

## Positive Passenger Bag Match (PPBM)

Scope: Americas  
Applicability: Ground  
Issued on: 23DEC24

### PPBM Origin's, Importance, and Best Practices

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Positive Passenger Bag Matching “ensures all checked baggage is matched to a boarded passenger,” and the “process is crucial for preventing unaccompanied baggage from being transported, thereby enhancing the overall security of air travel.”

#### **Case Studies:**

- ❖ Air India Flight 182 – 25 June 1985 - British Columbian Sikh separatists placed a bomb on the aircraft killing all 329 people onboard. Three days prior to the bombing, at Vancouver International Airport, the perpetrators checked in suitcases for two Canadian Pacific Airlines flights and the two connecting Air India flights. Neither of the two individuals who checked the suitcases boarded the flight. The bombs detonated in the rear cargo hold at 31,000 over the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ Pan Am Flight 103 – 18 December 1988 - Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed 38 minutes after takeoff, when a bomb in the forward cargo area exploded, killing all 243 passengers, 16 crew members and 11 residents. The plane was at 31,000 feet over Lockerbie, Scotland. The bomb was constructed using Semtex (an odorless plastic explosive) and hidden in a cassette player that was stored in a suitcase. The passengers who checked the suitcases never boarded the plane.

#### **Best Practices:**

##### **Where tracking/reconciliation is performed electronically**

1. Scan the ULD/baggage cart card for the designated appropriate category.
2. Scan the barcode of the baggage tag.
3. Verify the baggage is confirmed as being on the correct flight.
  - a. Visually inspect the baggage tag and electronically scan the barcode, and ensure a positive match is received before loading into the ULD.

##### **Where reconciliation is performed manually:**

1. Visually inspect the baggage tag to check the flight number and destination.
2. Detach one of the removable (sticky) tabs and apply it to the ULD/baggage card (bingo card).
3. Place tagged baggage in the appropriate ULD/baggage cart.
4. Compare the expected count and received count to receive a zero missed rate. Immediately notify the appropriate person if counts are different.

## ***Exceptional Service Begins with the Details***