobile-phone screens. Moreover, BCBP's work well with conventional home printers. Increased use of these remote or self service check-in solutions will further reduce the need of check-in space at airports and increase capacity.

Resources available to airports

IATA has prepared the attached information sheet which explains more about the BCBP project and the resources available to airports and airlines. More information is also available: <http://www.iata.org/stbsupportportal>

A particularly useful tool for airports is the BCBP Matchmaker, where more than 100 airports are already registered.

The BCBP Matchmaker

The BCBP Matchmaker is a secure, free of charge, web portal, created by IATA, which allows airlines and airports to plan the transition to BCBP together. Specifically, it enables airports and airlines to share their plans and to coordinate the implementation of the BCBP to avoid the additional cost of having dual mode boarding pass printers and readers during the transition.

Airports can find out more about this tool and register at: <http://www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/bcbp/Matchmaking>

ACI will continue to keep members abreast of airport-related developments in the StB initiative and in the BCBP project, in particular. Should airports have any questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact Arturo Garcia-Alonso, Manager, Facilitation & Airport IT at agarcia@aci.aero.