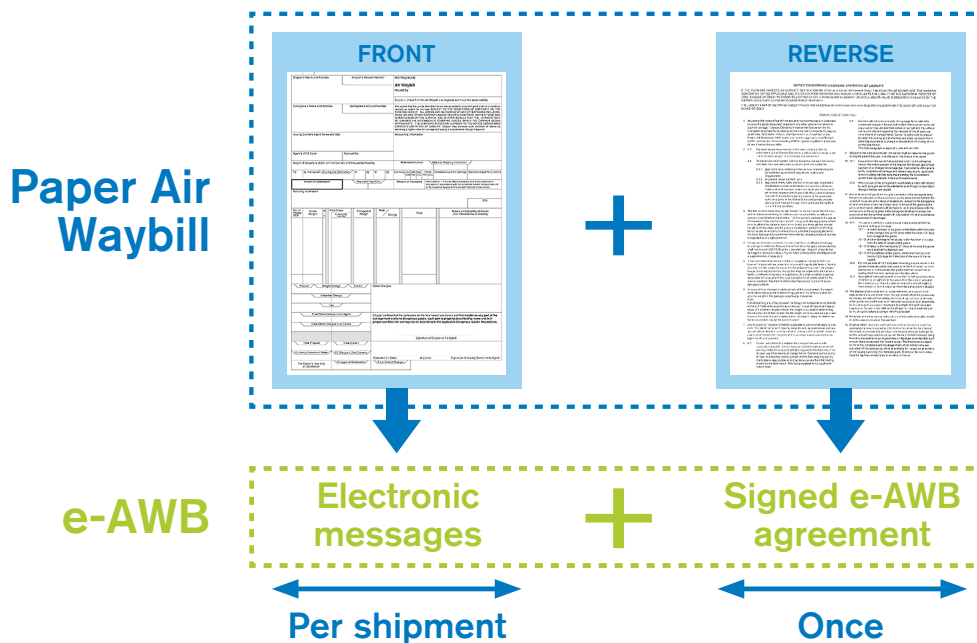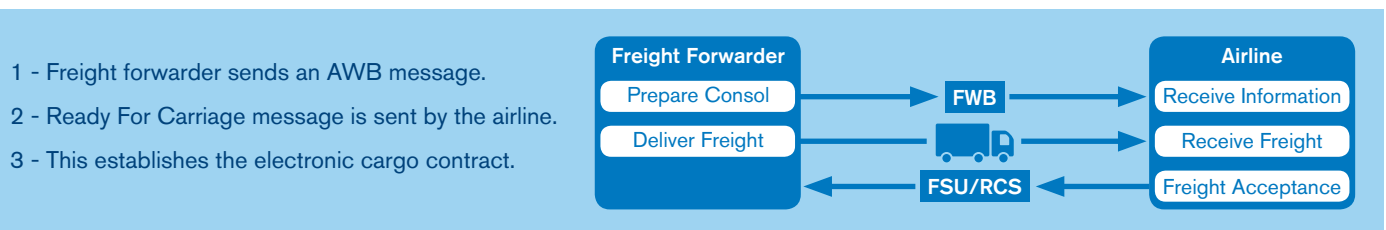# e-AWB Guide for Airlines

Would you like to

- Reduce your processing costs?
- Improve your reliability?
- Speed up the handling process?
- Stop archiving papers?

- Offer real-time status update on AWB information from everywhere?
- Support regulators and customs' demand for advance electronic information?

Move to e-AWB!

The e-AWB is the electronic equivalent of the paper AWB.

Paper Air Waybill = FRONT + REVERSE

e-AWB = Electronic messages (Per shipment) + Signed e-AWB agreement (Once)

The information contained on the front of the paper AWB is replaced with electronic messages:

1 - Freight forwarder sends an AWB message.

2 - Ready For Carriage message is sent by the airline.

3 - This establishes the electronic cargo contract.

The reverse side of the paper AWB, which provides the conditions of contract, is replaced by an e-AWB agreement. The conditions of contract remain the same.

Your checklist to implement!

✓ **Can you carry on your activities without paper AWB?**

The AWB is the contract of carriage with your shipper or freight forwarder but is also used for other purposes. Together with your ground handlers, review your processes and make them paperless: the electronic document is as good as its paper version!

To help you, IATA developed an e-AWB functional specifications and recommendations.
Feel free to use it for your own operations.

www.iata.org/e-AWB-process

✓ **Do you have the technology to support e-AWB?**

Your software should be able to:
- receive the AWB messages (FWB or Cargo-XML equivalent)
- send status update messages (FSU-RCS and -FOH or Cargo-XML equivalents)
- archive these electronic messages
- produce Cargo Receipts and make them available to freight forwarders
- print on-demand AWB information if need be

What if some of your customers don't have the technical capabilities? You might consider offering them a web portal solution they can use to generate electronic messages.

What if you are not ready yet? Many IT providers have developed e-AWB solutions – check a list on IATA website or consult local software providers.

✓ **Do you receive high-quality electronic messages?**

The quality of the electronic messages should be close to 100% as there will be no more paper AWB.
IATA can help you identify your data quality issues through the Message Improvement Program (MIP) – it is free!

✓ **Have you joined the IATA multilateral e-AWB agreement?**

If not yet, download, sign and send the agreement and submission form to IATA - it is free!

✓ **Have you engaged all your business partners?**

To facilitate the global rollout of e-AWB, it is recommended that you inform your partners (freight forwarders and ground handlers) of your ability to handle e-AWB for each of your stations. Your partners should do the same.
IATA can help you list your e-AWB capabilities and find out your partners' capabilities with the e-Cargo Matchmaker tool – it is free!

www.iata.org/cargo-matchmaker

✓ **Have you defined your e-AWB roll-out approach?**

- Decide at which airport you want to roll out e-AWB first. Typically the airline main hub is used
- Train the stakeholders who will be involved in the day-to-day handling of e-AWB shipments
- Go live with selected freight forwarders
- Roll-out e-AWB to other freight forwarders and other airports

More at www.iata.org/e-AWB
For any question, contact cargo@iata.org