

30th of October 2006

Press Release

Carpatair, the first Romanian airline to adopt IATA standard E-ticketing policy 431 days earlier

Timisoara, 30 October 2006 – In 2005, Carpatair became the first Romanian airline to pass the IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit) examination successfully, which allowed our company to join IATA (International Air Transport Association) as a member with full rights. In 2006, 431 days before the deadline established by IATA through the “Simplifying the Business” program, Carpatair became the first Romanian airline company to successfully implement the E-ticketing by issuing its first electronic tickets, on 25 October. These were processed for the Timisoara - Bucharest and Paris - Timisoara flights. Their issuance was a premiere for the company.

In 2005, Carpatair acquired and began the implementation of four IT solutions developed by the worldwide leader in IT and Aeronautic Communications – SITA (Société Internationale de Télécommunications Aéronautiques). One of the four applications purchased from SITA was E-ticketing. The implementation of IATA standard E-ticketing began at Carpatair with the domestic flights: Timisoara - Bucharest, Iasi, Suceava, Constanta, and soon after, continued with the rest of Romanian cities having daily flights to Paris, Chisinau, and Lviv through Timisoara. The other destinations operated by Carpatair to Germany and Italy will follow soon, step-by-step.

Why electronic tickets?

Two years ago, IATA initiated a worldwide project called “Simplifying the Business”, meant to eliminate, by the end of 2007, all paper documents used for passengers and cargo in the air transportation industry. In the IATA vision, the entire mechanism of passenger and cargo processing and check-in must become completely automatic. By the end of 2007, most of the airlines would have to make massive investments to modernize the entire check-in system.

What are the advantages of E-ticketing for passengers, travel and ticketing agencies and airlines?

For passengers, the issuance of electronic tickets considerably reduces the time for preparing their travel and increases its convenience. A single electronic ticket can be used by a passenger easily and with no stress for a travel throughout the world, giving them the possibility to change reservation even among several airlines, but most importantly, it eliminates a stressful, unpleasant situation such as the ticket loss or damage.

An electronic ticket does not need to be printed for the check-in formalities. From now on, check-in processing can be done only based on a valid passport or identity card. The information regarding the itinerary, flight number, fare and booking class remain stocked in the airline's database.

To travel agencies and ticketing offices, E-ticketing allows operating the possible changes of the passenger's itinerary in real time, but also the elimination of charges incurred at the issuance of a paper ticket, etc.

Concerning the airlines, IATA estimates an approximately 300-million dollar saving for over 300 million paper tickets used in a year. This economy would result from the elimination of printing costs, distribution, storage and manual registration of the information on the ticket. Meanwhile, frauds would be eliminated as well.

This step represents an important phase in the process of integration of all activities, which was initiated by Carpatair early in 2005, with the acquisition of IT program packages whose implementation is in progress.

Carpatair Marketing Department