

Bar coded boarding passes:

More opportunities for airports, more convenience for passengers and lower costs for the industry

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors has issued a mandate requiring all airlines to use bar coded boarding passes (BCBP). By the end of 2008, all airlines must be BCBP capable. By the end of 2010, all boarding passes must be bar coded.

Below you will find an overview of IATA's BCBP project and specific actions your airport should take to prepare for this industry-wide mandate.

What are bar coded boarding passes?

Bar coded boarding passes use an IATA industry-standard 2D barcode. This standard was defined in IATA resolution 792. An example is shown below:

IATA standard 2D barcode



What airports need to do to get ready for 100% BCBP

There are three areas where airports need to take action in order to accept and fully benefit from bar coded boarding passes. As a first step, IATA recommends coordination with your airlines through the AOC (Airport Operators Committee), where applicable, to determine the best way forward.

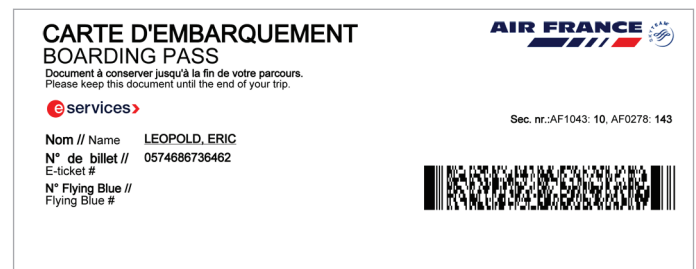
1. Put the right equipment in place

The check-in and boarding equipment at your airport will need to support 2D barcodes. If your airport owns this equipment, you will need to upgrade your equipment to ensure it is compatible with 2D barcodes.

In cases where suppliers and ground handlers provide this equipment, coordinate with these parties to ensure your airport can accept and process bar coded boarding passes.

2. Train people who are processing passengers

With BCBP, passengers will be able to check-in and print their boarding pass before they arrive at the airport. As a result, passengers will carry a boarding pass that may look like this, for example:



Airport employees, particularly in the security and duty free areas, must be familiar with these boarding passes in order to accept passengers with BCBP. If your airport outsources these services to third parties, coordinate with those third parties to ensure that passengers with bar coded boarding passes will have an uninterrupted journey through your airport.

3. Use capacity effectively

Because passengers can check-in before coming to the airport, airports will have more flexibility to use space according to their specific requirements. For example, some check-in desks can be converted into bag-drop facilities – shown below – allowing passengers who already have their boarding pass to quickly deposit their luggage. This will allow your airport to process more flights, or use space for other revenue-generating purposes.



IATA resources available to help airports

Below is a list of resources to help you implement BCBP:

- The BCBP Matchmaker is a free of-charge secure website that allows airlines and airports to work together to achieve 100% BCBP. It is critical for airports to register and input their BCBP status so they can exchange messages with airlines and plan together the move to 100% BCBP. The matchmaker is available at www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/bcbp/Matchmaking.htm.
- IATA's dedicated BCBP airports page: www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/bcbp/airport.htm. On this page, the IATA Board mandate, an Airports Council International (ACI) bulletin, and latest project information are available.
- The third edition of the BCBP implementation guide is now available online. This edition covers the latest developments of the BCBP standard, including 2D bar codes on mobile phones. The guide provides airline and airport project managers with practical information on implementing this IATA mandate. Topics include information on critical IT infrastructure, tips on passenger processing and StB preferred partners. It is available free of charge for airports who register on the StB Extranet at http://extranet2.iata.org/sites/stb_extranet/default.aspx.
- IATA maintains a network of Regional and Country Managers around the world to provide airports with local support. A list of contacts is available at www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/contactus.
- BCBP workshops take place throughout the year. Airports are invited to these workshops and will have the opportunity to hear first hand about the BCBP project and speak with a subject matter expert. Attendance at these workshops for ACI members is free of charge. A list of upcoming workshops is available at www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/bcbp_cussworkshops.htm.
- Suppliers are aware of the BCBP mandate. IATA has been working with companies to ensure their products are compatible with the 2D barcode standard. A list of IATA preferred partners and the products they offer is available at www.iata.org/sp/stb_sp_list.htm.
- You can track the progress of airports around the world by viewing our interactive map, available on our website at: www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/maps/bcbp.html.
- Each month the IATA Simplifying the Business team issues a newsletter keeping the industry up-to-date on project information, events and new mandates. To subscribe to this newsletter please visit www.iata.org/ps/publications/optinform/login.

For questions, email bcbp@iata.org.