

# AEA Technical Specifications

2011 Edition

ATB | Self-Service Kiosk | BTP | BGR



One of many AEA compatible ATB printers:  
Unimark XP

### The story:

In the early 1980s European airlines, members of the AEA, took an important decision in driving a new technology in the field of ticketing and check-in.

The Automated Ticketing & Boarding pass with the magnetic stripe technology was launched, first in common experimentation and later with the real-time introduction of a new generation of printer/reader/encoder machines.

Throughout its development experts from all AEA member airlines were involved in deciding and defining the hardware and software/firmware specifications, linking the airport based ticket processes with the airline's own host computer.

The joint initiative by European airlines has allowed AEA to adopt a standard approach to the machine printing and reading of ticket information as well as being the leaders in launching a new technology, based on existing industry standard and designed in conjunction with airlines and vendors.

AEA specifications are now recognized worldwide as industry standard for ATB, BTP and BGR equipment.

### The product:

The AEA ATB, BTP and BGR specifications detail the message exchange method between applications and the printers / readers used in the airport and airline travel environment. The "how" you get the data to hardware and the "what" the responses must look like.

The data content itself is defined by IATA or ICAO in the corresponding resolutions and recommendations and technical rules are established by ISO standards.

### What is new in the 2011 Edition?

**ATB Amendments**

**BGR Amendments**

### BTP (Bagtag) Amendments

- New EP parameters (autodetect, truncate, platener)
- Unsolicited Status change - SQNI
- updated Status message SQOK
- updated Support for RFID readers/printers/encoders
- (Pectab update, errors update, read commands) CB/CBOK added
- TO/TOOK added
- EP parameter BEEP updated
- Receipt printing added to BTP message

### Baggage Scale Amendments

- Baggage Scale Amendments
- SQOK, SQNI & ERRW updated with new states
- Support for payment transactions (Alibi mechanism/feature explained)
- Reference table for SQNI handling
- RCOK response enhanced with #A
- New EP command RESET
- Device id BSP added for AVOK and RIOK
- EP parameters UNSOL, BSTMODE, BSPRECIS updated
- Commands SA, SX added
- Calibration and adjustment clarified

### Who should buy the AEA Technical Specifications?

- **Vendors** who wish to offer their hardware product (printers, readers, scanners, etc.) with AEA compatibility to airport, airline, shared systems providers and other transport business related clients.
- **IT companies** / system integrators who wish to integrate airport, airline and other transport business related hardware to conform to AEA standards.
- **Airlines** and **handling agent** IT departments who have to certify hardware or have to understand or explore the technical "hows" of the business.

AEA – the **Association of European Airlines** – brings together 36 major airlines, and has been the trusted voice of the European airline industry for over 50 years.

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- Intermec



### AEA - Technical Specifications 2011

The AEA Technical WG meets on a regular basis to update the specifications to adapt to the new technologies.

Please address your queries to [atbspecs@aea.be](mailto:atbspecs@aea.be)

Since 2002 there have been important revisions in 2006, in 2007, in 2008 and in 2009, with enhancements in barcode printing, inclusion of new commands and the introduction of **RFID** compatibility in baggage tag printers.

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