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## Travelport drops fees for AA tickets

18/02/2011

Travelport has responded to American Airlines' decision not to charge a premium for global distribution system bookings by scrapping its own surcharge fees for the airline.

The move, which takes immediate effect, is 'good news', according to Travelport GDS' chief commercial officer, Kurt Ekert.

Ekert said: 'We welcome AA's decision to remove its surcharges on bookings made through the Travelport GDS in markets outside of the US and Caribbean.

'This is good news for the travel industry and consumers alike. As a result of AA's decision, Travelport removed the AA surcharge fee at midnight (GMT) on 16/17 February 2011.

'Meanwhile, we thank our customers around the world for the overwhelming support we have received for our position in this matter.'

Travel agency groups including the Guild of Travel Management Companies and Scottish Passenger Agents' Association, welcomed American Airlines' decision not to charge the premium.

Kevin Thom, SPAA vice president and air committee convenor, said of American's decision: 'Having strongly protested against the proposed introduction of this regressive charge, along with our colleague travel bodies, we are pleased to see that common sense has prevailed on this issue.

'GDS is fundamentally the most efficient distribution system available, providing a proven and neutral mechanism for the display and booking of air travel by whichever channel – TMCs, online agents or others.

'American Airlines was attempting to force an unwanted and unnecessary solution – Direct Connect – onto customers, regardless of their booking channel preference, with a financial penalty for 'non-compliance.'

He said a recent survey of SPAA members showed strong feelings against Direct Connect and the premium surcharge.

Some 70% of respondents confirmed they would not be using Direct Connect and 95% of respondents indicated that they would either not recommend, book only on demand, or actively sell away from American Airlines, should the premium charge go ahead.

See also:

[American drops controversial surcharge...](#) (17/02/2011)

[American puts its point across](#) (14/02/2011)

[Trade to dispute American's charges](#) (01/02/2011)

[Pressure mounts on American over direct policy](#) (24/01/2011)