Hence, it would therefore be advantageous, if the traveller would not have to get hold of the baggage at a transit airport and checking the baggage in for the next flight, when the traveller travels with airlines not in an alliance having an arrangement for baggage check-through.

Hence, an improved method or system for handling baggage at transit airports when travelling with airlines not in an alliance having an arrangement for baggage check-through would be advantageous.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It may be seen as an object of the present invention to provide a method or a system for handling baggage at transit airports that solves the above mentioned problem.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Thus, the above described object and several other objects are intended to be obtained in a first aspect of the invention by providing a method for transfer of baggage between connecting flights, wherein a passenger books a journey and check-in at a departure airport, shifts to a connecting flight at one or more transit airport(s) and completes the journey at a destination airport, and
the passenger check-in the baggage before the journey at the departure airport or remotely and collects the baggage after the journey,
wherein,
the journey comprises transfer of baggage at the one or more transit airport(s) between connecting flights from at least two airlines not having an arrangement for baggage check-through,
the method comprises:

- providing a computer-implemented travel control system,
- the travel control system receiving booking information of a journey from a booking portal, or any other source generating booking information, connected to the computer-implemented travel control system,

- the travel control system receiving, when the journey is booked, passenger data generated for each connecting flight by the respective airlines,
- storing the booking information and the passenger data in a database in the travel control system, and
- the travel control system updating one or more databases for a departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s) with booking data comprising the passenger data;

at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag,
in a first scenario, the bag tag comprises information for the entire journey, in a second scenario the bag tag comprises information for the first step of the journey towards the destination airport, where the first step is the information for the first flight to the first transit airport,
if in the first scenario

- at the one, or more, transit airport(s) the baggage is transferred to the connecting flight on transfer belts in the transit airport; or

if in the second senario

- at the transit airport(s) the bag tag is replaced with a bag tag for the next step towards the destination airport.

When a passenger is travelling by airplane and the journey comprises shifting between connecting flights at transit airports, there can be a problem with transfer of baggage between the connecting flights at the transit airports. If the journey comprises shifting between connecting flights from at least two airlines, which is not in an alliance having an arrangement for baggage check-through, the baggage is not automatically being transferred from the arriving flight to the connecting flight. The passenger then have to pick up the baggage at the arrival carrousel and check-in in baggage again for the connecting flight.

The problem is solved by the computer implemented travel control system. The travel control system makes it possible for a passenger to book a journey using a booking portal connected to or hosted by the travel control system. The booking portal may be integrated on airlines sales pages or on sales pages of online travel agencies. The travel control system is a computer-implemented system providing

an application programming interface (API). Booking portals may be connected to the travel control system integrating the API in the booking portal.

The journey may alternatively be booked using any other source of booking. Preferable, the source of booking is connected to the travel control system. The other source of booking could be at an airport or at a travel agency where personal from the airport or the travel agency is making the actual booking using software connected to the travel control system. Further, the passenger may book a journey by a source of booking not connected to the travel control system, or the passenger may book two tickets separately on airline websites or booking portals. In this case the passenger can share his/her booking information with the

CLAIMS

1. A method for transfer of baggage between connecting flights, wherein a passenger books a journey and check-in at a departure airport, shifts to a connecting flight at one or more transit airport(s) and completes the journey at a destination airport, and
the passenger check-in the baggage before the journey at the departure airport or remotely and collects the baggage after the journey,
wherein,
the journey comprises transfer of baggage at the one or more transit airport(s) between connecting flights from at least two airlines not having an arrangement for baggage check-through,
the method comprises:
   - providing a computer-implemented travel control system,
   - the travel control system receiving booking information of a journey from a booking portal, or any other source generating booking information, connected to the computer-implemented travel control system,
   - the travel control system receiving, when the journey is booked, passenger data generated for each connecting flight by the respective airlines,
   - storing the booking information and the passenger data in a database in the travel control system, and
   - the travel control system updating one or more databases for a departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s) with booking data comprising the passenger data;
at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag,
in a first scenario, the bag tag comprises information for the entire journey,
in a second scenario the bag tag comprises information for the first step of the journey towards the destination airport, where the first step is the information for the first flight to the first transit airport,
if in the first scenario
   - at the one, or more, transit airport(s) the baggage is transferred to the connecting flight on transfer belts in the transit airport; or
if in the second senario

- at the transit airport(s) the bag tag is replaced with a bag tag for the next step towards the destination airport.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises,
   - that at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag, and
   - the bag tag comprises information indicating baggage transfer towards the destination airport.

3. The method according to claims 2, wherein the bag tag comprises information indicating baggage transfer through the one or more transit airport(s) to the destination airport.

4. The method according to any of the claims 1-3, wherein the databases at the departure airport after the journey is booked is updated with the booking data from the travel control system, including check-through requirement for the one or more transit airport(s).

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the bag tag comprises information for transfer of the baggage to the next airport of the one or more transit airport(s), and the baggage is labelled with a transfer bag label, the transfer bag label indicates that the baggage is a transfer bag, and at the one or more transit airport(s), the baggage labelled with the transfer bag label, is tagged with a bag tag for the next airport on the journey of the passenger.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein at the one or more transit airport(s), if the baggage is labelled with a transfer bag label and the next airport is the destination airport, the transfer bag label is removed and the baggage is tagged by the bag tag as direct baggage.

7. The method according to any of the claims 1-2, 5 or 6, wherein the databases, comprising data for the airport control system of the baggage handling systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s), are updated with the booking data comprising the passenger data from the travel control system after the journey is booked .

8. The method according to any of the claims 5-7, wherein at the one or more transit airport(s), if the baggage is labelled with a transfer bag label and the next airport is another of the one or more transit airport(s), the baggage remains labelled as transfer baggage with the transfer bag label or is relabelled with another transfer bag label.

9. The method according to any of the claims 5-8, wherein at the departure airport, the airport control system identifies the baggage as transfer baggage needing a transfer bag label; the baggage is transferred to a relabelling station to be labelled with a transfer bag label.

10. The method according to any of the claims 5-9, wherein at arrival at the one or more transit airport(s) the baggage labelled with the transport bag label is transported to the relabelling station, where the baggage is tagged with a bag tag for the next airport.

11. The method according to any of the claims 5-10, wherein at the transfer baggage handling system, the airport control system identifies the baggage for relabelling and the baggage is transferred to the relabelling station.

12. The method according to any of the claims 9-11, wherein at the relabelling station a bag tag for the next airport is written, based on information in the passenger data, and tagged to the baggage.

13. A computer-implemented travel control system, wherein the travel control system is arranged to support the transfer of baggage between connecting flights, wherein a passenger books a journey and check-in at a departure airport, shifts to a connecting flight at one or more transit airport(s) and completes the journey at a destination airport, and
the passenger check-in the baggage before the journey at the departure airport or remotely and collects the baggage after the journey,
the journey comprises transfer of baggage at the one or more transit airport(s) between connecting flights from at least two airlines not having

an arrangement for baggage check-through,

wherein the travel control system is further arranged to support:

- the travel control system receiving booking information of a journey from a booking portal, or any other source generating booking information, connected to the travel control system,
- the travel control system receiving, when the journey is booked, passenger data generated for each connecting flight by the respective airlines,
- storing the booking information and the passenger data in a database in the travel control system, and
- the travel control system updating one or more databases for a departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s) with booking data comprising the passenger data;

at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag,

in a first scenario, the bag tag comprises information for the entire journey,

in a second scenario the bag tag comprises information for the first step of the journey towards the destination airport, where the first step is the information for the first flight to the first transit airport,

if in the first scenario

- at the one, or more, transit airport(s) the baggage is transferred to the connecting flight on transfer belts in the transit airport; or

if in the second senario

at the transit airport(s) the bag tag is replaced with a bag tag for the next step towards the destination airport.

14. The computer-implemented travel control system according to claim 13, wherein the databases for the departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport - after the journey is booked - from the travel control system are updated with the booking data, comprising check-through requirement for the one or more transit airport(s).

15. The computer-implemented travel control system according to claim 13, wherein the databases of the airport control systems of the baggage handling systems at the departure airport and the one or more transit

airport(s) are updated - after the journey is booked - with the booking data, comprising the passenger data, from the travel control system.

16. A computer program for a travel control system comprising instructions which, when the program is executed by a computer, cause the computer to carry out running a travel control system arranged to support the transfer of baggage between connecting flights, wherein a passenger books a journey and check-in at a departure airport, shifts to a connecting flight at one or more transit airport(s) and completes the journey at a destination airport, and

the passenger check-in the baggage before the journey at the departure airport or remotely and collects the baggage after the journey,

the journey comprises transfer of baggage at the one or more transit airport(s) between connecting flights from at least two airlines not having an arrangement for baggage check-through,

wherein the travel control system is further arranged to support:

- the travel control system receiving booking information of a journey from a booking portal, or any other source generating booking information, connected to the travel control system,
- the travel control system receiving, when the journey is booked, passenger data generated for each connecting flight by the respective airlines,
- storing the booking information and the passenger data in a database in the travel control system, and
- the travel control system updating one or more databases for a departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s) with booking data comprising the passenger data;

at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag,

in a first scenario, the bag tag comprises information for the entire journey,

in a second scenario the bag tag comprises information for the first step of the journey towards the destination airport, where the first step is the information for the first flight to the first transit airport,

if in the first scenario

- at the one, or more, transit airport(s) the baggage is transferred to the connecting flight on transfer belts in the transit airport; or

if in the second senario

at the transit airport(s) the bag tag is replaced with a bag tag for the next step towards the destination airport.

17. A computer program for a booking portal comprising instructions which, when the program is executed by a computer, cause the computer to interacts with a computer-implemented travel control system arranged to support the transfer of baggage between connecting flights, wherein a passenger books a journey and check-in at a departure airport, shifts to a connecting flight at one or more transit airport(s) and completes the journey at a destination airport, and

the passenger check-in the baggage before the journey at the departure airport or remotely and collects the baggage after the journey,

the journey comprises transfer of baggage at the one or more transit airport(s) between connecting flights from at least two airlines not having an arrangement for baggage check-through,

wherein the travel control system is further arranged to support:

- the travel control system receiving booking information of a journey from a booking portal, or any other source generating booking information, connected to the travel control system,
- the travel control system receiving, when the journey is booked, passenger data generated for each connecting flight by the respective airlines,
- storing the booking information and the passenger data in a database in the travel control system, and
- the travel control system updating one or more databases for a departure control system and/or airport control systems at the departure airport and/or the one or more transit airport(s) with booking data comprising the passenger data;

at check-in the baggage is tagged with a bag tag,

in a first scenario, the bag tag comprises information for the entire journey,

in a second scenario the bag tag comprises information for the first step of

the journey towards the destination airport, where the first step is the information for the first flight to the first transit airport,

if in the first scenario

- at the one, or more, transit airport(s) the baggage is transferred to the connecting flight on transfer belts in the transit airport; or

if in the second senario

at the transit airport(s) the bag tag is replaced with a bag tag for the next step towards the destination airport.