

CLAIMS

1. A baggage drop system for receiving baggage from a passenger comprising:
a housing arranged for disposal adjacent a conveyor system for receiving baggage,
and including first and second systems, wherein:
 - 5 said first system is operable by the passenger from a first side to generate a baggage identification tag upon receipt of passenger information, and to actuate the conveyor system upon determination that baggage parameters are within pre-determined limits, said first system including a display movable from an inoperative position proximal to and facing the housing to an operational position facing the
10 passenger above the conveyor system;
said second system is operable by a second person from a second side of the housing and having a display not visible to the passenger, said second system being operable to generate a printed baggage label upon receipt of passenger information, and to actuate the conveyor system;
 - 15 wherein the first system and the second system are independently operable.
3. The baggage drop system according to claim 2 arranged for an image acquisition device to be mounted to the display such that when the display is in an operational position the image acquisition device captures an image of the baggage.
- 20 4. The baggage drop system according to any one of the preceding claims including a recess in the housing for a scanner, wherein the housing is configured for the display to be arranged in an inoperative position to substantially cover the recess and scanner.

5. The baggage drop system according to claim 4 wherein the scanner is configured to detect passenger information and to encode passenger information on the baggage identification tag.
6. The baggage drop system according to claim 5 wherein the baggage
5 identification tag comprises a pouch for receiving a printed baggage label and an encodeable RFID tag.
7. The baggage drop system according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the housing is configured for detectors to be mounted thereto, the conveyor system includes three independently actuatable belts, and the baggage drop system
10 is configured for a first item of baggage on a second conveyor belt to be returned to the passenger where the combined parameters of the first item of baggage and second item of baggage exceed a pre-determined limit detected by the detectors.
8. The baggage drop system according to any one of the preceding claims wherein upon actuation of a switch one of the first system and second system is
15 rendered inoperable and the other is activated so the first system and the second system are independently operable at different times.
9. A baggage drop counter for receiving baggage from a passenger comprising:
- a housing arranged for disposal adjacent a conveyor system for receiving baggage;
- 20 a first display arranged for mounting to the housing, the first display being movable from a passenger operable position above the conveyor system at a first side of the housing and facing the passenger to an inoperative position proximal to and facing the housing;

- a first scanner arranged for disposal in the housing for receiving passenger identification information;
- a computing means for receiving passenger information and detecting baggage weight and size information from sensors and upon determination that the baggage parameters fall below pre-determined limits, actuating the conveyor system;
- 5 a baggage identification tag generator operable by a passenger;
- a second display arranged for displaying information to a second person arranged for disposal at a second side of the housing not visible to the passenger;
- a second computing means for receiving passenger information; and for enabling
- 10 the second person to actuate the conveyor system;
- a printer for generating a printed baggage label, baggage receipt and boarding pass information upon selection by a second person; and
- a switch for changing the baggage drop system from the first system to the second system.
- 15 10. The baggage drop counter for receiving baggage from a passenger according to claim 9 wherein the baggage identification tag generator includes a baggage label printer operable by a passenger.
11. The baggage drop counter for receiving baggage from a passenger according to claim 9 or claim 10 comprising a scanner configured for detecting
- 20 passenger information and encoding a memory device in the baggage identification tag.
12. A method of modifying the operation of a baggage drop counter having a housing and a conveyor system, so that the baggage drop counter provides

passenger operable baggage drop operation and assisted baggage drop operations at separate times, the method comprising:

installing a display movable between an operative position above the conveyor system and an inoperative position proximal the housing; and

5 providing a computing means connected to network information, and configured to receive passenger information and baggage parameters, and generate a baggage identification tag.

13. The method of modifying the operation of a baggage drop counter according to claim 12 wherein a baggage identification tag includes a label generated by a

10 label printer in the housing accessible to a passenger.

14. A retrofit baggage drop system for use with an existing baggage counter, the existing baggage counter having a housing arranged for disposal adjacent a conveyor system for receiving baggage, and comprising an existing display, a baggage label printer and a computer, the retrofit baggage drop system comprising:

15 a system operable by the passenger to generate a baggage identification tag upon receipt of passenger information, said system being arranged to actuate the conveyor system upon determination that baggage parameters are below pre-determined limits;

a second display arranged for mounting to the housing, the second display being

20 movable from a passenger operable position above the conveyor system to an inoperative position proximal the housing;

wherein the existing system and the system operable by the passenger are independently operable.

15. The retrofit baggage drop system according to claim 14 further comprising:
a scanner arranged for disposal in the housing for receiving passenger identification information;
a computing means for receiving passenger information and detecting baggage
5 weight and size information from sensors and upon determination that the baggage parameters fall below pre-determined limits, actuating the conveyor system; and
a second printer for generating a printed baggage label for a passenger upon selection by a passenger.