



International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO NEWS RELEASE



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

PIO 13/11

**ICAO AND WCO JOIN FORCES
TO STRENGTHEN AIR CARGO SECURITY**

**MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF FREIGHT BY VALUE
TRAVEL BY AIR EVERY YEAR**

MONTREAL, 27 June 2011 – ICAO and the World Customs Organization (WCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for increased cooperation to protect air cargo from acts of terrorism or other criminal activity and for speeding up the movement of goods by air worldwide.

“The global air cargo system is a complex, multifaceted network for transporting vast amounts of freight, packages and mail on both passenger and all-cargo aircraft. The solution to improving security without sacrificing speed of delivery is through the consistent application of relevant and effective controls, from start to finish during the shipping process,” said Raymond Benjamin, Secretary General of ICAO.

“International trade is the lifeline of economies around the world and is critical to economic growth and social development,” said Secretary General of the WCO, Kunio Mikuriya. “Moving goods by air is an essential part of the global supply chain and ensuring the security of air cargo is paramount which is why this MOU is a powerful tool in our collective efforts to keep potential threats at bay,” Mikuriya added.

Cooperation between the two Organizations will focus on aligning the regulatory framework of both Organizations relative to air cargo and will include electronic advance data, the sharing of information at various levels (government-to-government, Customs-to-Customs and Customs-to-industry), training and education and risk management.

Given the volume of goods transported by air and the impracticality of screening all cargo, a risk-based approach is considered necessary. WCO and ICAO experts will explore the application of risk management to cargo for identifying threats and implementing the required security measures, including the vetting of advance-cargo information.

On 1 July 2011, more stringent ICAO standards concerning air cargo become applicable. They include a new requirement for Member States to establish a supply-chain security process.

More information

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A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Member States.