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CIVIL AVIATION
DEPARTMENT

Notice to Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities 3/2021

New Requirements on Security Seals Used for Secure Transportation

This notice serves to announce the Civil Aviation Department's (CAD) new requirements on security seals used for secure transportation (ST) to all Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RACSFs). RACSFs are reminded to take note of the new requirements and **prepare to phase out existing stock of security seals which do not meet the requirements by 31 December 2021**.

2.   **RACSFs should circulate this Notice to cargo processing contractors and transportation contractors to inform them of the new requirements for security seals.**

Background

3.   Noting the industry has reflected a need to **standardise ST means** acceptable to the CAD and to facilitate automation (e.g. machine scanning) to enhance operational efficiency, the CAD has established new requirements for security seals used for ST. Details are listed in the following paragraphs.

Requirements for Security Seals Used on Box Trucks and ULD Containers

Format of Serial Number of Security Seals

4.   The serial number of security seals shall start with **a 3-letter company code (in CAPITAL letters) of the RACSF / RA / KC / its contractor, followed by 7 characters (can be any combination of numbers and CAPITAL letters)**. Valid examples for the format of serial number of seals include:

ABC1234567	DEF12AB345	HKLABCDEFG

5.   **Each seal shall have a unique serial number**. For example, if there are 3 doors on a box truck, security seals with different serial numbers, e.g. ABC1234567, ABC1234568 and ABC1234569, shall be applied on the 3 doors.

QR Code

6.   It is recommended (i.e. not mandatory) that a QR code, which stores the aforementioned serial number, should be printed on each security seal used on box trucks and ULD containers to facilitate machine scanning.

Requirements for Security Seals Used on <mark>Open Trucks (Tamper-evident Wrapping Nets)</mark>

Number of Security Seals

7.   The table below sets out the requirements for the number of security seals for different sizes of typical tamper-evident wrapping net used on open trucks:

Types of Net	Number of security seals required
Q6 / Q7 / MDP	18 to 20
A2	18 to 20
W2 / LDP	18 to 20
20FT	24 to 30

8.   Generally speaking, ST vendors should follow the above requirements when designing their tamper-evident wrapping net. The tamper-evident wrapping nets accepted by CAD have already met the above requirements.

Format of Serial Number of Security Seals

9.   The serial number of security seals shall start with **a 2-letter company code (in CAPITAL letters) of the ST vendor, followed by 7 characters (can be any combination of numbers and CAPITAL letters, identical for the same set of seals), a hyphen, and a suffix indicating the total number of seals.** Valid <u>examples</u> for the format of serial number of seals include:

AB1234567-18	CD12AB345-20	HKABCDEFG-30

10.   It is recommended (i.e. not mandatory) for ST vendors to consider developing a check digit mechanism (e.g. the 7th character being a check digit) to facilitate error detection and investigation.

QR Code

11.   A QR code, which stores the above serial number, shall be printed on each security seal for tamper-evident wrapping nets to facilitate machine scanning.

Actions by RACSFs

12.   All RACSFs / RAs / KCs / its contractors and ST vendors shall **only produce security seals** used on box trucks / ULD containers / tamper-evident wrapping nets **following the above new requirements with immediate effect**.

13.   In the meantime, RACSFs / RAs / KCs / its contractors and ST vendors' **existing stock of security seals with formats which do not comply with the new requirements remain an acceptable component of various ST means and can continue to be used alongside the new seals until 31 December 2021**. After then, RACSFs shall **only** accept and/or tender known cargo with ST means with security seals the formats of which are in accordance with the above requirements. **Failure to comply with the requirements may lead to suspension or de-registration of the company's RACSF status.**

14.   RACSFs using tamper-evident wrapping nets accepted by the CAD are **reminded to contact your respective ST vendors direct in obtaining the latest formats of security seals**. Contacts of the ST vendors can be found at: https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/icao2021_ts.html.

Enquiries

15.   For enquiries, please contact the CAD at 2910 8695, 2910 8696 and 2910 8697 during office hours (09:00 – 12:00; 14:00 – 17:00) daily, except Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

16 April 2021
Aviation Security Section
Airport Standards Division
Civil Aviation Department