



# New Distribution Capability (NDC)

*Together Let's Build Air Retailing*

**Guide to the NDC Certification Program**



# Scope of NDC Certification Program

## I. Certification: NDC Certified/NDC Capable

### 1. What Do We Certify?

The purpose of the NDC Certification Program is to confirm the scope and level of a particular entity's capability to receive and send NDC messages. The Program validates that the structure of the Applicant's NDC messages accurately follows the relevant version of the applicable NDC schemas.

The NDC Certification Program does not validate the content of the Applicant's messages, or of the quality or other aspects of the Applicant's activities or products, stand-alone or in comparison with those of other entities, nor does it validate, certify or endorse any commercial products that may be derived from the usage of NDC messages validated under any type of certification under the NDC Certification Program. Furthermore, by maintaining the NDC Registry, IATA does not take any position with respect to the relative quality or other aspects of the activities or products of entities that are not certified under the NDC Certification Program.

### 2. Certification Types and Levels Available

Airlines that deploy an NDC API and Sellers and Aggregators that consume an airline NDC API can apply for the **NDC Certified** designation, for a particular or several available versions of the NDC schemas, at either **Level 1, 2 or 3**.

Any IT providers that offer products based on the NDC standard for Airlines and Sellers/Aggregators can apply for the **NDC Capable** designation, for a particular or several available versions of the NDC schemas, at either **Level 1, 2 or 3**.

Different combinations of the following NDC message types are evaluated at each designation level, on the basis of the applicable schemas, for both NDC-Certified and NDC-Capable designations (as further detailed below in Section 3 "Application Requirements"):

- The Shopping schemas enable airlines to distribute their full product offers and to merchandize their baggage, seat choices and ancillary services, using rich content, in an anonymous or personalized manner.
- The Order Management schemas enable airlines to manage NDC-driven orders throughout the entire lifecycle, from booking to fulfilment. They are composed of:



- The schemas for Booking & Servicing, to enable airlines and sellers to manage the order from the traveler, once he/she has selected an offer, and service it at any point throughout the order lifecycle;
- The schemas for Payment & Ticketing, to enable airlines and sellers to collect and pass form of payment details for the supported payment methods, offered by the airlines and selected by the traveler; these schemas will also allow sellers to request accountable documents issuance to fulfil NDC-driven orders.

Eligible entities that are parties to the same NDC deployment (“**Deployment Partners**”) shall complete and submit separate Certification Applications in connection with the deployment in question, together with the required Supporting Documents. Each such entity may, as part of its Certification Application, submit the names of its Deployment Partners, together with proof that such Deployment Partners agree to have their names published as part of the entity’s NDC Registry entry.

### 3. Application Requirements

Airlines, Sellers and Aggregators are required to have a live deployment (i.e. messages in a production environment through a seller).

IT Providers can be granted the NDC-Capable designation as part of a live deployment or in their test environments.

The following table sets out the minimum messages that must be submitted for assessment, at each Level, as part of both NDC Certified and NDC Capable certification applications.

Minimum Requirements	Functionality	Schemas	Messages ( <i>minimum to be submitted for certification</i> )
Level 1	Post Booking Ancillaries	NDC 1.1.3 PADIS Publication 15.2 PADIS Publication 16.1 PADIS Publication 16.2 PADIS Publication 17.1 PADIS Publication 17.2 PADIS Publication 18.1 PADIS future releases	Minimum one pair of the below messages: BaggageAllowanceRQ.xsd BaggageAllowanceRS.xsd BaggageChargesRQ.xsd BaggageChargesRS.xsd BaggageListRQ.xsd BaggageListRS.xsd SeatAvailabilityRQ.xsd SeatAvailabilityRS.xsd ServiceListRQ.xsd ServiceListRS.xsd ServicePriceRQ.xsd ServicePriceRS.xsd



	Airline Profile	PADIS Publication 16.1 PADIS Publication 16.2 PADIS Publication 17.1 PADIS Publication 17.2 PADIS Publication 18.1 PADIS future releases	AirlineProfileNotif.xsd AirlineProfileRQ.xsd AirlineProfileRS.xsd
<b>Level 2</b>	Offer Management	NDC 1.1.3 PADIS Publication 15.2 PADIS Publication 16.1 PADIS Publication 16.2 PADIS Publication 17.1 PADIS Publication 17.2 PADIS Publication 18.1 PADIS future releases	AirShoppingRQ.xsd AirShoppingRS.xsd
<b>Level 3</b>	Offer and Order Management	NDC 1.1.3 PADIS Publication 15.2 PADIS Publication 16.1 PADIS Publication 16.2 PADIS Publication 17.1 PADIS Publication 17.2 PADIS Publication 18.1 PADIS future releases	AirShoppingRQ.xsd AirShoppingRS.xsd OrderCreateRQ.xsd OrderViewRS.xsd OrderChangeRQ.xsd

#### 4. Certification Process

1. Applicant must submit a duly completed and signed Certification Application and relevant Supporting Documents for each Applicant to [ndccertification@iata.org](mailto:ndccertification@iata.org), as follows:

**For Level 1:**

- For Level 1 (Post Booking Ancillaries) only: Post Booking Ancillaries traces (minimum one pair of messages among list provided for Level 1 (Post Booking Ancillaries) under Application Requirements in Section 3 of the NDC Certification Program Terms and Conditions, above).
- For Level 1 (Airline Profile) only: Airline Profile traces (subject to the minimum required for Level 1 (Airline Profile) under Application Requirements in Section 3 of the NDC Certification Program Terms and Conditions, above).
- Company logos to be posted on the NDC Registry (if applicable). Please send us your company logo as a separate attachment. Format: jpeg or gif.

**For Level 2:**

- Offer Management traces (NDC Shopping messages, subject to the minimum required under Application Requirements in Section 3 of the NDC Certification Program Terms and Conditions, above). Please see official definition of NDC Shopping messages at <http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/airline-distribution/ndc/Pages/schema-description.aspx>.



- Company logos to be posted on the NDC Registry (if applicable). Please send us your company logo as a separate attachment. Format: jpeg or gif.

**For Level 3:**

- Offer and Order Management traces (NDC Shopping and NDC Order Management messages, subject to minimum required under Application Requirements in Section 3 of the NDC Certification Program Terms and Conditions, above). Please see official definition of NDC Shopping and NDC Order Management messages at <http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/airline-distribution/ndc/Pages/schema-description.aspx>.
  - Company logos to be posted on the NDC Registry (if applicable). Please send us as a separate attachment your company logo. Format: jpeg or gif.
2. IATA will review that the Certification Application has been fully completed. In the event of an incomplete Application Form, IATA representatives will contact the Applicant to obtain missing details.
  3. Supporting Documents provided by the Applicant, including relevant NDC Message traces, are verified against the relevant NDC schemas by IATA technical subject matter experts (SMEs) to determine whether the requested certification designation may be granted. Before submitting the relevant NDC Message traces for IATA verification, we recommend that the Applicant perform a private validation exercise of the NDC Messages in question against the relevant official published NDC schema. The Applicant must submit a minimum of one (1) trace for each required NDC Message.
  4. In the event IATA's verification of the NDC Message traces submitted by Applicant yields any inconsistencies/errors when verified against the relevant NDC schemas, the Applicant will receive an Error Report detailing same, and will be asked to resubmit corrected NDC Message traces. Errors may arise in:
    - a. Traces for NDC Messages considered "minimum requirements" for certification in each Level, further to Section 3 above ("**Mandatory Messages**"); or
    - b. Traces for NDC Messages submitted by Applicant in addition to the Mandatory Messages ("**Additional Messages**").
  5. Certification will not be granted until the traces submitted for Mandatory Messages are successfully verified by IATA against the relevant NDC schemas. Where no errors arise in relation to Mandatory Messages, but some errors arise in relation to Additional Messages, the Applicant will receive the requested certification, but only the NDC Messages submitted for certification which did not reveal any errors will be published on the NDC Registry. When the Applicant submits the required corrections to the errors discovered, the remaining affected messages will also be added to the Applicant's file on the NDC Registry.
  6. The following Applicant information is posted on the NDC Registry:
    - a. Name
    - b. Logo and Website
    - c. Original Certification Date
    - d. Current Level of Certification



- e. Name of messages certified
  - f. Schema version of the messages certified
  - g. Date of certification of messages certified
  - h. Deployment Partners (if disclosed)
  - i. Special Remarks
  - j. Date of last change to certification
  - k. Type of such last change to certification (i.e. as a result of Supplemental Certification, or New Certification)
  - l. Certification expiration date
  - m. IATA Strategic Partner status, where applicable.
  - n. Contact Details
7. Once IATA has granted the Applicant's requested certification, and posted the relevant information in the NDC Registry, an Applicant may request at any time to add further Additional Messages to an existing certification, or to replace a previously certified Mandatory Message or Additional Message with the same message under a different NDC schema version (in either case, a "**Supplemental Certification**"). For a Supplemental Certification, the Applicant must follow the regular process for a new certification, including filling in a Certification Application and submitting required Supporting Documents for all messages for which certification is requested.
  8. If and once a Supplemental Certification is granted, the messages submitted for certification under the Supplemental Certification are added to the Applicant's initial certification, with the date of their certification indicated. The date of the original Level certification in connection with which a Supplemental Certification is granted remains the reference date for the purpose of calculating the due date for the Applicant's overall annual Renewal of Certification (as defined below).
  9. On a yearly basis from the date of the original NDC Certified or NDC Capable Level certification, the certified entity must confirm the status of its certification ("**Renewal of Certification**"). Renewal of Certification must be done with respect to all messages listed in connection with the respective Level certification, on the certified entity's NDC Registry file, on the date of each Renewal of Certification. To process a Renewal of Certification, each certified entity must complete the relevant Form provided by IATA and submit same to IATA, together with any required Supporting Documents, if applicable, as well as required fees, where applicable.
  10. The certified entity has two (2) months from each Renewal of Certification date to submit the required documents for a Renewal of Certification. Failure to submit the required documents within this timeline will result in the cancellation of the certification for the respective Level, including for all messages associated with same, and the deletion of the entity's certification file from the NDC Registry.
  11. Where a certified entity wishes to upgrade its certification to a higher Level, it must follow the same process as is required for a new certification ("**New Certification**").
  12. Certifications are valid as at the date on which the initial certification is granted for each individual message, as reflected in the relevant NDC Registry entry. By completing the yearly Renewal of Certification process, the Applicant confirms that the relevant messages for which it has received certification have not been modified in any way since the date of initial certification. IATA does not re-verify the messages in question at any time after the initial certification date. The date of the latest



Renewal of Certification is reflected in the “Certification Expiration Date” column of the entity’s NDC Registry entry.

## 5. Pricing

1. All fees for NDC certification were waived until June 30, 2016. As of July 1, 2016, the following Fees apply to IT Provider and Aggregator entities certified or requesting NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certification:

	Non-Strategic Partners	Strategic Partners*
<b>Application Fee for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Certification (NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable)</b></li> <li>• <b>Supplemental Certification (NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable)</b></li> </ul>	4950 USD	3300 USD
<b>Renewal Fee (yearly)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Payable for each one (1) year period starting with January 1</b></li> </ul>	1125 USD	750 USD

\*Strategic Partners active as at the time of application/renewal as recorded in the IATA Strategic Partner Directory available at: <http://www.iata.org/about/sp/Pages/partners.aspx>

2. The Renewal of Certification process must be completed on a yearly basis from the date of the original NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certification. For clarity, if the original certification date is June 1, 2016, the first Renewal of Certification, including payment of the Renewal Fee, must be completed on or prior to June 1, 2017 and on or before every June 1 thereafter.
  - 2.1. Where the Applicant is already NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certified and recorded as such on the NDC Registry, and a New Certification (different Level, with Level 1 (Post Booking Ancillaries) and Level 1 (Airline Profile) considered different Levels) is granted, the date of the Applicant’s original NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certification will be amended to the date the New Certification is granted. The date the New Certification is granted becomes the new Renewal Date for the Applicant’s overall certification, with the next Renewal of Certification due one (1) year after the date the New Certification is granted.
  - 2.2. Where the Applicant is already NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certified and recorded as such on the NDC Registry, and a Supplemental Certification (additional messages for the same Level) is granted, the date of the Applicant’s original NDC-Certified or NDC-Capable certification in connection with which a Supplemental Certification is granted remains the Renewal Date for the purposes of calculating the due date for the Applicant’s overall annual Renewal of Certification. If the Supplemental Certification is granted during the three (3) months before the Renewal Date, the completion of the Renewal of Certification will not be required on the immediately following Renewal Date. For clarity, if the original



certification date (i.e. the Renewal Date) is June 1, 2016, with the first Renewal of Certification due to be completed one or before June 1, 2017, and a Supplemental Certification is granted on March 15, 2017, the completion of the Renewal of Certification process is not required on or before June 1, 2017. Renewals of Certification will again become required on or before June 1, 2018 and on or before every June 1 thereafter (subject to further changes to the Renewal Date caused by any New Certifications or additional Supplemental Certifications being granted).

3. All Invoices for New Certification and Supplemental Certification applications must be paid in order to finalize the NDC Certification application process.
4. For Renewals of Certification, each certified entity will receive, one (1) month before each yearly Certification Expiration Date, via the e-mail address recorded in your NDC Registry Profile:
  - a. an invoice for the next year's Renewal Fee in relation to its existing valid certified status, and
  - b. a request for confirmation that the information on the basis of which the certification in question was originally granted (data and traces) remains exactly the same.
5. A failure to complete a Renewal of Certification (i.e. pay the Renewal Fee and complete the validation of the data and traces) within the specified deadlines will result in the removal of your certification record from the NDC Registry.
6. Special price applies for startups – please contact the NDC Certification team at [ndccertification@iata.org](mailto:ndccertification@iata.org) to learn more about the applicable conditions. A start up is defined as a newly formed company between 1 to 3 years in business and with less than 5 employees.
7. IATA may reserve the right to modify the applicable fees by providing notification of changes sixty (60) days in advance. Current up-to-date Fees can be found at any time at: [www.iata.org/ndc](http://www.iata.org/ndc), under the Certification Tab.

## 6. Benefits

- **Certificate** - Receive a Certificate confirming the type and level of certification granted.
- **Recognition** - Permission to display in association with the certified entity the NDC Certified or NDC Capable logo applicable to the Level for which certification has been granted, in accordance with the IATA NDC Certification Program Label Guidelines.
- **Exposure** – Certified entities and relevant information are listed on the NDC Registry.
- **Language** – IATA will provide standard wording for use by certified entities, to enable same to provide a consistent, clear explanation of the meaning of the type and level of certification granted to the certified entity.
- **Community** – Certified entities gain access to the NDC LinkedIn Group, where new certified entities, events, standard updates and testimonials will be communicated.
- **Visibility** – IATA will advertise selected NDC Certified and NDC Capable entities at certain designated meetings. NDC Capable IT Providers and NDC Certified Aggregators will also have the opportunity to have their solutions/services featured in the NDC Newsletter, as well as to submit their APIs for participation in NDC Hackathons.

