CLAIMS

1. A system (10) for handling luggage, the system comprising:

- a luggage receiving portion (12) for receiving a plurality of luggage items (20),

- a luggage sorting system comprising a plurality of luggage buffers (18, 18', 181, 182) each for storing one or more of the luggage items, the luggage sorting system being configured to receive luggage items from the luggage receiving portion and provide each luggage item in a luggage buffer,

- a plurality of luggage containers (22) each configured to

  - receive a number of the luggage items,

  - be positioned inside an airplane (50) and

  - be transported by the airplane,

- a luggage transporting element (24, 26) configured to transfer luggage items from each luggage buffer to a luggage container,

the system being characterized in comprising:

- a conveyor belt (30),

- at least one transferring element configured to transfer luggage items from at least one luggage buffer to the conveyor belt (30), the conveyor belt (30) being configured to transport luggage items from the at least one transferring element to the luggage receiving portion (12).

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each luggage item is correlated with one or more parameters, where the luggage sorting system is configured to determine a luggage buffer from the parameter(s) of a luggage item and provide the luggage item in the determined luggage buffer.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the luggage sorting system is configured to provide luggage items with the same parameter(s) in the same luggage buffer.

4. The system according to claim 2 or 3, wherein one of the parameters is a weight of the luggage item, and wherein the luggage sorting system is configured to determine a luggage buffer, so that all luggage items provided to the luggage buffer have a combined weight within a predetermined weight interval.

5. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the luggage transporting element is configured to transfer luggage items from two or more luggage buffers to the same luggage container.

6. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each luggage item is correlated with an identity and wherein the system is configured to generate a record, for one or more of the luggage containers, of the identities of the luggage items provided in the particular luggage container.

7. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the luggage transporting element is configured to transfer each luggage item from each luggage buffer to the luggage containers without an intermediate storage.

8. A method of handling luggage, the method comprising:

- receiving a plurality of luggage items at a luggage receiving portion,

- providing each luggage item in one of a plurality of luggage buffers, and,

- transferring luggage items from a luggage buffer into a luggage container configured to be positioned in and transported by an airplane

the method being characterized in further comprising the steps of:

- transferring luggage items from the luggage buffer to a conveyor belt transporting the luggage items to the luggage receiving portion.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each luggage item is correlated with one or more parameters, the method further comprising the steps of determining a luggage buffer from the parameter(s) of a luggage item and providing the luggage item in the determined luggage buffer.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the luggage items with the same parameter(s) are provided in the same luggage buffer.

11. The method according to any of claims 9 and 10, wherein one of the parameters is a weight of the luggage item, the method further comprising the step of determining the luggage buffer, so that all luggage items provided to the luggage buffer have a combined weight within a predetermined weight interval.

12. The method according to any of claims 8-11, wherein luggage items from two or more luggage buffers are transferred to the same luggage container.

13. The method according to any of claims 8-12, wherein each luggage item is correlated with an identity, the method comprising the step of generating a record, for one or more of the luggage containers, of the identities of the luggage items provided in the particular luggage container.

14. The method according to any of claims 8-13, wherein each luggage item is transferred from each luggage buffer to the luggage containers without an intermediate storage.

15. The method according to any of claims 8-14, wherein a predetermined number of the luggage items is accumulated in one of the plurality of luggage buffers before the luggage items are transferred into the luggage container, and wherein the predetermined number of the luggage items is sufficient to fill the luggage container to a predetermined level.