



The International Air Transport Association

The *International Air Transport Association* (IATA) is an international industry trade group of airlines headquartered¹ in Montreal, Canada.

Its main purpose is to represent, lead, and serve the airline industry. IATA represents some 230 airlines comprising² 93% of scheduled international air traffic. Currently, IATA is present in over 150 countries covered through 101 offices around the globe.

All the airline rules and regulations are defined by IATA, whose main aim is to provide safe and secure transportation to its passengers.

An IATA airport code is a three-letter code designating many airports around the world.

The characters prominently displayed on baggage tags attached at airport check-in desks are an example of a way these codes are used. The codes are published biannually³ in the *IATA Airline Coding Directory*.

A flight number can look like any of these:

- LH 702;
- SR 3963;
- BA 015;

A flight number will always begin with a two letter code indicating the airline.

The flight number is shown on the ticket, on the flight departure boards at airports, and on all electronic and computerised information systems.

On some routes, there are so many flights each day that they can depart within a few minutes of each other.

That's why it is important that the traveller has both the flight number and the departure time.

GLOSSARY

- 1** whose centre of operations is set
- 2** including
- 3** every two years

ACTIVITIES

1 Here are the IATA codes of the first ten Italy's busiest airports by passenger traffic per year. Write their names.

- 1 FCO
- 2 MXP
- 3 LIN
- 4 BGY
- 5 VCE
- 6 CTA
- 7 NAP
- 8 BLQ
- 9 CIA
- 10 PMO

2 Here are the IATA codes of the first ten Europe's busiest airports by passenger traffic per year. Write their names.

- 1 LHR
- 2 CDG
- 3 FRA
- 4 MAD
- 5 AMS
- 6 FCO
- 7 MUC
- 8 LGW
- 9 IST
- 10 BCN

3 Surf the web and gather information about the first ten world's airports by passenger traffic per year.