

Boeing 747SP

In the mid 1970s Boeing developed the 747SP as a shortened 747 with longer range. Its fuselage is shortened by 14,4m compared to other 747 models. Boeing also lightened the 747SP in some areas because of the reduction in gross weights. The fuel fraction increased and the seating capacity was reduced.



The 747SP (SP stands for Special Performance) made its first flight in July 1975 and was certificated by the FAA in February 1976. Launch customer was Pan American Airlines in March 1976.



Boeing's 747SP made some distance records in the mid 1970s for example the delivery flight of a South African 747SP from Washington/USA to Cape Town/South Africa.

Powered by four Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7AW turbofans (218kn) or four Rolls-Royce RB211-524Bs (22,8kn) or four RB211-524Cs (229,5kn) or four General Electric CF6-45A2s (each has 206,8kn) the 747SP had a maximum range of up to 12.325km, a maximum cruising speed of 1.000km/h and a MTOW of 317.515kg.

Its wing span is 59,6m, its height 19,9m and its length 56,3m. Up to 440 single class passengers could be carried.

Main customers were South African Airlines, Qantas, and Pan Am. Only 45 747SPs were built and today less than 20 of them are still in service.