

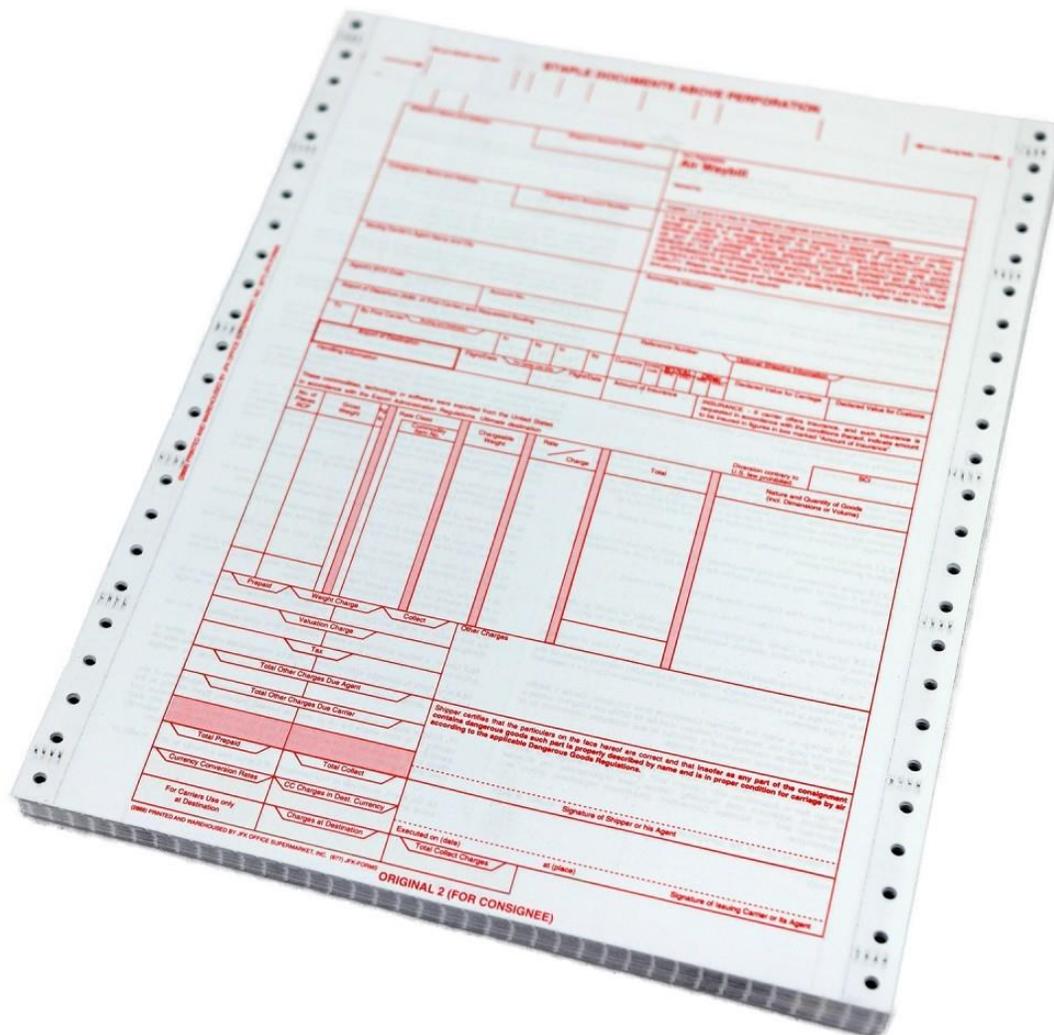
# AIR WAYBILL

Air - Proof of the Goods

## What is Air waybill?

An air waybill (AWB) is a document that accompanies goods shipped by an international air courier to provide detailed information about the shipment and allow it to be tracked.

Transportation document is used by carrier of transportation. If issued by the actual carrier, it is a master air waybill. If issued by an air freight consolidator or forwarder it is a house air waybill. The bill has multiple copies so that each party involved in the shipment can document it. An air waybill (AWB), also known as an air consignment note, is a type of Bill of Lading. Air waybill is used in airport-to-airport air shipments. Air waybill should be issued after the complete consignment has been received. Airway bills are regulated by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). See the Air waybill show in Figure 1.1.



The image shows a standard IATA Air Waybill form, labeled 'ORIGINAL 2 (FOR CONSIGNEE)'. The form is divided into several key sections:

- Header:** Includes 'STANDARD DOCUMENTS ABOVE PREPARATION' and 'AIR WAYBILL'.
- Shipper/Consignee Information:** Fields for 'Shipper's Name and Address', 'Consignee's Name and Address', 'Origin', and 'Destination'.
- Flight Details:** 'Flight Number', 'Date of Departure', and 'Date of Arrival'.
- Charges Table:** A table with columns for 'Description', 'Unit', 'Rate', 'Charge', and 'Total'. It includes rows for 'Prepaid', 'Weight Charge', 'Valuation Charge', 'Tax', 'Total Other Charges Due Agent', 'Total Other Charges Due Carrier', 'Total Prepaid', 'Currency Conversion Rates', 'CC Charges in Dest. Currency', and 'Charges at Destination'.
- Signature and Declaration:** A section where the shipper certifies the particulars on the face hereof are correct and that the goods are in proper condition for carriage by air. It includes lines for 'Signature of Shipper or its Agent' and 'Signature of Issuing Carrier or its Agent'.
- Footer:** '©2005 PRINTED AND MANUFACTURED BY IATA OFFICE SUPERMARKET, INC. (IATA) FORM 5000'.

Figure 1.1. Air waybill

## **Why Air Waybill?**

Air Waybill (AWB) is used for Air shipments. A waybill (UIC) is a document issued by a carrier giving details and instructions relating to the shipment of a consignment of goods. Typically, it will show the names of the consignor and consignee, the point of origin of the consignment, its destination, and route.

The air waybill is the most important document issued by a carrier either directly or through its authorized agent. It is a non-negotiable transport document. It covers transport of cargo from airport to airport. The airway bill is not a document of title and is not negotiable.

## **Purpose of Air Waybill**

An airway bill or AWB is a document that accompanies goods shipped by an international courier, which allow for tracking. It serves as a receipt of goods by an airline, as well as a contract of carriage between the shipper and the carrier.

## **MAWB (Master Air Waybill):**

Master air waybill (MAWB) is a transport document, which is used in air shipments, issued and signed by the air cargo carrier or its agent, generally on a pre-printed carrier's air waybill format, evidences the terms and conditions of the carriage of goods over routes of the carrier(s).

MAWB is Master airway bill issued by main carrier of goods on receipt of goods from a freight forwarder to deliver at destination as per agreed terms. Master waybills can also be identified as an airline air waybill, with pre-printed issuing carrier identification.

## **Main Features of a Master Air Waybill**

- Master air waybill generally issued on a pre-printed air waybill form of an issuer carrier.
- Master air waybill is signed by the actual carrier and states the terms and conditions of the carriage, as a result consignee may have protection in case the goods are damaged or lost in transit.
- A master air waybill is subject to IATA Rules and one of the international air conventions (Warsaw Convention, Hague amendment, Montreal Convention, etc.)
- The Master Air Waybill is a document between the airline and the airfreight agent. The airfreight agent at origin and his handling agent at destination appear as shipper and consignee in the document.
- The Master Air Waybill is issued by an airline but filled in and printed by an airfreight agent on behalf of the airline.

### **House Air Waybill (HAWB):**

House air waybill (HAWB) is a transport document, which is used in air shipments, issued and signed by a freight forwarder, generally on a natural air waybill format, evidences the terms and conditions of the carriage of goods as specified by the freight forwarder.

House air waybill is signed by the forwarding company without any agency indication of the carrier.

### **Main Features of a House Air Waybill**

- House air waybill generally issued on a natural air waybill format.
- House air waybill issued and signed by a forwarder without indicating any signing authority either carrier or as agent of the carrier.
- A house air waybill (HAWB) may or may not be subject to IATA Rules and one of the international air conventions (Warsaw Convention, Hague amendment, Montreal Convention, etc.)
- House air waybill is signed by the forwarder and states the terms and conditions of carriage for the forwarder company's perspective. House air waybill does not contain actual carrier's carriage contract, as a result shipper stated on the house air waybill is not the direct participant of the carriage contract indicated on the master air waybill.

### **Difference between MAWB & HAWB**

#### **MAWB**

- Master Airway Bill is the main document issued by the airline that is carrying the shipment.
- Issued from Carrier.
- Shipments sent on a direct basis, not consolidated.
- Notify party is same as consignee (or) any other party
- States the terms and conditions of the carriage, as a result consignee may have protection in case the goods are damaged or lost in transit.

#### **HAWB**

- House Airway Bill is the document issued by the airfreight agent for its customer
- Issued from Freight Forwarder.
- Shipments sent on a consolidation basis whereby grouping together various client's consignments under one MAWB being issued by the freight forwarder.
- Notify party is same as consignee.
- States the terms and conditions of the forwarding company, as a result consignee will not be having a legal protection in case the goods are damaged or lost in transit.

### **Air way bill Validity**

An air waybill is a contract an agreement enforceable by commercial law. To become a valid contract it has to be signed by the shipper or his agent and by the carrier or its authorized agent. Although the same individual or organization may act on behalf of both the carrier and the shipper, the air waybill must be signed twice one each in the respective carrier and shipper boxes. Both signatures may be of the same person. This also implies that the air waybill should be issued immediately upon receipt of the goods and letter in instructions from the shipper.

As long as the air waybill is neither dated nor signed twice, the goods do not fall within the terms of the conditions of the contract and therefore the carrier will not accept any responsibility for the goods. The validity of the air waybill and thus the contract of carriage expires upon delivery of the shipment to the consignee (or his authorized agent).

### **Air way bill Number**

The AWB number has 11 digits and 3 parts.

The first 3 digits are the Airline Prefix.

The next 7 digits is the Serial Number of the AWB.

The last digit is the Check digit.

The check digit is derived by dividing the 7 digit Serial Number by 7. The remainder determines the Check Digit. Example: Serial Number 8114074 divided by 7 is 1159153 with remainder 3. To easily calculate the remainder you can divide the 7 figures by 7, then subtract it with its integer, i.e.  $8114074 \div 7 = 1159153.428571429$ ;  $1159153.428571429 - 1159153 = 0.428571429$ ; multiply the result by 7 and you will get the check digit by rounding it up or down to its closest integer. Here  $0.428571429 \times 7 = 3,000....$  Therefore the Serial Number + Check Digit is 81140743.