

The International Air Transport Association is one of the most important international professional associations. It is the world organization of scheduled airlines. It has become the mediator by which individual airlines knit their individual networks into a worldwide public services system, despite differences in languages, currencies, laws and measurements. Thanks to airline cooperation through the IATA, individual passengers can, by one telephone call and a payment in a single currency, arrange journeys including many countries and services of several scheduled airlines. Member airlines have developed the Standard IATA Reservations Interline Message Procedures - Passenger (AIRIMP) for the purpose of communicating with each other when making interline reservations today usually done by computerized reservation systems in order to ensure uniformity, understanding, accuracy and economy. The IATA publishes a lot of manuals containing information and instructions for all sectors of air transport. Its Airline Coding Directory, for example, published three times a year, is the official industry source for airline designators and location identifiers. Its list of three-digit and three-letter airline codes is a blueprint for everyone working in air travel business. It also includes currency and country codes, as well as three-letter codes for all major cities and airports. It lists contacts for reservation departments, central offices addresses, emergency notification, ticketing time limits and minimum connecting time coordinators. Charges imposed worldwide by airports, air navigation services providers, and en-route charges by countries can be found in the manual called Airport and Air Navigation Charges. Sometimes airlines are put in the unfortunate position of having to involuntarily reroute passengers and then the IATA Airline Guide to Involuntary Rerouting is to be followed. Sometimes settlement between participating customers of the Cargo and Passenger Easy and reliable settlement between participating customers of the Cargo and Passenger business is also supervised by the IATA. The IATA's mission is also to provide detailed information on vital statistics including passenger and freight traffic. IATA database "GABI/World Air Transport Statistics" is a unique on-line service, which allows airline companies to perform benchmarking and trend analysis as well as to improve forecasting accuracy. The IATA also sets goals and objectives for air transport in general. Among its projects is e.g. replacement of all paper tickets by electronic tickets in the near future, and the implementation of common use of Self-Service Check-in Kiosks at airports, and implementation of Radio Frequency Identification technology for baggage sorting and handling to reduce the number of mishandled baggage. The IATA has initiated many intergovernmental agreements, the most important ones are mentioned below.

■ scheduled airlines = linkové letecké společnosti, mediator = zprostředkovatel, currency = měna, uniformity = jednotu, accuracy = přesnost, economy = hospodárnost, manual = návod, manual, emergency notification = nouzové upozornění, ticketing = vystavování letenek, minimum connecting time = čas nutný pro přestup, charge = poplatky, impose = uvalit, en-route = po cestě, involuntarily = nedobrovolně, reroute = přeložit na jiný let jinou trasou, settlement = urovnání, forecasting = předpověď, accuracy = přesnost, self-service check-in kiosk = samoobslužný stojan pro registraci, baggage sorting = třídění zavazadel, mishandled baggage = zranitelné zavazadlo

The Chicago Convention

In 1944, governments concluded a basic convention regulating international air transport in Chicago. Hence, it is called the Chicago convention. It governs relations between countries on both technical and commercial subjects concerning international air transport. It draws a distinction between scheduled and non-scheduled services. Operation of scheduled international services is subjected to bilateral agreements, known as "bilateral", signed between two countries. Each country designates its scheduled carrier and the agreements specify the rights that the designated carrier enjoys in the other country, as well as the cities, which may be served by the designated airlines. The rights of designated carriers to overfly the country or to make a stop for technical reasons only are called the Freedoms of the Air.

■ conclude a convention = uzavřít dohodu, to be subject to = podléhat, designated = určený, označený, jmenovaný (zde: národní přepravce), carrier = přepravce, overfly = přeletět, technical stop = technická zastávka, mezijazyční

The Warsaw Convention

An intergovernmental agreement called the Warsaw Convention was concluded in 1929 with the aim of unification of certain rules relating to international carriage by air. This convention was amended at the Hague in 1955. The convention governs and, in most cases, limits the liability of carriers for death or personal injury and for loss of or damage to baggage. The convention is applicable if the passenger's journey involves an ultimate destination or a stop in a country other than the country of departure.

■ carriage = přeprava, liability = odpovědnost, injury = úraz, loss = ztráta, applicable = použitelný, damage to = škoda na něčem