



# RECOMMENDED BCBP DOCUMENT LAYOUT

IATA – Simplifying the Business  
Bar Coded Boarding Pass  
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May 2007

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The BCBP standard defines the 2D bar code and the data contained in the bar code. An airline implementing BCBP has to re-design the layout of the boarding pass to include the 2D bar code. The BCBP standard does not provide guidelines regarding the size and position of the bar code, the human readable data or the size of the boarding pass.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Provide guidelines and reduce the need for internal design discussions to 200+ airlines that have to implement BCBP
- Assist third parties (airport authorities, ground handlers, software vendors) in dealing with BCBP

The purpose of the document is NOT to:

- Standardize a unique boarding pass layout
- Force airlines to adopt a unique boarding pass layout

## SCOPE OF THE RECOMMENDATION

When designing a boarding pass for desk, kiosk or web check-in, airlines have the following recommended options:

- No pre-printed text

The BCBP should be printed on plain paper. Pre-printed text on airline paper stock is not recommended because it may interfere with the 2D bar code.

- A4/letter size, ATB size or credit card size

A4/Letter size are recommended for web check-in. ATB size is recommended for single and multiple segment boarding passes issued at desk and kiosk. Credit card size boarding passes can also be issued for single segment boarding passes.

- Multiple segment

The BCBP standard enables multiple flight segment to be stored into one single boarding pass. This option should be preferred for through checked passengers in order to save paper and hassle at the gate.

- Human readable data

Although the BCBP standard does not define human readable data, it is recommended to include a minimum set of data (see below) in order to facilitate passenger processing in the airport.

- Size of the bar code

The bar code resolution should be high enough so that scanner can read the bar code; but the bar code should be small enough to fit into the scanning area of the scanner (see below).

- Position of the bar code

The bar code should be printed horizontally or vertically. A quiet zone (white space) is required around the bar code to enable scanning.

# HUMAN READABLE TEXT

Recommended Practice 1706d Attachment A defines the minimum data elements to be included on a boarding pass.

## Minimum

- Passenger Name
- Date of flight (DD/MMM)
- Marketing carrier
- Flight number (marketing carrier)
- Schedule Departure Time
- Cabin or Class of travel
- From City
- To City
- Seat number
- Ticket type identifier (paper or electronic)
- Terminal/Gate number
- Operated by

The following items, not available in RP 1706d but used by airlines, may be added.

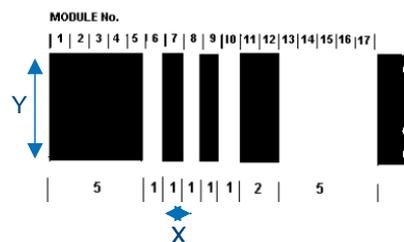
## Optional

- Sequence number
- Booking reference
- E-ticket number
- Operating airline
- Agent type (e.g. Web)
- Gate close time
- Frequent flyer Tier and Number
- Remarks (e.g. wheelchair)
- Other travel information (e.g. where to drop a bag)

# BAR CODE SIZE

The recommended size, based on the definition of the PDF417 standard, is:

- X Dim = 10 mils or 0.254 mm
- Y/X ratio = 3
- Y Dim = 30 mils or 0.762 mm
- Max size: 2.9 x 2.0 inch or 73.7 x 50.8mm



Where:

- X Dim is the width of the smallest element of the bar code
- Y Dim is the height
- Max size is the size of the bar code at full capacity (928 codewords) using the X and Y Dim

# BOARDING PASS LAYOUT

The layout below follow the recommendations on the size of the boarding pass and the bar code, the human readable text and the multiple flight document:

Validating carrier (logo)				E-Ticket ETKT					 Max: 2.9 inch / 73.7mm
Name	LASTNAME/F								
From	To	Flight	Date	Departure	Gate close	Class	Seat	Sq	
<b>GENEVE</b>	PARIS CDG	AF5106	06 DEC	08:55	<b>08:40</b>	Y	<b>08A</b>	155	
<b>PARIS CDG</b>	MIAMI	AF4854	06 DEC	11:20	<b>11:00</b>	Y	<b>44E</b>	099	
<b>MIAMI</b>	CANCUN	AF327	06 DEC	17:12	<b>17:02</b>	Y	<b>10F</b>	007	

The vertical bar code provides a better quality printing on older ATB printers.

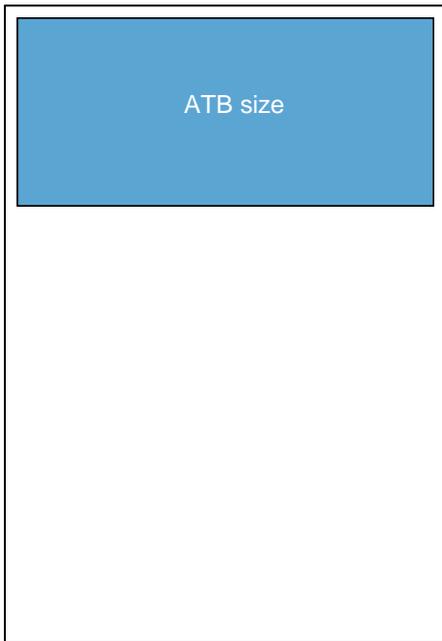
## Notes:

- The blue background represent the required human readable items.
- The blue dotted line represents the quiet zone of the bar code.

Validating carrier (logo)				E-Ticket ETKT					
Name	LASTNAME/F								
From	To	Flight	Date	Departure	Gate close	Class	Seat	Sq	
<b>GENEVE</b>	PARIS CDG	AF5106	06 DEC	08:55	<b>08:40</b>	Y	<b>08A</b>	155	
<b>PARIS CDG</b>	MIAMI	AF4854	06 DEC	11:20	<b>11:00</b>	Y	<b>44E</b>	099	
<b>MIAMI</b>	CANCUN	AF327	06 DEC	17:12	<b>17:02</b>	Y	<b>10F</b>	007	

The horizontal bar code enables the agent to read the text while scanning the bar code, when using a type of desk-fixed scanners.

Similar recommendations apply to boarding passes issued on the web, except that the size of the boarding pass depends on the paper used by the passenger.



The blue background represents the area where the recommended layout of ATB size document applies.

The rest of the document below the blue background can be used to provide travel information for the passenger, including:

- How to proceed in the airport with this boarding pass
- Where to check-in baggage
- Options to check that the flight is on time or to change the booking
- Legal notices on baggage and air transportation

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Airlines in the BCBP Working Group contributed to this document

For more information, please visit: <http://www.iata.org/stbsupportportal/bcbp/materials/>