COMMON USE

Introduction

Common Use means the flexible and shared use of airport facilities through shared technology and infrastructure. It provides a platform for airlines, airports and ground handling agents to support their passenger processes at a given location, typically at an airport terminal, but may be off-site such as sea ports, hotels and train stations.

Common Use Expectation

The whole passenger process has changed and continues to evolve. There is now pressure on airport automation with new ways of servicing the customer (e.g. web, kiosk, mobile phone or fully automated check-in channels). At the same time, there is a need to maintain infrastructure to provide services in a traditional way for customers who want it. This is challenging and very expensive to do.

The CUWG developed the following vision in order to have a more flexible infrastructure that can do both without doubling the costs.

By 2020, common use will provide flexibility of choice to deploy services based on interfaces adhering to industry standards.

These interfaces will range from Web Services, Cloud computing and mobile devices through to standard desktop offerings.

Whether platforms are physical or virtual, there will be standard interfaces presented to the application so that the concept, first introduced by CUPPS and CUSS, of 'certify on one platform, run on many' will remain as a core principle.

IATA's Perspective on Common Use Standards (CUSS, CUPPS and Web Services)

In common use/shared systems environments IATA recommends the adoption of Recommended Practice RP 1706c on Common Use Self Service (CUSS), RP 1797 on Common Use Passenger Processing Systems (CUPPS) and RP 1741 on standardized data exchange supporting common use self-service bag drop through the use of web services technology. These three common use industry standards effectively support the air transport industry's business strategies and needs.

Consequently, it is recommended that as new contracts are negotiated, platform operators (such as airports or Common Local User Boards - CLUBS) request CUSS and / or CUPPS platforms for their common use environment together with the ability to include web services technology.

The Benefits of Common Use

• Reduces costs for airlines and airports by simplifying the development, installation, support and ongoing maintenance of vital passenger processing and operations.

• Allows airlines to have one application that works as expected on any vendor's standard interface.

• Allows the standard interface to work at any airport including on site and off site, ensuring product and service consistency.

• Provides a structured environment and standard interfaces for introducing new technologies that support the evolving needs of the air transport industry.

• Enables timeliness of changes to systems.