

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Bradley International Airport Becomes First Airport in U.S. to Be ‘Autism Double-Checked’ Certified**

**Windsor Locks, CONN – April 2, 2025** – The Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is pleased to announce on this World Autism Awareness Day that Bradley International Airport (BDL) is the first airport in the United States to become ‘Autism Double-Checked’ certified. This certification means that BDL has obtained the highest level of autism-readiness through Autism Double-Checked to help accommodate the needs of travelers on the autism spectrum.

The Autism Double-Checked certification provides the assurance that BDL staff are specially trained to assist travelers on the autism spectrum by providing targeted support and minimizing stress throughout their travel journey. This certification offers individuals and families impacted by autism greater comfort and confidence, knowing the airport is equipped to understand their needs and respond thoughtfully to unique travel challenges.

“We are proud of this certification and for becoming the first Autism Double-Checked certified airport in the country, which will hopefully become a standard for all airports moving forward,” said Michael W. Shea, Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority. “The dedication of our colleagues to achieve this certification bolsters our commitment to ensure that travel through Bradley International Airport is easy and convenient for all passengers.”

In order to receive this certification, BDL team members completed training courses, detailing how traveling can cause stress and anxiety for individuals on the autism spectrum due to unfamiliar environments, fear of the unknown, and an individual’s unique sensory needs. The training educated the BDL team on how to better understand what someone with autism may be experiencing in an airport setting, how to best assist them and any fellow travel companions, and what type of resources can be offered if needed.

“Navigating an airport is not only an essential step in many journeys, but also one of the most challenging parts of a trip for individuals on the autism spectrum,” said Alan Day, Founder and CEO of Autism Double-Checked. “With this certification, BDL is setting an example for other airports on how to improve the travel experience for all travelers. We applaud the team members for undertaking this important training and the airport management team for guiding the process.”

BDL's first-in-the-nation airport certification comes as the airport prepares to host its fourth Autism Flies event in April in partnership with Autism Double-Checked and Breeze Airways. Autism Flies is a program that provides families with children on the autism spectrum the opportunity to practice the full airport experience, including check-in, going through the TSA security checkpoint, and boarding an aircraft to create a familiar environment for all of those in attendance. Registration is required.

Breeze Airways and BermudAir, both operating at BDL, are also Autism Double-Checked certified.

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### **About Bradley International Airport**

Bradley International Airport (BDL) is New England's second-largest airport. Recognized nationally by leading travel publications for its ease of travel, Bradley International Airport is ready to welcome you with new nonstops and expanded services. The award-winning airport is operated by the Connecticut Airport Authority, and its operations are entirely self-funded. The airport contributes nearly \$3.6 billion to the regional economy. For more info, visit [www.bradleyairport.com](http://www.bradleyairport.com).

### **About The Connecticut Airport Authority**

The CAA was established in 2011 to develop, improve, and operate Bradley International Airport and the state's five general aviation airports (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham). The CAA Board consists of 11 members with a broad spectrum of experience in aviation-related and other industries, as well as government. The goal of the CAA is to make Connecticut's airports more attractive to new airlines, bring in new routes, and support Connecticut's overall economic development and growth strategy. For more info, visit [www.ctairports.org](http://www.ctairports.org)

### **About Autism Double-Checked (ADC)**

Autism Double-Checked believes that travel should be available for everyone, including individuals and families impacted by autism. To create this reality, ADC provides online autism awareness training and certification programs that have been specifically designed to make autism inclusion simple and profitable for all segments of the travel industry, including airports, airlines, hotels, tour operators and travel agents. Based in Connecticut, the organization was founded in 2015 by two lifelong travel professionals and leading experts on traveling with autism who are also parents to special needs children. Most families with an autistic child avoid taking family vacations due to concerns about their child's reaction to all the unfamiliar stimuli they will confront outside of their routine 'comfort bubble' at home. Autism Double-Checked works with its travel industry partners to ensure training and resources are in place to give this travel segment confidence that they are included and welcomed as travelers. For more info, visit [www.autismchecked.com](http://www.autismchecked.com)



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