

Through Checked Baggage Policy – Separate Tickets

[Policy Reminder](#)

[Policy Enhancement](#)

[Notification Guidelines](#)

[Baggage Through-Check FAQ](#)

Policy Reminder

In September of 2016, AA updated our Baggage Through-Check Policy to be in alignment with our [oneworld](#) partners, to reduce baggage mishandlings, and to allow for a better customer experience. Customers and baggage will be through-checked when all of the tickets are in the same PNR and the connection on the second ticket is to any of our [oneworld](#) airlines and affiliates. This Policy was put in place due to the following considerations:

Limited authority

- Interline agreements provide authority to through-check only to points named on the ticket that involves the originating airline's space.

Limited access to information

- On non-oneworld downline separate tickets where there are no "AA" flights involved, American's airport agents and our automation cannot display the ETR to read the baggage allowance provisions.

Baggage charges on local fares

- Downline carriers are entitled to collect their own applicable baggage charges. Some fares may exclude the allowance of any checked baggage.

[Return to top](#)

Policy Enhancements

Identifying separate tickets

- American is implementing a process that will notify the booking source when we observe separate tickets in the same PNR where the connection does not qualify for through-checked bags. This is to ensure that our mutual customer is aware of the following conditions when ticketed separately:
 - Baggage charges which may now be due for that second portion of the trip
 - Potential complications in the event of schedule changes, Flight Delays, and/or cancellations
- PNR's identified in this process will have the following SSR remarks:

GENERAL FACTS

SSR OTHS YY ADVISORY THRU CHECKING OF BAGS INVALID WITH
SSR OTHS YY SEPARATE TICKETS IN SAME PNR ON MULTIPLE AIRLINES
SSR OTHS YY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING

Note: This automation will require check-in with an Airport agent for such itineraries.

[Return to top](#)

Notification Guidelines

Points to share upon notification

- [Baggage at the transfer point](#)
 - Travel agents should alert customers holding separate tickets to expect their baggage to be checked only to the destination shown on the ticket with their originating flight and that separate baggage charges may apply for the second ticket.
- [Connecting time at the transfer point](#)
 - “Minimum Connecting Time” (MCT) guidelines are intended for use by passengers holding a single ticket, where interline agreements support through-checking baggage.

If separate tickets are being issued, verify there is enough time for your customer to claim any checked baggage and proceed to the downline airline’s check-in area for the continuing flight. The customer is required to collect their baggage and re-check within the appropriate time allowance required at that city. The downline airline will be responsible for collection of any additional baggage charges, should they apply.

- [International Connections](#)
 - Prior to international travel, be sure to verify the customer’s documents (I.e. passport, visa, and other documents) that may be required at the transfer point (i.e., the next stopover point noted on the ticket for the originating flight) for entry as a local arriving customer.

[Return to top](#)

Baggage Through-Check – Separate Tickets FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How does the through-check baggage policy affect customers?

For customers holding a single ticket that involves other airline flights down-line from American, American will continue to through-check their bags to the next point of stopover.

For customers holding a separate ticket for down-line connecting flights booked in the same PNR, American will continue to through-check bags exclusively to [oneworld](#) airlines to the point of stopover and collect the other airlines’ applicable baggage charges.

Customers combining an AAdvantage® award ticket with an agency ticket should contact the Aadvantage department for further detail.

2. What if I have separate tickets in the same PNR for itineraries with American to a non-oneworld carrier?

Our policy on American to non-oneworld airline tickets has not changed. We will not through-check customers or bags even if the tickets are in the same PNR. The customer will need to collect their baggage at the final destination on the American 001 ticket. The customer is responsible for the baggage fees associated on the second ticket when the baggage is re-checked with the [non-oneworld](#) airline. This may involve exiting the secure area to claim and re-check the baggage. International flights may require clearing customs and rechecking on the other airline to the final destination.

3. Will American through-check baggage when separate tickets containing “connecting” flights to an airline that American does not have an interline agreement with?

No - the customer is responsible for the baggage fees associated on the second ticket when the baggage is re-checked with other airline. This may involve exiting the secure area to claim and re-check the baggage. International flights may require clearing customs and rechecking on the other airline to the final destination.

4. What if I have separate tickets in separate PNRs for itineraries with American to a [oneworld](#) airline?

When there are separate tickets issued in separate PNR's, customer's baggage will be checked to the final destination of the American 001 ticket. The customer is responsible for the baggage fees associated on the second ticket when the baggage is re-checked with the [oneworld](#) airline. This may involve exiting the secure area to claim and re-check the baggage. International flights may require clearing customs and rechecking on the other airline to the final destination.

5. What would be the bag charges if the customer holds separate tickets in separate PNRs?

The customer will need to collect their bag at the final destination on the American 001 ticket. They will pay for the bag on the second ticket when they recheck it. This may involve exiting the secure area, then claiming and re-checking the bags. The Minimum Connecting Time (MCT) will usually not be sufficient when the customer has separate tickets issued for each airline.

6. What will customers be charged if American can through-check the bag?

The charges would depend on what tickets the customer holds in the same PNR

7. Do Alaska and our other codeshare/interline partners count as affiliate airlines?

No, the [oneworld](#) affiliate airlines are generally the regional partners of the other [oneworld](#) airline. If a customer held an AS ticket and an AA ticket in the same PNR we would not through check the bag. They would need to reclaim and then recheck their bag with AS.

8. If I have an existing mileage award ticket in one PNR with a connection on a separate non-oneworld revenue ticket in a different PNR, will the customer's bags be through checked to the final stopover point?

No - the customer is responsible for the baggage fees associated on the second ticket when the baggage is re-checked with the other airline. This may involve exiting the secure area to claim and re-check the baggage. International flights may require clearing customs and rechecking on the other airline to the final destination.

For future bookings it is suggested the customer have their complete travel in the same PNR to allow for the baggage to be through-checked. The agency or customer should contact AAdvantage for assistance in booking their travel.

[Return to top](#)

Updated: October 12, 2018