

KCM: ZERO TO CLEAR

Known Crewmember Update: PHX, IAD, and BOS Airports Implement Alternative Pilot Screening Process

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The Known Crewmember (KCM) alternative pilot screening process added three new locations in October, completing all seven test sites at airports across the country. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) kicked off the rollout on October 4, followed by Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on October 12, and Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) two weeks later.

First-day traffic at Phoenix Sky Harbor exceeded that of other airports by a significant margin, with an estimated 300–400 pilots going through the five different KCM access points. As at the other airports, the PHX system operated flawlessly, taking just a few seconds to clear each authorized pilot. The pilots, local Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security officers, and local airline station personnel all expressed great satisfaction with the system's operation.

KCM debuted at Washington Dulles with two access points, one located in the main terminal, lower level, beside the employee checkpoint next to the baggage claim area, and the other in



APPROVED IN 6 SECONDS

Concourse C, adjacent to the Federal Inspection Services facility. While the typical transaction requires about 10–15 seconds, one pilot claimed he went through in just 6 seconds. More than 200 pilots breezed through IAD using KCM on its opening day.

Boston Logan, the last airport to come on line in October, rounded out the projected test sites for the program. BOS features five access points that are spread across all terminals, though C and D do share an access point.

This alternative airport screening program allows TSA officers to verify a pilot's identity and employment status via web-based connections to airline employee databases, permitting pilots

Airlines Participating in Known Crewmember*

ABX Air
AirTran
Alaska
American

American Eagle
Atlantic
Southeast
Atlas
Chautauqua
Comair
Continental
Delta
Executive
ExpressJet

FedEx Express
Frontier
Hawaiian
Horizon
JetBlue
Mesa
Piedmont
PSA
Republic
Shuttle America

SkyWest
Southwest
Sun Country
United
US Airways

* Additional airlines are expected to participate in the future.

from the 28 participating airlines to enter secured areas through dedicated KCM access points. Atlantic Southeast and ExpressJet are the most recent ALPA airlines to participate in KCM. ➔

What's Next for KCM?

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator John Pistole informed ALPA and the Air Transport Association (ATA) in March that a 90-day evaluation "clock" would start when the last airport included in the Known Crewmember (KCM) test phase began operations. The last airport, Boston Logan International, came online October 25, so Jan. 23, 2012, will mark the end of the 90-day period and the date by which the TSA will determine whether KCM will be approved as a standing program, and thereby clear the way for nationwide implementation.

KCM operations started at Chicago O'Hare International Airport on Aug. 9, 2011. Thereafter, five other airports—Miami, Seattle, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Washington Dulles, and Boston—were brought online sequentially, roughly two weeks apart.

The system has performed virtually flawlessly thanks to the superb work of ALPA's partner in this undertaking, the ATA, its member airlines, and its project management team. The TSA has actively participated with both organizations in developing and deploying the program. Because of this partnership, more than 2,000 pilots are approved at KCM access points each day, and more than 50,000 pilot entries into airport secured areas via KCM have been recorded since the program began.

KCM began operations with 13 participating airlines, and as of press time now has 28 participating airlines, so industry interest in KCM has demonstrably grown in a very short time.

What's next for KCM? ALPA has been actively engaging with the ATA and the TSA on the nationwide implementation of the program pending TSA approval by late January 2012. Stay tuned. ➔



For more KCM information and ongoing updates about the program, scan the QR code above.



To link to the KCM article in the September issue, scan the QR code above.



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