



ICAO



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

ON ENHANCING AIR CARGO SECURITY AND FACILITATION – THE PATH TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July 2016

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) convened their third Joint Conference on the subject of enhancing air cargo security and facilitation, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 26 to 28 July 2016. Hosted by the Government of Malaysia, the Conference brought together international and regional organizations, regulatory authorities and other stakeholders to address current and future challenges in air cargo security and facilitation.

The event was attended by over 300 participants coming from more than 70 States, with representatives of international and regional organizations, academia and industry stakeholders.

During the Conference, ICAO and the WCO stressed the importance of a secure and efficient air cargo supply chain for international trade and world economic development. The two Organizations reiterated their strong commitment to continuous coordination of identified priorities as well as current and future actions.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The two previous ICAO-WCO Joint Conferences, on the subject of enhancing air cargo security and facilitation, were held in Singapore in July 2012 and in Bahrain in April 2014.

The Singapore Conference proposed a Joint Action Plan, to include a series of cooperative initiatives, while the Bahrain Conference stressed the need for extending cooperative working practices from international to regional and national levels.

The joint projects stemming from the Plan include:

- the publication of a joint brochure entitled “Moving Air Cargo Globally”, with a first edition in 2013 and a second launched at this Conference;
- the development of a joint training workshop on air cargo security and facilitation, piloted in April 2015 and now to be presented in all regions;
- the launch of a Joint Authorized Economic Operator/Regulated Agent pilot programme in 2015; and
- the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Advance Cargo Information, which has been meeting since August 2014.

The Conference in Malaysia highlighted the success of these global initiatives, and provided examples of similar projects at regional and national levels.

AN ON-GOING PLAN

The participants urged ICAO and the WCO to complete the work begun under the Action Plan and identify further areas for cooperation which would benefit both regulators and industry.

The Conference considered, in particular, that further efforts should be made in the area of Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information. While the Joint Working Group had identified a number of key parameters for States to consider when implementing such systems, a good deal remained to be done. There should be renewed efforts to address industry concerns and reach consensus.

More progress was also sought on proposals to exploit the synergies between Regulated Agent and Authorized Economic Operator programmes. This could be achieved by closer analysis of information from nationally or regionally recognized schemes, current pilots and any new pilots launched in the context of regional development plans.

The Conference proposed that regional and national coordination between aviation security and Customs should be promoted through joint workshops run by regional and national authorities. Additionally, National Civil Aviation Security Committees and National Air Transport Facilitation Committees should be used as vehicles for fostering better cooperation between the different agencies at the various airports within a State.

PRIORITIES FOR CO-OPERATION

Looking wider, the Conference recommended that the Action Plan should be updated to prioritize promotion of implementation of electronic communication channels for air cargo shipments (e-freight). Encouraging a paperless environment, for instance by moving to Electronic Consignment Security Declarations and Air Waybills, would help to maintain a key advantage of air transport – speed of delivery – and competitiveness, especially in expanding e-commerce markets. Guidance material and specifications from ICAO and the WCO would greatly assist in this transition.

Similarly, the two Organizations saw the development of advanced screening technologies as key to sustaining a secure and efficient air cargo network. The Conference strongly advocated a dialogue between regulators, the air cargo industry and equipment manufacturers to identify needs and develop a roadmap with clear milestones, as a priority for cooperation between ICAO and WCO.

Both ICAO and the WCO also concluded that joint work could usefully be carried out in relation to emerging threats, such as attacks from insiders and the possible use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems ('drones').

The Conference supported the view that all efforts could be reinforced by extending the close working relationships developed between aviation security and Customs regulators to other bodies dealing with the transport of air freight and cargo screening, such as the Universal Postal Union, the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Fourth ICAO-WCO Joint Conference is scheduled for 2018, venue to be announced.

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