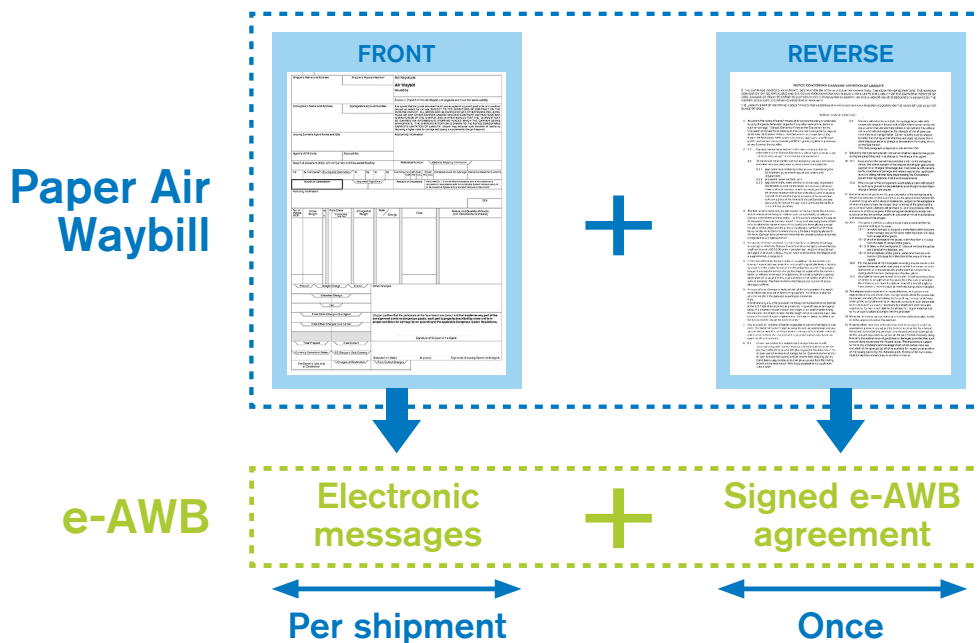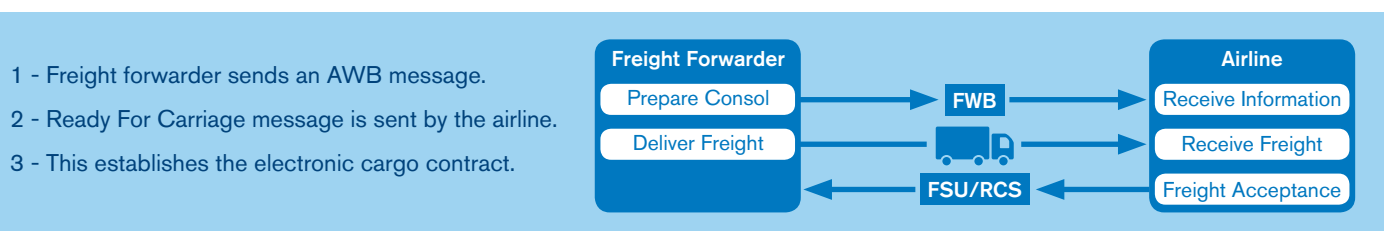# e-AWB Guide for Freight Forwarders

Would you like to

- Reduce your processing costs?
- Improve your reliability?
- Speed up the handling process?
- Stop archiving papers?

- Offer real-time status update on AWB information from everywhere?
- Support regulators and customs' demand for advance electronic information?

Move to e-AWB!

The e-AWB is the electronic equivalent of the paper AWB.

Paper Air Waybill

FRONT + REVERSE

e-AWB

Electronic messages + Signed e-AWB agreement

Per shipment   Once

The information contained on the front of the paper AWB is replaced with electronic messages:

1 - Freight forwarder sends an AWB message.

2 - Ready For Carriage message is sent by the airline.

3 - This establishes the electronic cargo contract.

Freight Forwarder
- Prepare Consol
- Deliver Freight

FWB

FSU/RCS

Airline
- Receive Information
- Receive Freight
- Freight Acceptance

The reverse side of the paper AWB, which provides the conditions of contract, is replaced by an e-AWB agreement. The conditions of contract remain the same.

Your checklist to implement!

☑ **Can you carry on your activities without paper AWB?**

Most of the freight forwarders use the AWB for other purposes than the contract of carriage with the airlines. Review your processes and make them paperless: the electronic document is as good as its paper version!

To help you, IATA developed an e-AWB functional specifications and recommendations.
Feel free to use it for your own operations.

www.iata.org/e-AWB-process

☑ **Do you have the technology to support e-AWB?**

Your software should be able to:

- send the AWB messages (FWB or Cargo-XML equivalent)
- receive status update messages (FSU-RCS and -FOH or Cargo-XML equivalents)
- archive these electronic messages
- print on-demand AWB information if need be

What if you are not ready yet?

- Many airlines provide e-AWB functionality on their website, check with them!
- Many IT providers have developed e-AWB solutions – check a list on the IATA website or consult local software providers

www.iata.org/e-cargo-technology

☑ **Do you produce high-quality electronic messages?**

The quality of the electronic messages should be close to 100% as there will be no more paper AWB.
IATA can help you identify your data quality issues through the Message Improvement Program (MIP) – it is free!

www.iata.org/mip

☑ **Have you signed the IATA multilateral e-AWB agreement?**

If not yet, download, sign and send the agreement and submission form to IATA - it is free!

www.iata.org/e-AWB-multilateral

☑ **Have you engaged all your business partners?**

To facilitate the global rollout of e-AWB, it is recommended that you inform your partners (airlines and ground handlers) of your ability to produce e-AWB for each of your stations. Your partners should do the same.

IATA can help you list your e-AWB capabilities and find out your partners' capabilities with the e-Cargo Matchmaker tool – it is free!

www.iata.org/cargo-matchmaker

> Better quality, improved customer service

> Less paper, smaller carbon footprint

More at www.iata.org/e-AWB
For any question, contact cargo@iata.org