

Passenger Rejection Reduction Best Practices

Version 1.2 March 2021







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The passenger rejection reduction initiative is endorsed by the IATA Financial Committee to reduce unnecessary passenger rejections in the industry. The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of interline billings, increase efficiencies, improve cash flow and reduce the overall cost at industry level. In 2015, the IBSOPS working group was tasked to reduce the rejection rate by 32% in 5 years (by 2020).

Since then, the IATA Rejection Reduction Team and the IBSOPS WG have undertaken multiple actions to reduce the number of passenger rejections in the industry. By the end of 2018, the rejection rate decreased by nearly 21% in comparison to the base year 2015.

In 2018, several airlines were invited based on different criteria (size, volume of rejections, alliances, geographical location etc) to form a Rejection Reduction Advisory Group. The IATA Rejection Reduction Team works closely with this group to understand the reasons of rejection, estimate the cost of rejections, contribute to the 32% target by 2020 and build a Best Practices guide.

Due to impacts of COVID-19, the target of 32% was put on hold in February 2020. The formula used to calculate the rejection rates was also modified to consider the time lag between the prime billing and the raising of the rejection, as follows. This change was necessary to consider the decline in volumes due to COVID-19.

Rejection Rate (New formula) =Sum of Rejection Memos of Past 12 monthsSum of Prime Billings of Past 12 months (including 3 months LAG) \times 100%

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
% Reduction	8%	15%	21%	29%	25%

Despite COVID-19 impacts on the industry, this document remains in effect as a list of best practices, considerations and recommendations to help airlines ensure high quality passenger interline billings and reduce unnecessary rejections.

This document will be regularly updated with new best practices and recommendations from the airlines and IATA.





2. New Master Updates (SPA / Tax / PMP etc.)

Below are recommendations to be followed when a member is updating the Master Data in the Revenue Accounting system.

2.1. Special Prorate Agreements (SPA)

- a. New SPA to be received at least 4 weeks in advance of the first billing. Members should receive updates to SPA's at least 4 weeks prior to the effective date of the SPA, to ensure that enough time is left for coding and testing of the SPA.
- **b.** Notify commercial teams 60 days prior to expiration of a SPA. It is recommended that Revenue Accounting (RA) teams alert their Commercial department at least 60 days prior to the SPA expiration date. This will allow enough time for the commercial team to clarify if the SPA has been extended / new SPA signed.
- c. Revenue Accounting (RA) department's feedback before final SPA sign off. It is a good practice for commercial teams to get their Revenue accounting department's feedback whenever they are negotiating a new SPA to ensure that the SPA conditions are clarified and system limitations, if any, are highlighted.
- d. Simulation of the SPA. Simulate the SPA in the RA test system to ensure that the values are satisfactory for the Revenue Management team each time there is a new destination added, a new type of fare or a new SPA signed.
- e. **Periodic feedback.** It is a good practice for Revenue Accounting Department to give periodic feedback to the Commercial Team, monthly or at any other periodicity agreed, but not later than 3 months, on the performance of the SPA signed and implemented. This will equip the commercial teams with a better and informed decision-making process.
- 2.2. Joint SPA coding with airline partners using the same PRA System. Some airlines ensure that they do a joint coding for SPA's with interline partners, who are using the same RA system and with whom they sign a SPA. This is very beneficial as any interpretation issues are sorted out at the SPA coding stage.
- **2.3. SPA Coding checklist**. The SPA coding checklist is attached in Appendix A of this document.

2.4. PRA team to work closely with the Revenue Management/Commercial department

- a. Share what your PRA system handles (capabilities, limitations).
- b. Have monthly calls / meetings regarding the effectiveness of SPAs and share with the Revenue Management team the reports with values recorded for revenues from SPAs.
- 2.5. Conference calls between SPA carriers and both Revenue Management & Revenue Accounting teams before the SPA goes live.
- 2.6. Validate prorate values once SPA moved to Production. A quick indicator could be unusually high or low billings.
- 2.7. Communication of SPA coding changes to outsourced BPO team / internal interline team.

2.8. Master data - Sign off / Quality checks on every update.

- a. Such as: Taxes, Codeshare, Exchange rates, Prorate factors, Provisos, FFP, TPM's, RATD etc.
- b. Test to ensure high quality of output data prior to sign off.
- **2.9.** Tax coding centralized and tested prior to moving to Production.
- 2.10. Request your PRA System provider to load ATPCO "RATD X1" automated file in order to reduce tax billing rejections.
- 2.11. System limitations / exceptions for exceptional scenarios not able to be automatically processed in RA systems. Communicate with your interline partners and agree on a process for handling these exceptions rather than raise rejections.





3. New Airline Moving to Interlining

- 3.1. Ensure availability of standardized ticket sales data files such as ATPCO/ ISR / BSP / TCN formats.
- **3.2.** Make sure you have a list of all reference data required to be updated in the Revenue Accounting system, including internal accounting codes.
- **3.3.** <u>RATD</u> (Revenue Accounting Tax Database) X1 File. The ATPCO "RATD X1" file streamlines the interline billing process for taxes, charges and fees with convenient access via the web. The Enhanced RATD X1 file is a source of tax referential data to automatically update PRA Systems.
- **3.4.** <u>FDR/MMR</u> (Five Day Rate / Mean Monthly Rate). To perform interline invoicing and settlement, airlines must have exchange rates of world currencies. The Exchange Rates published by IATA are the sole source to support interline billings and settlement.
- **3.5.** <u>Proration Methods and Subscriptions</u>. The airlines engaged in interlining of passengers and cargo depend on settlement agreements to assist in the determination of each airline's revenue. These agreements are referred to as the "Multilateral Prorate Agreement-Passenger" and the "Multilateral Prorate Agreement-Cargo". Ensure Revenue Accounting Systems are updated on-time with the appropriate proration master data requirements.
- **3.6.** <u>RAM</u> (Revenue Accounting Manual). The IATA Revenue Accounting Manual (RAM) explains the standard billing procedures for the interline accounting of Passenger, Cargo, UATP and Miscellaneous revenues.
- **3.7.** <u>Training and Development</u>. The IATA Training provides a broad spectrum of basic, intermediate and advanced training courses designed to ensure RA teams are well equipped to handle interline accounting. You may request customized trainings from the IATA training team depending on your needs.
- **3.8.** <u>SIS</u> (Simplified Invoicing and Settlement). SIS is the industry platform that facilitates the electronic invoicing and settlement process by streamlining key processes, unifying invoicing standards, reducing paper wastes and ultimately fostering a simpler and more efficient environment for airlines and aviation business partners (ground handlers, maintenance companies, manufacturers, etc) to engage in business.
- **3.9.** <u>ACH / ICH</u> (Airlines Clearing House / IATA Clearing House). These are the two industry-recognized Clearing Houses that provide fast, secure and cost-effective settlement services in multiple currencies for the air transport industry. (Not mandatory).
- **3.10.** <u>SIRS</u> (Simplified Involuntary Reroute Settlement). This is an optional and voluntary multilateral agreement (offered by ACH, endorsed and supported by IATA) for settlement of involuntary reroute transactions based on pre-determined billing rules. It removes uncertainty of expected billing values for involuntary reroutes. You can request test files to better understand SIRS and compare with your billings.
- **3.11. Revenue Accounting System Provider Training.** Most Revenue Accounting System Providers offer holistic trainings to maximize the use of their systems. RA teams of airlines are encouraged to participate in these training sessions, including training following system upgrades and enhancements.
- **3.12. Bilateral Settlements.** Billing partners to agree on invoice currency, bank accounts, settlement methods and schedule, if it is not already part of the contract.
- **3.13.** Conduct quality checks on interline billings and have regular calls with interline partners to address the gaps that lead to rejections.
- 3.14. Simplify and standardize your agreements as much as possible for mutual benefit.





4. Change of Revenue Accounting Systems / Proration Engines / etc.

- 4.1. Decide a Migration Strategy from the old system to the new system and create a Migration Plan.
- **4.2.** Ensure the redesign of the new processes is in place.
- **4.3.** Ensure all SOPs, user guides and system documentation are in place.
- 4.4. Before going live, perform multiple parallel test runs, compare the results and correct, if necessary.
- 4.5. In the case of data migration, ensure that previously billed coupons do not get re-billed out.
- **4.6.** Conduct regression testing for complex SPA changes.
- 4.7. Focus both on Processing and Accounting objectives.
- **4.8.** Ensure that users can obtain useful reports from the systems to illustrate interline billing trends and support decision making.
- 4.9. Ensure Master Data tables are correct and complete.
- 4.10. Ensure all subscriptions needed are in place.

5. Monitoring Incoming and Outgoing Billings / Quality Control

- **5.1.** Use the SIS Rejection Analysis reports to monitor volumes of incoming/outgoing rejections and get in contact with interline partners in case the trends are increasing.
- **5.2.** Maintain key integrity checks in the system, as well as relevant and timely alerts to minimize revenue losses and decrease rejections.
- **5.3. Billing Value Checks.** Prior to submitting billings, conduct quality checks on prepared outward billings to identify high/low/negative yields.
- **5.4. ISC / Tax Value checks.** Prior to submitting billings, conduct quality checks on prepared outward billings to identify incorrect ISC and tax values.
- **5.5.** Duplicate billing checks.
- **5.6. Second pass audit.** Introduce "double-check" audit processes on outward and inward billings, particularly when large volumes of rejections are identified.
- **5.7. SPA review.** Post SPA go-live in production, perform 1 / 6 / 12-month reviews of SPA effectiveness to close the gaps.
- **5.8. Analytics.** Generate reports used to illustrate month-over-month, quarter-over-quarter, year-over-year analytics and identify rejection trends which need to be addressed with your interline partners.





- **5.9. Correspondence Aging and Value**. Monitor the aging and the number of correspondence stages and set up the Correspondence Aging Alerts in SIS to receive:
 - Open Correspondences that have crossed stage 7 (initiated and received)
 - A list of Correspondences initiated, for which authority has been received but billing memos have not been raised
 - A list of Correspondences initiated, which have expired due to non-reply from the other airline and no billing memo has been raised

Also, associate the cost of handling correspondences against the value of the correspondence. It is important to know when to address the issue directly with the interline partner(s). Communicate to the Commercial Department when a correspondence is not agreed after few iterations.

5.10. Regularly provide feedback to Commercial departments to consider changes when renewing SPA's.

6. SIS Analytical Reports

6.1. PAX Non-Sampling RM Analysis Report. Use this report to monitor your incoming and outgoing rejections (Figure 1), to measure the percent of rejected billings and re-rejected rejections (Figure 1), to identify the top reasons of incoming/outgoing rejections and to compare your airline with the Industry average (Figure 2). This report helps in assessing the quality of billings and rejections and quickly identifying any billing issues.
The report is split in two parts:

The report is split in two parts:

Case 1: Prime billings sent and subsequent rejections and correspondence

Case 2: Prime billings received and subsequent rejections and correspondence

To access the report, click on Reports >> Passenger (Figure 3). There are two options:

Analysis for inter-clearance billings (ACH to ICH and v.v.)

Analysis for ACH to ACH billings

On click, the report will be downloaded. It is recommended to download and review the report on monthly basis.

	Apr'18 – Mar'19	Apr'17 – Mar'18
Count of Prime Billings billed by XY-123	7,677,931	10,256,896
Count of Stage 1 RMs received by XY-123	337,399	500,378
Ratio of Stage 1 (received) to Prime Billings (raised)	4.39%	4.88%
Count of Stage 2 RMs raised by XY-123	73,007	95,454
Ratio of Stage 2 (raised) to Stage 1 (received)	21.64%	19.08%
Count of Stage 3 RMs received by XY-123	43,307	67,408
Ratio of Stage 3 (received) to Stage 2 (raised)	59.32%	70.62%

Figure 1. Comparison Table: current year vs previous year





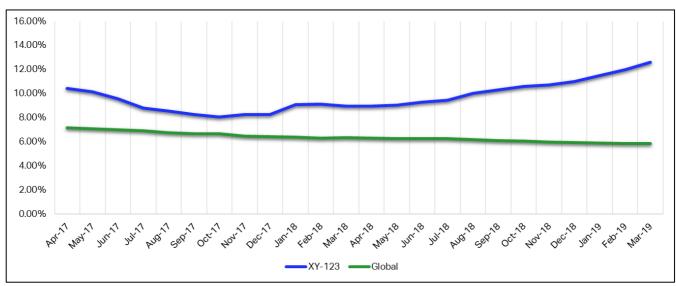


Figure 2. Comparison Chart: Your airline vs Global Industry trend (2 years data)

Figure 3. Accessing the PAX Non-Sampling RM Analysis Reports

Home	Processing Dashboard		
Upcoming Milestones	SIS Usage Report		
	SIS IS-WEB Usage Report		
IS ICH ACH	Member/Contact Report		Alerts (0) Messages (0)
Current Period: Jun 2019 P3	SIS Users Report	-	t Detail
Period Milestone Date	EST)		
	IS and CH Calendar Report		
Jun 2019 P3 Auto Billing Invoice Finalization 04-Mar 20:30	Invoice Deletion Audit Trail Report		
Jun 2019 P2 Billing Output Generation 04-Mar 06:51	Invoice Reference Data		
Jun 2019 P4 Submissions Open 04-Mar 21:31	19 Financial Controller		
Jun 2019 P3 Submission Deadline for ACH 04-Mar Invoices 21:30	19 Passenger	Receivables	
Jun 2019 P3 Submission Deadline for ICH and 04-Mar Bilateral Invoices 21:30		Payables	
	Miscellaneous	Correspondence Status	re ke Page 1 of 0 DD DD DD
	Miscellaneous	Correspondence Status	
	Download Offline Reports	BVC Details	View in a separate window Refresh
Announcements		Non-Sampling RM Analysis Comparison to Industry – IATA RAM Rules	
		Non-Sampling RM Analysis Comparison to Industry – ACH Rules	





6.2. Receivables/Payables - Passenger Rejection Analysis - Non Sampling Reports These reports can be used to analyse incoming/outgoing billings, through the various stages of rejections and correspondence. They give an end-to-end visibility of rejections from their prime stages up to correspondence. The reports generated are sorted per clearance month and billing/billed member.

To access the reports, click on Reports >> Passenger >> Receivables/Payables >> Non-Sample Rejection Analysis.

							1	Ist Rejection -	- Received			2nc	d Rejection	- Raised				3rd	Rejection	- Received	1							Corres	pondence				
										Rejection				Rejection						Rejection													
									Rejection				Rejection			Rejection			Rejection			Rejection											
									Received				Raised %		Rejection				Received		Rejection			Corr-			Corr-						
									% by Cpn					Rejected							Received			Dispute			Dispute						
Out	ward						No of	Total	count Vs				count Vs			Rejected		Total	count Vs		% by Cpn				Dispute				Corr-No of				
		Billed			Total No of		Coupons	Rejected	Prime									Rejected	Prime				Corr-No of									Corr-No of	
Mo	inth- 1	Member	Billed Member	Currency	Prime	Total Value of	Rejected	Amount	billing	billing	Rejected	Rejected	billing	billing	1st Rej.	1st Rej.	Rejected	Amount	billing	billing	2nd Rej.	2nd Rej.	Coupons	Prime	count Vs	Coupons	Prime	Value Vs	Accepted &	Expired &	Billed &	Coupons	of Coupons
Ye	ear	Code	Name	Code	Coupons	Prime Coupons	(R1)	(R1)	(R1)	(R1)	(R2)	Amount (R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	Disputed	billing	3rd Rej.	Disputed	billing	3rd Rej.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Ja	an-09 X	X-002	XX Airways	JSD	23,400	800,000.00	4,680.00	208,000.00	20.00	26.00	2,122	108,000.00	9.07	13.50	45.34	51.92	1,076	57,000.00	4.60	7.13	50.71	52.78	750	3.21	69.70	37,500.00	4.69	65.79	50	100	400	200	10,000.00
Ja	an-09 Y	Y-290	YY Air	JSD	60,000	1,000,000.00				14.00	4,000	87,000.00	6.67	8.70	40.00	62.14	2,120	42,000.00	3.53	4.20	53.00	48.28	1,673	2.79	78.92	33,460.00	3.35	79.67	40	678	672	283	5,660.00
Ji	an-09 Z	Z-097	ZE Airlines	JSD	10,000	1,000,000.00	1,500.00	120,000.00	15.00	12.00	750	74,000.00	7.50	7.40	50.00	61.67	475	47,000.00	4.75	4.70	63.33	63.51	350	3.50	73.68	34,300.00	3.43	72.98	0	0	319	31	3,038.00

Figure 4: PAX Receivables Non-Sampling Rejection Analysis Report

Figure 5: PAX Payables Non-Sampling Rejection Analysis Report

	Т							1st Rejection	- Raised			2nd	Rejection -	Received				31	d Rejection	n - Raised								Corres	pondence				
										Rejection				Rejection						Rejection													
									Rejection	Raised %			Rejection	Received		Rejection			Rejection	Raised %		Rejection											
									Raised %	by			Received	% by	Rejection	Received			Raised %	by	Rejection	Raised %		Corr-			Corr-						
									by Cpn	Rejected			% by Cpn	Rejected	Received	% by			by Cpn	Rejected	Raised %	by		Dispute	Corr-		Dispute	Corr-					
Inward							No of	Total	count Vs	Value Vs	No of		count Vs	Value Vs	% by Cpn	Rejected	No of	Total	count Vs	Value Vs	by Cpn	Rejected		% by Cpn	Dispute	Corr-	% by	Dispute	Corr-No of	Corr-No of	Corr-No of		
Billing	. 8	illing			Total No of		Coupons	Rejected	Prime	Prime	Coupons	Total	Prime	Prime	count Vs	Value Vs	Coupons	Rejected	Prime	Prime	count Vs	Value Vs	Corr-No of	count Vs	% by Cpn	Value of	value Vs	% by	Coupons	Coupons	Coupons	Corr-No of	Corr-Value
Month	- M	ember	Billing Member	Currency	Prime	Total Value of	Rejected	Amount	billing	billing	Rejected	Rejected	billing	billing	1st Rej.	1st Rej.	Rejected	Amount	billing	billing	2nd Rej.	2nd Rej.	Coupons	Prime	count Vs	Coupons	Prime	Value Vs	Accepted &	Expired &	Billed &	Coupons	of Coupons
Year		ode	Name	Code	Coupons	Prime Coupons	(R1)	(R1)	(R1)	(R1)	(R2)	Amount (R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R2)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	(R3)	Disputed	billing	Brd Rej.	Disputed	billing	3rd Rej.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Jan-(39 XX	-002	XX Airways	JSD	23,400	800,000.00	4,680.00	208,000.00	20.00	26.00	2,122	108,000.00	9.07	13.50	45.34	51.92	1,076	57,000.00	4.60	7.13	50.71	52.78	750	3.21	69.70	37,500.00	4.69	65.79	50	100	400	200	10,000.00
Jan-0	19 YY -	290	YY Air	JSD	60,000	1,000,000.00	10,000.00	140,000.00	16.67	14.00	4,000	87,000.00	6.67	8.70	40.00	62.14	2,120	42,000.00	3.53	4.20	53.00	48.28	1,673	2.79	78.92	33,460.00	3.35	79.67	40	678	672	283	5,660.00
Jan-(19 ZZ-	097	ZE Airlines	JSD	10,000	1,000,000.00	1,500.00	120,000.00	15.00	12.00	750	74,000.00	7.50	7.40	50.00	61.67	475	47,000.00	4.75	4.70	63.33	63.51	350	3.50	73.68	34,300.00	3.43	72.98	(0	319	31	3,038.00
	Т																																





Term	Definition
ACH	Airlines Clearing House
ATPCO	Airline Tariff Publishing Company
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
BSP	IATA Billing and Settlement Plan
BVC	Billing Value Check
FDR	Five Day Rate
FFP	Frequent Flyer Program
IBSOPS WG	Interline Billing and Settlement Operations Working Group
ICH	IATA Clearing House
ISC	Interline Service Charge
ISR	Industry Standard Record (enhanced version of TCN–Transmission Control Number data).
MMR	Mean Monthly Rate
PMP	Prorate Manual - Passenger
PRA(S)	Passenger Revenue Accounting (System)
RA	Revenue Accounting
RAM	IATA Revenue Accounting Manual
RATD	Revenue Accounting Tax Database
RM	Rejection Memo
SIRS	Simplified Involuntary Reroute Settlement
SIS	Simplified Invoicing and Settlement
SPA	Special Prorate Agreement
TCN	Transmission Control Number
ТРМ	Ticketed Point Mileage





8. Appendix A - SPA CODING CHECK LIST

CATEGORY		CODING OPTIONS	
A. VALIDITY DATE:			
Effective / Discontinue Date Гуре	Ticket Issue Date	Ticket Travel Date	Original Issue Date
3. TICKET TYPE:			
Original / Reissue	Original + Reissue against Own / SPA Airline Document	Original + Reissue Against any Airline Document	
nvoluntary Reroute *	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Schedule Change *	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
FIM	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Corporate Fare*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Group travel*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Frequent Flyer*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
General Sale Agent*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Four Conductor/Guide*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Seaman*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
Super Commission*	SPA Applicable	SPA Not Applicable	
C. JOURNEY TYPE:			I
Side Trip	SPA Applicable	Not Applicable	
Stopover /Transfer	Applicable	Not Applicable	
Differential	Applicable Fare Basis + Class Differential	Applicable Lower Fare Basis + Class Differential	No Class Differential
Plus Up	Applicable	Not Applicable	
Seasonality	Commencement of Travel Date	Travel Date	Fare Basis
Flight Range	Include (Own/Partner/Codeshare)	Exclude (Own/Partner/Codeshare)	
D. ATBP:			
Ficket Stock	Own Stock	Partner Stock	
Fare Owner	Own Fare	Partner Fare	
Fare Type	Normal / Special (ATPCO filing / RBD)	Published / Unpublished (Defined)	
Sector Type	Applicable to Single Sector ATBP	Applicable to Multiple Sector ATBP	
Class of Service	First / Business / Premium Economy / Economy	Default	



Joint Carriage	Required in ATBP	Not Required in ATBP but Required in the GFP / Routing	Not Required	
Third (3rd) Party Participation (MC / OC)	Allowed	Not Allowed in ATBP but Allowed in GFP / Routing	Not Allowed	
Through SPA Application (Consecutive Carriage)	Applicable (With/Without Transfer Point)	Not Applicable		
Through SPA with Different RBD (Consecutive Carriage)	Apply Revenue Share Based On RBD Of First Sector or Last Sector	Apply Revenue Share Based On Higher RBD or Lower RBD	Do Not Apply Through SPA	
Class Hierarchy				
Routing Qualifications (MC / OC)	Carrier XX is between TC12 in combination with YY within TC2	Carrier XX is between Africa and Europe in combination with YY within Europe		
E. SETTLEMENT METHOD:				
Revenue Share	Fixed Rates	% of PFM / TPM / VPM	SRP	Default Rates
Minimum Prorate Rule	Apply MPR Check	Do Not Apply MPR Check		
F. SURCHARGE:				
Q Surcharge	Applicable (Based on ATPCO Filing)	Applicable (Based on Special Instructions)	Not Applicable	
YQ/YR Carrier Imposed Fee	Applicable (Fixed Rate)	Applicable (ATPCO Filing)	Applicable (When collected and shown on the ticket)	Not Applicable
G. TICKET DISCOUNT:				
Infant	SPA will apply with discount	SPA will apply without any further discount	SPA Note Applicable (MPA will apply)	
Child	SPA will apply with discount	SPA will apply without any further discount	SPA Note Applicable (MPA will apply)	
ID / AD	SPA will apply with discount	SPA will apply without any further discount	SPA Note Applicable (MPA will apply)	
Other	SPA will apply with discount	SPA will apply without any further discount	SPA Note Applicable (MPA will apply)	
H. INTERLINE FEE:				
Interline Service Charge (ISC %)	SPA will apply with discount	Industry Rate	Not Allowed	
Handling Fee (HFEE %)	SPA will apply with discount	Industry Rate	Not Allowed	





Code Share Commission (CSC %)	SPA will apply with discount	Industry Rate	Not Allowed
I. Annexure/Attachments:	1		
Code Share			
J. Footnote / Recommendations:			
 b) Revenue Accountants sho ensure SPA clarity and codabil c) SPA Airline partners with s joint testing d) Settlement of 3rd party ma specified clearly 	ity same proration engine are	encouraged to Sync up Sl	

