



Enhancements to Australia's Domestic Air Cargo Security

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The Australian Government has introduced measures to enhance Australia's domestic air cargo security settings. These enhanced security measures commenced on 1 July 2020 and closely align with measures previously introduced for export air cargo on 1 March 2019. The enhanced security settings strengthen Australia's air cargo security framework to ensure we remain ahead of emerging threats to the safety and security of the Australian community through the air cargo stream.

Security as an enabler

The air transport and transport support services (which includes the freight forwarding industry) sectors are significant contributors to the Australian economy, generating over \$9.5 and \$22.7 billion of Industry Value Added respectively in 2018-19¹. These industry sectors are also important to our way of life as prolific travellers, as well as facilitating the movement of essential goods to sustain our communities and provide jobs.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need for a secure, safe and viable aviation and air cargo industry to support our economic and social prosperity. By strengthening Australia's domestic air cargo security settings we are committing to securing our prosperity by further safeguarding key industry sectors that are enablers of economic activity and growth.

Collaboration – a key to success

A critical component of the successful implementation of the enhanced domestic air cargo security measures was the high level of engagement from our industry stakeholders. The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) engaged extensively with the air cargo security industry to co-design and implement the new measures. This included hosting regional co-design workshops, forming specialised working groups under the Air Cargo Security Industry Advisory Forum and participating in bilateral discussions and meetings with industry participants.

This direct engagement assisted the Department to develop the working model for implementing the enhanced security measures to give effect to the Government's air cargo security policy. A significant benefit from this engagement was the working relationships that have been developed over time, which were called upon when the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown threatened to delay implementation.

COVID-19 impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have wide-ranging impacts across the global economy. Factory shutdowns overseas and delays in the movement of cargo to Australia impacted, in some cases, the air cargo security industry's ability to procure vital equipment to implement the enhanced domestic air cargo security measures.

Despite these challenges, the Department and the air cargo security industry were able to band together and work through these issues to implement

the enhanced security measures. The engagement from the air cargo security industry was critical to the Department understanding the extent of the issue, so as to work collaboratively with the industry to mitigate these impacts.

It is crucial to the success of any project, particularly in these uncertain times, to have strong lines of communication between key stakeholders. That the air cargo security industry, together with the Department, were able to achieve implementation of the enhanced domestic air cargo security measures is testament to our joint commitment to the security and prosperity of Australia. This joint effort serves as a model of how government and industry can collaborate to achieve common goals in the future

Next steps

Our air cargo focus is now to implement the enhanced domestic air cargo security measures at more locations across Australia, commencing on 1 July 2021. The Department will continue to engage with the air cargo security industry in the coming months to implement these measures.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our industry partners for your ideas, cooperation and commitment to improving Australia's air cargo security framework. I look forward to continuing our engagement on air cargo security policy in the near future.

Further information about aviation and air cargo security is available on the Department's website.

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/transport-security/air-cargo-and-aviation>

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Industry – 8155.0, released 29 May 2020.