

Baggage Tag Requirements Recommendations Report to TSA

Submitted by



International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Airlines for America (A4A)

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1. Introduction

This report presents stakeholder recommendations in response to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) evolving requirements for identifying international outbound baggage departing from the United States. These recommendations are intended to support TSA's regulatory objectives while promoting operational feasibility and alignment across the aviation industry.

2. Background and Context

Recent discussions and preliminary documentation shared by TSA indicate that newly proposed security measures are being considered for identifying baggage departing the United States to international destinations. Stakeholders across the airline industry recognize the importance of these measures and are committed to supporting TSA's efforts to enhance aviation security.

Given that TSA's requirements apply to all checked baggage regardless of its point of origin, it has been determined that these measures must be fulfilled by all airlines with flights departing the US. This includes:

- 1) Passengers and checked baggage originating in the United States for international destinations.
- 2) Passengers and checked baggage originating outside the United States but transiting through the U.S. en-route to another international destination in which the passenger must reclaim their checked baggage and undergo screening by the TSA.

3. Stakeholder Observations and Needs

Based on initial consultations and industry feedback, the following key observations have emerged:

Carrier Coordination: Airlines operating under codeshare or interline agreements require consistent procedures to ensure compliance across carriers and jurisdictions.

Contingency Planning: Procedures must account for operational disruptions (e.g., printer failures) without compromising compliance.

Implementation: Airlines must be given adequate time to develop and implement the technical and business solutions necessary to implement printing INTL designator onto the printed bag tag. Until such time, airlines must be given the option to continue Positive Passenger Bag Match (PPBM) procedures conducted today.

4. Recommendations

1. Support for Technical Solution:

IATA and A4A respectfully request TSA's support for the technical solution outlined in Section 5. Given the limited time available to assess its full impact, IATA and A4A will continue refining the proposed approach. This includes evaluating its potential applicability to other countries that may adopt similar standards.

2. Alternative Solutions:

Some member airlines are exploring emerging technologies to traditional paper bag tags, such as Electronic Bag Tags (EBT). IATA and A4A are committed to working with airlines currently testing or fielding this emerging technology for EBTs and request the TSA to remain open to ideas for identifying the US international outbound checked bags unique to this technology.

* Examples could include alpha/numeric characters like INTL similar to the printed bag tag or an image icon visible on EBT's graphic display. Examples and recommendations relative to EBT proposed solutions will be shared with the TSA in a subsequent recommendation.

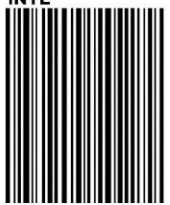
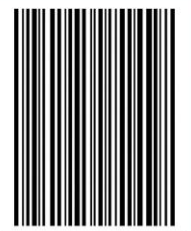
5. Proposed solution

IATA and A4A carrier proposed international checked baggage marking:

1. "INTL" printed on carrier checked baggage tag for any outbound US destination
2. Printed at the point of acceptance
3. "INTL" text is added in an area that meets IATA baggage tag requirements
 - A. Specific location, font, color can vary by carrier, but "INTL" will always be consistent

- B. Area shown on the bag tag example below with the “INTL” designator is an IATA designated free form text field
- C. In the event a location has their baggage tag printer failure, the handwritten tag that will be used will be marked with “INTL” as well

Example of Printed Bag Tag

UNITED INTL 			
20AUG26/1205 AC1 J45 PRNTR-BC5248 0016 321069 CLO INTL CM363 CALI JFK 1537 UA 1916 8 0957		GARACALUES US REC-LOC-GBL66P 0016 321069 CLO INTL CM363 1537 JFK 8 UA 1916 0957 INTL UNITED GARCAU ESU5 REC-LOC-GBL6P CM 363 CALI 29AUG25 1205 0016 321069 	

Example of Handwritten Bag Tag

UC 657 REV. 7-11 UNITED Checked Baggage GLUE AREA	
☐ Existing Damage ☐ Fragile & Unsuitably Packaged X <u>Jesus Garcia</u> Customer Signature	
Home / Mobile # <u>XXX-XXX-XXXX</u>	
Final Dest. CLO INTL	Airline Flight
Via PTY	Airline Flight UA 1916
Via	Airline Flight
Garcia/Jesus Customer Name CLO INTL Final Destination	5A Seat No.
CLAIM CHECK	