



The Worldwide Airport Slot Board publishes its first joint Slot Guidelines

The first edition of the newly renamed Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG) is jointly published by ACI, IATA and WWACG, effective 1 June 2020.

In June 2019, Airports Council International (ACI) World, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the Worldwide Airport Coordinators Group (WWACG) announced a new governance structure for the slot guidelines that puts the interests of the traveling public at the centre of the process. This new governance structure is reflected in the Worldwide Airport Slot Board (WASB).

The Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG) is the result of airport operators, airlines and slot coordinators working together to modernize and improve the slot guidelines, whilst recognizing national or regional legislations. The first edition delivers improvements to slot policy and processes relied on by the global aviation community. The changes among others include improved opportunity for new entrant airlines to gain access to congested airports, in an effort to provide more competition and new services.

The WASG represents the successful collaboration of industry stakeholders to enhance global standards in airport slot coordination. Airport operators, airlines, and slot coordinators are committed to work together to continue improving the WASG and ensure slot policy and processes evolve while remaining an effective global solution to allocate and manage airport slots.

As the industry begins the challenging process of emerging from the worst crisis in commercial aviation history it is more important than ever that the three industry groups work together to provide guidance, best practices and continuity to the slot community through collaboration at the WASB.

The WASG is the globally relied upon guidance for allocating airport slots to airlines and managing their use. Through the recovery phase, slot coordination will provide an important role ensuring that planned operations match the available airport capacity. Whereas temporary enhancements to the slot process will be required to manage the recovery phase and enable the industry restart, the WASB is a focal point for providing recommendations that ensure consistent, practical, fair and sustainable solutions to aid the recovery of aviation activities.

Objectives of the WASG

The prime objective of airport slot coordination is to ensure the most efficient declaration, allocation and use of available airport capacity in order to optimize benefits to consumers, taking into account the interests of airports and airlines.



- a) To facilitate consumer choice of air services, improve global connectivity and enhance competition at congested airports for passengers and cargo.
- b) To provide consumers with convenient schedules that meet demand, are consistent from one season to the next, and reliable in terms of their operability.
- c) To ensure that slots are allocated at congested airports in an open, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner by a slot coordinator acting independently.
- d) To realize the full capacity potential of the airport infrastructure and to promote regular reviews of such capacity and demand that enable effectual capacity declarations for slot allocation on a seasonal basis.
- e) To balance airport access opportunities for existing and new airlines.
- f) To provide flexibility for the industry to respond to regulatory and changing market conditions, as well as changing consumer demand.
- g) To minimize congestion and delays.