



IATA Technical Peripheral Specifications (ITPS)

The Association of European Airlines (AEA) was the voice of the European airline industry for over 60 years. AEA, as an organization, has ceased existence in 2016.

Background

This former organization was responsible for the specifications on Automated Ticket and Boarding Pass equipment (ATB), Parametric Tables (PECTAB), Boarding Control (BGR) and Self-Service and Baggage Tag Printers (BTP). Related firmware are industry standards, applied by manufacturers and airports worldwide.

The ITPS specification (formerly the AEA Technical Specification) describe all exchanges of Departure Control Systems (DCSs) to devise communication and all device responses. These are required in order to use standard airline devices defined for both "[Common Use](#)" or Airline dedicated Use.

In 2018, IATA has taken over the former AEA Technical Specification and intellectual property rights and created a Technical Solution Group to continue publishing revised versions of IATA Technical Peripheral Specifications (ITPS). The ITPS sub-group, under the governance of the Common Use Working Group, maintains this standard going forward.

DEVICE COMMUNICATION COVERED

TPS covers devices such as:

- ATB (Automated Ticketing and Boarding Pass Printer)
- BTP (Baggage Tag Printers), including new RFID encoding details
- BGR and E-Gates (Boarding Gate Readers and Self-Boarding Gates) with Biometric Validation
- SBD (Self-Baggage Drop) and
- SD (Scale Device)

The IATA Technical Peripheral Specifications edition 2025 is available [here](#)

KEY TOPICS COVERED IN THIS EDITION

- E-Gates as well as BGRs have touchscreen (TSC) added for Exit Row handling with passenger questionnaires and optional airline text.
- Allow automated Zone Boarding on E-Gates with arbitrary text (and display).
- Added new Biometric Unique Identifier (BUID) and XF transaction code for generic Biometric Identification for the Traveler Verification Service offered by US Customs and Border Protection.
- Added audio file management on E-Gates.
- Added MG#Tx to allow text to be sent to graphics display in any language (as UTF-8) for all BGRs.
- New XA transaction added for accounting purposes for all AEA devices
- Numerous enhancements for RFID handling for BTPs to allow airlines to follow the IATA initiative for worldwide usage of RFID
- Numerous additional enhancements and clarifications on implementation details
- PECTAB Element K handling explained for BTPs
- SQNI implementation details explained for all AEA devices
- Starting with ITPS 2025, both printers BPP and BTP are able to print multiple Languages on a single Boarding pass or Baggage Tag, e.g. a mix of Chinese and English characters by simple setting the #FONT parameter to Unicode. Korean, Japanese and Cyrillic are also included in the present implementations.
- Also in 2025 an optional Pectab extension has been defined to allow rotation of Text and Logo elements on the ATB to be rotated in order to easily create a boarding pass in Portrait format instead of Landscape.