Aviation Passenger Contracts Monday 8 May 2017: Module 3

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OVERVIEW

- I. What is a ticket?
- II. From Warsaw System to Montreal 99
- III. Conditions of Carriage
- IV. Passenger Rights Legislation
- V. Cargo: Air Consignment Note or Air Waybills



I. What is a ticket?

- Invitation to treat?
- Binding agreement?
- Means to assert liability limits?
- Pro-Consumer or pro-airline?



• Airline ticket is a contract!

- Ticket + Conditions of Contract + Conditions of Carriage
- = Contract of Carriage
- Governing laws:
- Domestic flights
 - → National contract law (eg. Flight Istanbul Antalya: Turkish law)
- International flights
 - → States have harmonised rules for liability for pax injury & death as well as for damage & loss of luggage & cargo:
 - <u>Warsaw System</u> (= Warsaw Convention 1929 + its protocols & amendments)
 - Consolidated & partially amended in <u>Montreal Convention 99</u>

II. From Warsaw System to Montreal 99

1. Warsaw System

- *Quid pro quo* between airline & pax:
 - Liability = <u>Limited</u> (capping potential liability)
 - But also <u>Strict</u> Plaintiff need prove only damages
 - Reduces plaintiff's evidentiary burden
- Pax must be aware of limited liability
 - i.e. Pax must be aware of terms of the contract, so there is a mutual assent
 - Warsaw limited liability applies only when air carrier delivers to pax a ticket specifying certain information (cf. Art 3 next slide)

Art. 3 Warsaw Convention

•The ticket must state:

- the place and date of issue;
- the place of departure and of destination;
- the agreed stopping places, provided that the carrier may reserve the right to alter the stopping places in case of necessity, and that if he exercises that right, the alteration shall not have the effect of depriving the carriage of its international character;
- the name and address of the carrier or carriers;
- a statement that the carriage is subject to the rules relating to liability established by this Convention.

2. Montreal 99

- Modifications to Warsaw to accommodate <u>e-ticketing</u>
- Airline must issue "an individual <u>or collective</u> document of carriage, containing:
 - An indication of the places of departure & destination;
 - If the places of departure and destination are within the territory of a single State Party, one or more agreed stopping places being within the territory of another State, an indication of at least one such stopping place."

- Montreal Convention makes a significant departure from the Warsaw Convention:
 - "Noncompliance ... shall not affect the existence and validity of the contract of carriage, which shall, nonetheless, but subject to the rules of this Convention including those relating to limitation of liability."
- Failure to comply with notice provisions will not preclude application of the Convention
- Turkey became Party to Montreal 99 on 26 March 2011, <u>however</u> if Turkish air carrier serves a destination that has not joined Montreal 99, then Warsaw will apply



III. Conditions of Carriage

• Every airline has them

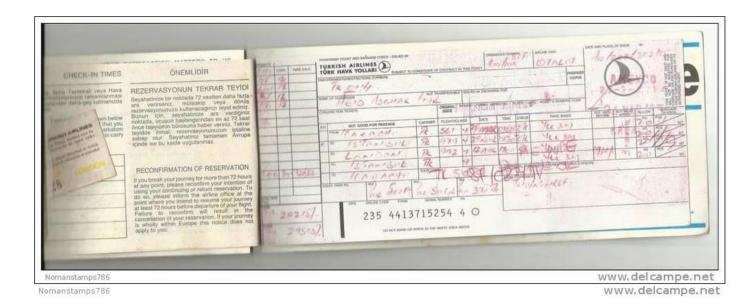
→ Turkish Airlines:

http://www.turkishairlines.com/en-int/travel-information/legalnotice/general-conditions-of-carriage-Passenger-andbaggage/definition



• All look the same...

- **Ticket** = essential part of the contract of carriage
 - Most carriers include <u>conditions of contract</u> (abbreviated version of the conditions of carriage) with the ticket
- In days of paper tickets, the ticket was too small to hold all of the terms or conditions



Contract of Carriage =

Ticket (with conditions of contract) + conditions of carriage

- Conditions of carriage set forth in separate document, incorporated by reference on ticket
- Incorporation by reference:
 - Tool of contract law, whereby certain conditions or terms are incorporated into a document by a reference in that document from another document
 - Where a ticket expressly references the conditions of carriage, those conditions become part of the ticket

In digital era, notice of conditions of carriage satisfied by ticking a box prior to purchasing the ticket online

- Notice to make all parties informed of contract's terms
- Otherwise, no contract.

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"Terms & Conditions":

http://www.turkishairlines.com/en-tr/travelinformation/legal-notice/terms-ampconditions/general-rules

"General Conditions of Carriage":

http://www.turkishairlines.com/enint/travel-information/legal-notice/generalconditions-of-carriage-passenger-andbaggage/definition

"fare notes":

https://online.turkishairlines.com/internetbooking/goNotes.tk

- In <u>modern era</u> of interlining, code sharing and alliance, pax purchase tickets from marketing carrier but are transported by operating carrier
 - Anomalies and different treatments can arise between pax sitting side-by-side on the same flight
 - Beneficial to pax & AL for conditions of carriage to be essentially the same for all parties
- In order to create inter-lineable conditions of carriage, IATA developed standard General Conditions of Carriage:
 - Resolution 724
 - Recommended Practice 1724
 - Recommended Practice 1724 has been rescinded, HOWEVER most airlines still follow it.

- General Conditions of Carriage include:
 - A notice of liability (Article 1)
 - Stop overs (Article 4)
 - Fares and charges (Article 5)
 - Reservations (Article 6)
 - Check in (Article 7)
 - Refusal and limitation of carriage (Article 8)
 - Baggage (Article 9)
 - Schedules and cancellations (Article 10)
 - Refunds (Article 11)

IV. Passenger Rights

- Conditions of carriage pre-date modern consumer law
- Consumer groups argued against a number of the terms from RP1724
 - No guarantee of actual carriage
 - To agreed destination
 - In accordance with schedule
 - Clear imbalance of bargaining power
- Advocated additional passenger protections
- European response: Regulation (EC) 261/2004

V. Cargo: Air Consignment Note or Air Waybills

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3 SENDER'S AUTHORISATION AND SIGNATURE I/we agree that AEAC standard forms apply to this shipment and limit AEAC liability. The warsaw convention may also apply (see reverse) I/we understand that AEAC transport (diplomatic goods (see reverse))		5 SECURITY CHECKED		PAYMENT DETAILS Payment at destination			
		YES 🧐 NO 🗂	Sender's VAT/GST No.	YES NO			
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Warsaw System and Montreal 99 also apply to cargo

1. Warsaw Convention

- Mandates air consignment notes
 - <u>Consignment</u>: act of handing goods over to another party for sale or transport
 - <u>Consignee</u>: party handing over goods
 - Consignor: air carrier
- Warsaw mandates certain terms to include in air consignment notes (As with luggage ticket)

2. Montreal 1999

- Uses terms 'air way bills' and/or cargo receipts, but essentially the same as an air consignment note
- Under Montreal 1999, air way bill must include:
 - an indication of the places of departure and destination;
 - if the places of departure and destination are within the territory of a single State Party, one or more agreed stopping places being within the territory of another State, an indication of at least one such stopping place; and
 - an indication of the weight of the consignment.

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IATA AWB Conditions of Contract – Res. 600b

- Notice on face of AWB:
 - Goods in good order
 - Carriage by other means
 - Intermediate stopping places
 - Limitation of liability



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