

NEWS RELEASE

Please find here a news release issued today by GACAG

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ICAO SHOULD BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR GLOBAL AIR CARGO SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY STANDARDS

The International Civil Aviation Organization should serve as the focal point for implementing global air cargo supply chain security standards, the Global Air Cargo Advisory Group (GACAG) says.

In its latest position paper on 'Air Cargo Supply Chain Security Regimes for Regulators', the Group says it supports global standards and programs with regulatory backing around the world in order to facilitate safe, secure and efficient air cargo operations. It calls for ICAO, in collaboration with other international organizations, to take the lead role to continue improvements in the security of the global air cargo supply chain with the commitment of its member states.

GACAG welcomes ICAO's endorsement of air cargo supply chain security as a standard for its member states, which began in July 2011 (Amendment 12 of Annex 17), and recognizes the efforts it is making to facilitate building the capacity of those states that plan to enhance or start air cargo supply chain security regulatory frameworks. In particular, GACAG highlights the work being pursued by the United Kingdom, European Community, Canada, Australia, and the United States, along with other civil aviation authorities, to consider industry standards and guidelines as a way forward in building air cargo supply chain security capacity.

The Group said it supports international initiatives such as ISO 2800 and Secure Freight to offer assistance to regulators and industry in securing the air cargo supply chain. GACAG recommends that interested states utilize a recognized international standard template for air cargo security for the implementation

of a Regulated Agent and a Known Consignor regime, among many other templates.

ICAO's engagement with industry, including GACAG members, in recognizing best practices and developing standards, recommendations, guidance materials and templates is a positive approach to achieving improvements, according to the position paper. In it, GACAG also encourages ICAO and its member states to conduct pilot exercises in collaboration with the industry and to consider their outcomes before finalizing new regulations.

GACAG recommends that states incorporate validation and quality control measures for aviation supply chain operators, e.g. Regulated Agents and Known Consignors, among others within their national air cargo security programs.

GACAG said it believes the following secure air cargo supply chain basic principles should be considered when developing national air cargo security programs:

- Wherever possible, air cargo supply chain security programs will use ICAO definitions to aid international harmonization and consistency, including those of Regulated Agent and Known Consignor.
- Any secure air cargo supply chain regime, including the Regulated

Agent and Known Consignor programs, is to be consistent with ICAO Annex 17 Standards and Recommended Practices, and associated ICAO documents.

- Validation and registration of trusted secure air cargo supply chain operators shall be undertaken by the regulating authority or an independent party recognized by that authority.



Michael Steen, Chairman of GACAG, said: "We strongly urge states to mutually recognize secure air cargo supply chain programs that comply with the ICAO standards and incorporate the principles supported in our position paper. GACAG welcomes mutual recognition as a way for regulators to facilitate the movement of cargo along the air cargo secure supply chain without requiring redundant security measures, specifically at transit/transfer points."

The position paper can be found on the GACAG website at www.gacag.org



About GACAG

The Global Air Cargo Advisory Group (GACAG) is an industry advisory group formed in November 2010 to ensure the air cargo industry has a strong, unified voice in its dealings with worldwide regulatory authorities and other bodies whose decisions directly impact on air cargo. The four founding members of GACAG are the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Global Shippers' Forum (GSF), and The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA). The group has targeted four priority areas: security, e-commerce, customs and trade facilitation, and sustainability of the global air cargo industry.



About TIACA

TIACA is a global not-for-profit trade association representing all the major segments of the air cargo and air logistics industry – combination and all-cargo airlines, forwarders, airports, ground handlers, road carriers, customs brokers, logistics companies, shippers, IT companies, aircraft and equipment manufacturers, trade press, and educational institutions. TIACA's objectives include:

- facilitating and monitoring the implementation of e-commerce practices throughout the air cargo supply chain;
- supporting security measures that are effective, workable, and affordable, and that create minimal disruption to the vital flow of air cargo, which essentially relies on speed;
- developing and promoting strategies and principles that address legitimate public concerns for sound environmental policies;
- reforming and modernizing customs practices and raising industry performance standards;

- increasing market access by the elimination or reduction of constraints imposed on air cargo by its current dependence on bilateral traffic rights agreements; and
- representing the interests of the air cargo industry before relevant regulatory bodies, at the national and multinational levels.

To accomplish its mission, TIACA engages in activities that seek to improve industry cooperation, promote innovation, share knowledge, enhance quality and efficiency, and promote education. TIACA aims to inform both the public and its membership about the role and importance of air cargo, industry developments and technical trends.

TIACA engages with relevant authorities, and publishes position papers on industry issues and the TIACA Times newsletter. The TIACA website is a valuable industry resource which contains a fully searchable database of information on industry issues. TIACA has developed research relationships with several universities through joint projects and student scholarship programs. For more information, see the TIACA website at www.tiaca.org.



About IATA

IATA (International Air Transport Association) represents some 240 airlines comprising 84% of global air traffic. Over 60 years, IATA has developed the commercial standards that built a global industry. Today, IATA's mission is to represent, lead and serve the airline industry. IATA works with its members and global regulatory authorities to improve aviation safety, security, environmental performance and efficiency. It seeks to improve understanding of the industry among decision makers and increase awareness of the benefits that aviation brings to national and global economies. IATA can be followed at <http://twitter.com/iata2press> for news specially catered for the media.



About FIATA

FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations was founded in Vienna, Austria on May 31, 1926. It is a non-governmental organization that today represents an industry covering approximately 40,000 forwarding and logistics firms, employing around 8-10 million people in 150 countries.

FIATA has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (inter alia ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). It is recognized as representing the freight forwarding industry by many other governmental organizations, governmental authorities, private international organizations in the field of transport such as the European Commission (through CLECAT), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc.



About GSF

The Global Shippers' Forum is the world wide body that represents shippers and transport users internationally. The GSF comprises the major national and regional shippers' organizations in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa representing over 50 countries across the world's major trading regions.

The GSF was established to promote competitive global transport markets and supply chains to further the development of international trade and commerce. In this regard, a prime policy objective of the GSF is to promote efficient and competitive global supply chains.