

LOT Polish Airlines introduce e-cargo services

Warsaw, 30 January 2014. - LOT Polish Airlines have introduced e-cargo, i.e. a system allowing goods transfer without the accompanying documents. E-cargo is another modern type of services introduced recently by LOT.

LOT changes dynamically, inter alia it introduces innovative solutions aimed to facilitate both passengers and customers to take advantage of LOT services and to meet their expectations.

The e-cargo system is already functioning. The first consignment was sent to London by World Courier, a company offering high-quality logistics services and the leader in the international transport of drugs and goods with short shelf lives. The whole procedure ran without the slightest disturbances, the package has reached the destination and has been collected by an agent.

The main objective of the e-cargo system is to replace paper documentation with documents in the form of electronic messages compliant with IATA CIMP (Cargo Interchange Message Procedures) or in the form of scanned documents (invoices, certificates of origin, shipping specifications, etc.). E-cargo in freight transport may be compared to e -tickets in passenger transport. However, the e-cargo system is more complicated and requires larger numbers of operators. Air freight transport involves air carriers, freight forwarders, handling agents, shippers, as well as customs agencies and offices. In freight transport, in addition to air waybill (AWB), goods are accompanied with invoices, certificates of origin, customs documents and other documents necessary for transport. All the documentation that currently accompanies air consignments weighs 7,800 tonnes per year globally. It happens that up to 30 documents are attached to one shipment.

Following the introduction of the e-cargo system all documentation is to be sent electronically. IATA aims to fully replace paper air waybills (AWB) with documents in electronic form (e-AWB) till the end of 2015. In May 2013, LOT Polish Airlines acceded to the e-AWB Multilateral Agreement with IATA, as one of the first carriers in this region of



Europe. The Agreement supersedes the terms of carriage printed on the rear side of the paper air waybill. Currently, by filling in the air waybill (AWB), the forwarder accepts with a signature the conditions of carriage contained in the document. After introduction of e-AWB it will not be possible to sign the conditions of carriage. The multilateral Agreement, signed only once, replaces the need to accept the conditions of carriage at each shipment.

E-cargo is connected with significant savings both on the side of the shipper and the recipient of goods. Sending documents by electronic mail will also reduce costs associated with the carriage.

According to IATA statistics, introduction of e-cargo system in the world will allow all parties involved in the transport to save a total of 3.1-4.9 billion dollars. Introduction of a new system of shipments management will improve the quality and speed of services, eliminating a problem of missing documents, and data in electronic form will have to be downloaded precisely, accurately and on time. Faster service is another positive aspect of the e-cargo system. Documents sent by electronic means may be subject to control even before the goods reach the port of destination.

Currently, e-cargo system is applicable to General Cargo shipments. Special deliveries, such as hazardous materials, perishable or valuable shipments as well as mail will be covered by this project successfully. Cargo and Mail Bureau of LOT Polish Airlines is finalising agreements with its handling agents and freight forwarders to establish cooperation in the field of e-cargo. LOT also gets ready to introduce e-cargo at regional airports in Poland.

LOT Polish Airlines is one of the oldest airlines in the world. It has been connecting Poland with the rest of the world since 1929. Now planes in LOT colours fly to nearly 60 destinations in Europe, the Middle East, North America and Asia. Many of LOT's pilots are among the European and World Champions in several types of aviation sports. Since 2003 LOT is a member of Star Alliance whose network currently offers more than 21,500 daily flights to 1,356 airports in 193 countries all over the world.

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