

BACKGROUND

In April 2011, ATPCO and the industry implemented the Baggage product into Optional Services as Service Types A (Allowance) and C (Baggage Charges).

Since that time, it has been proven that airline policies are not standard with regards to the weights and sizes of bags permitted free and for a charge. ATPCO has received 100's of requests (see highlighted on previous page) for new industry sub codes that are weight and size specific. This has accommodated airlines but diluted the intent of using sub codes as an industry standard.

This lack of standardized sub codes has an impact on interline baggage. Airlines are not sure what another airline's sub code means. This impacts interline pricing, reservations, ticketing and revenue accounting.

The first step to standardize sub codes is to move the sub codes with carrier-specific weights and sizes into the Weight & Size Table 192.

AIRLINE PRIORITY

At the 2018 ATPCO Optional Services and Branded Fares WG, standardizing sub codes was listed as the #4 priority. This was two steps up from the previous Optional Services and Branded Fares Working Group where it was ranked #6. As documented in the meeting minutes, several airlines and systems agreed to participate in a Task Force to standardize sub codes.

The Weight & Size Table Concept came out of the Optional Services and Branded Fares Working Group and the Baggage Migration Task Forces as the first step in standardizing sub codes. It has gone through the ATPC Milestone process (which includes approval of the high-level and detailed level design).

ATPCO is surveying airlines through the Baggage Migration Community to better understand how soon airlines want Weight & Size Table 192 adoption. ATPCO welcomes airlines to provide their feedback.

Baggage Migration Community web site – <https://info.atpco.net/baggage-migration-community> (pass: atpcobmc)

Survey on Weight & Size Table 192 business need (link also available at the Baggage Migration Community) - https://atpcodigital.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2n0YWbJnTcYSIGF

CONSIDERATIONS

It also needs to be considered how these sub codes will be booked and ticketed and revenue accounted for after pricing. Systems need to be able to accommodate these standard sub codes in reservations, ticketing and departure control systems.

Airline flexibility also needs to be taken into account. Airlines don't want to lose the control they have over how they offer their products.

Then there is a cost / benefit that must be considered. Is the benefit of tighter standards worth the cost of the changes required?

ROADMAP

The Weight & Size Table 192 is implemented in ATPCO Optional Services Record S5 today.

To achieve industry adoption, the approach decided by the Optional Services & Branded Fares Working Group is as follows:

(1) standardize Heavy & Oversize within the Allowance* sub codes by requiring carrier-specific weights and sizes coded within the Weight & Size Table 192.

Adoption per the ATPCO Product Development Plan is scheduled for 2nd quarter 2021. This is subject to airline feedback expressing it's priority.

(2) create a Task Force to eliminate additional sub codes in the future. This Task Force is planning to be **convened in January 2021** to standardize further groups of sub codes.

*Heavy and Oversize within the Allowance is defined as a bag that does not exceed the free allowance piece number but is heavier and/or larger than the free allowance weight and/or size per piece

RECOMMENDED SUB CODES

The Baggage Migration Task Force and the Optional Services Working Group have created a list of the recommended sub codes to be used for the migration. This list is kept on the Baggage Migration web site.

Please direct your browser to the Baggage Migration Community web site - Baggage Migration Community web site – <https://info.atpco.net/baggage-migration-community> (pass: atpcobmc)

Please refer to the link “Recommended Sub Codes”.