

Unescorted Passengers on the Apron

BACKGROUND

IFALPA has been made aware that passengers are allowed to walk on the apron unescorted and unsupervised on their way between the aircraft and the terminal building at some airports. This situation not only contravenes international Standards but also presents unacceptable safety and security risks.

ICAO Annex 17 (Chapter 4) clearly states that *"the movement of persons to and from the aircraft shall be supervised"*. The apron is a restricted area which only trained and security-checked aerodrome personnel can normally enter in order to perform their duties. Consequently, it is essential to limit and monitor any movement of passengers in this area, not only to guarantee their own safety but also for security purposes, to prevent unauthorized access and identify possible intruders.

POSITION

Controlling the movement of persons entering and walking within the airside and security restricted areas of airports is an essential part of aviation security. IFALPA believes that air bridges or shuttles should be used at all times when embarking or disembarking passengers. When this is not possible and passengers are required to walk on the apron to or from the aircraft, procedures should be implemented to ensure that:

- the pathway is well-lit, marked or sign-posted, and the distance walked is kept to a minimum;
- the movement of passengers is quick and efficient, and every effort is made to avoid the possibility of a queue;
- all passengers embarking are separated from passengers disembarking;
- all passengers are escorted and supervised by airport staff wearing airport identification badges and high visibility equipment in accordance with national Regulations; and
- no passenger is allowed within the aircraft's restricted areas (engines, landing gear, etc.).

Additionally, there should be no possibility for passengers to mix with unscreened persons or approach perimeter fences or service vehicles that have access to both landside and airside areas, in order to prevent the introduction of restricted articles or substances into the aircraft cabin.