



Notice to Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities 1/2021

Important Reminders for Phase 4 of Transition Period for ICAO New Policy Direction

This notice serves to summarize the important points to note for Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RACSFs) regarding Phase 4 of the transitional arrangement for the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) New Policy Direction on Air Cargo Security commencing **from 00:00 hrs on 1 March 2021**.

Important Points to Note regarding Transition Phase 4

2. The Government has been implementing a transitional arrangement since January 2020. The transitional arrangement requires RAs to gradually increase the screening percentage of known cargo consigned by consignors not validated by CAD to 100% in phases before the deadline imposed by ICAO (i.e. 30 June 2021).

3. With active support from the air cargo industry, the transitional arrangement has been proceeding smoothly. As Phase 4 will commence shortly on 1 March 2021, we have summarised some important points for RACSFs' reference:

Phasing out Known Consignors and Account Consignors recognised by RAs and aircraft operators

- (i) **RAs and aircraft operators will no longer be allowed to recognise their own KCs and ACs.** All signed *Known Consignor Declaration of Compliance* (KCDoC, a.k.a. **KC forms**) and *Account Consignor Declaration of Compliance* (ACDoC, a.k.a. **AC forms**) will cease to have effect **regardless of whether the expiry date is on or after 1 March 2021**.
- (ii) **At / after 00:00 hrs on 1 March 2021 (based on the date and time printed on the Reception Check List (RCL) issued by CTOs during cargo acceptance), cargo accepted by Cargo Terminal Operators (CTOs) shall be 100% screened prior to being loaded onboard aircraft,** unless they are tendered by KCs validated by the CAD under CAD's KC Validation Scheme (https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/vkc_register.html). **RAs / RACSFs are reminded to take the above into account during planning.**

Application of Secure Transportation (ST) Means on Known Cargo

- (iii) **All known cargo handled by RAs / RACSFs (including cargo screened at RACSFs and cargo tendered by validated KC) shall be protected by ST means accepted by the CAD** (see https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/icao2021_ts.html) **during transportation before acceptance by CTOs / aircraft operators.** If an RACSF (or its contractor) is involved in applying ST means, it shall be reflected in its *Regulated Air Cargo Security Facility Security Programme (RACSFSP)*.
- (iv) During cargo acceptance check, the recipient of the known cargo (e.g. a CTO or the next RA / RACSF) shall check the seal serial numbers and the integrity of the ST means to ensure that the cargo has not been tampered with.
- (v) You may be aware that “ULD containers with metal door and equipped with numbered tamper-evident seals and locks” is one of CAD’s accepted ST means. If RAs / RACSFs would like to secure other types of ULD containers on open trucks, such as those with canvas door, they could (or seek relevant vendor to) submit a method statement to CAD for assessment, providing details of the ULD containers and relevant security measures. **Please be reminded that ST means not accepted by CAD shall not be used to secure known cargo / screened cargo.**

Screening of Difficult-to-Screen Cargo

- (vi) As promulgated in *Notice to RACSFs 3/2020* and the *Guidelines for Screening of Air Cargo which are Difficult or Cannot be Screened by X-ray Equipment* (distributed to RACSFs as a restricted document), when arranging screening of oversized / odd-sized cargo, RACSFs shall use alternative screening methods (i.e. explosives trace detection (ETD), hand / physical check at piece level or other screening methods proposed by RACSFs and accepted by the CAD) only after confirming that x-ray screening for the cargo is genuinely not practicable. **Cargo being difficult-to-screen is not a valid reason for not conducting 100% screening of unknown cargo.**
- (vii) **If your RACSF is interested in operating ETD equipment, please make an application to the CAD following the procedures as stated in CAD website (https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/icao2021_xray.html).** Make and model of screening equipment, which were submitted by RACSF applicants and accepted-in-principle by CAD, are also provided on CAD’s website (https://www.cad.gov.hk/application/PCA/List_of_X-ray_Screening_Equipment_meeting_CAD's_requirements.pdf) for reference.

Cargo Exempted from Security Screening

- (viii) *The Handling Procedures for RACSF Part B Section 4* states that certain categories of cargo (e.g. livestock, human remains) are exempted from security screening. If an RACSF is responsible for preparing cargo pre-declaration to CTO, the RACSF is reminded that the exempted cargo shall be properly declared to the CTO in its pre-declaration platform.

Maintenance of Screening Records

- (ix) RACSFs shall continue issuing screening receipts to RAs as a proof of security screening and maintaining both the screening logs and copies of screening receipts for at least 3 months for the CAD's inspections.
- (x) RACSFs are reminded to **indicate the screening method(s) adopted (e.g. "x-ray", "hand search", "ETD") on the screening logs and screening receipts**, as required under para. 15 and 16 of the *Guidelines for Screening of Air Cargo which are Difficult or Cannot be Screened by X-ray Equipment*.

Non-Compliance with CAD Requirements

- (xi) RACSFs shall **not attempt to (a) tender unscreened cargo as screened cargo; (b) tender non-exempted cargo as exempted cargo; and (c) tendering screened cargo without applying ST means**. Such action(s) will be treated as **major deficiency resulting in suspension or de-registration of the RACSF status**. For more details of CAD's mechanism of deficiency handling, please refer to *Notice to RACSFs 2/2021* (https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/pdf/Notice_to_RACSF_2-2021.pdf).

Enquiries

4. For enquiries, please contact CAD at 2910 8695 and 2910 8696 during office hours (09:00 – 12:00; 14:00 – 17:00) daily, except Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

26 February 2021

Aviation Security Section
Airport Standards Division
Civil Aviation Department