

ATTN: SHIPPING & LOGISTICS EDITORS

Security Bureau and Civil Aviation Department Support HAFFA Forum on ICAO New Air Cargo Security Policy



The Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited (HAFFA) organized a forum for its members on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) new air cargo security policy on July 31, 2018, following on from its first briefing session held in December last year. The fully-subscribed forum, held in conjunction with the HAFFA Annual Luncheon, was held to update members on the latest Government policy and to explore possible solutions to the new ICAO policy compliance. The forum received a positive response from participants following useful face-to-face interaction with Government and guest speakers.

The forum included opening remarks by the Security Bureau and a briefing by Civil Aviation Department officials, and among the speakers were: Legislative Councilor the Honourable Frankie Yick, SBS, JP; Mr. Vic Yau, Deputy Secretary for Security of the Security Bureau (SB); Mr. Richard Wu, JP, Assistant Director-General of Civil Aviation (Airport Standards) of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD); Ms. Alaina Shum, General Manager (Aviation Logistics) of the Airport Authority Hong Kong; Mr. John Wong, Assistant Executive Director (Admin & Commercial) of Aviation Security Company Limited; senior representatives from security screening service companies; and HAFFA Chairman Mr. Brian Wu.

Commented HAFFA Chairman Mr. Wu following the forum: “Like never before, the implementation of the ICAO New Air Cargo Security Policy has major implications for HAFFA members and to the industry as a whole. We are sincerely thankful for the strong support of the Security Bureau and the Civil Aviation Department, particularly in inspecting warehouses of various sizes which has helped them to understand the operational challenges faced the industry. We will continue to work proactively with the relevant Government agencies and to support HAFFA members in every way possible in the required implementation of new measures.

“Meanwhile, together with the Hong Kong Association of Aircargo Truckers (HAAT) and the Hong Kong Logistics Association (HKLA), we have jointly issued a survey to industry practitioners aimed at collecting their feedback on business direction and issues in response to the new ICAO policy. I encourage everyone to participate in the survey to enable HAFFA to continue to best represent your interests. With the latest first-hand information from the SB and CAD, we hope everyone here today will enjoy positive interaction with the Government and our speakers. We hope members will gain practical advice and insights to help them formulate optimal business plans to deal with the challenges ahead, and to meet international requirements while maintaining the efficiency and competitiveness of Hong Kong as the regional air cargo hub.”

The forum was the most recent initiative by HAFFA in relation to the new ICAO policy directive which requires the phasing out of known consignors (KC) not approved by CAD for aviation security by June 30, 2021, at the latest. Under the new policy, KCs will have to be approved by the CAD, or an appropriate authority, or have their air cargo subject to 100% screening. At present, a KC recognized by its associated Regulated Agents (RA) or aviation operator may still have its consignments treated as known cargo. The new policy will therefore necessitate major changes to the existing Regulated Agent Regime (RAR) in Hong Kong.

Led by the SB, the Government has actively engaged industry stakeholders to formulate a roadmap for the implementation of these far-reaching changes. The Hon. Frankie Yick has chaired an industry Task Force, which HAFFA is one of the members, to study the feasibility of multiple security measures to prepare the air cargo industry for the implementation of the new ICAO policy directive.

Currently, 100% screening measures recognized by CAD require conventional x-ray inspection and hand search. Feasibility studies aimed to provide multiple screening solutions include, amongst others: Off-airport conventional x-ray screening, including the establishment of Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RACSF) at RAs or their subcontractor’s own warehouse; Common cargo screening facilities, dog detection; CT scanning for palletized cargo; and the establishment of a new KC Validation Scheme.

In order to lessen the burden on its members, HAFFA liaised with numerous x-ray machine vendors and x-ray screener service providers to explore a wide range of solutions to cater to members' needs under the new policy. HAFFA sought preferential discounted packages on different brands/models of x-ray machine as well as x-ray screener packages. AVSECO, Shine Union and Manifest provided HAFFA members with detailed information and privileged discounts on x-ray screening equipment and other related services packages.

The HAFFA forum was hailed a success and received positive feedback from members who gained valuable insights from the many speakers and via networking with their industry peers on ways to best comply with the new ICAO requirements.

The Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited was established in 1966, and is responsible for setting industry standards as well as providing educational courses which enhance the professional standards of the freight forwarders and logistics providers in Hong Kong.

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Issued on behalf of the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited by PR Plus Limited. For further information, please contact Helen Feng on telephone 2575-6995 or email helen@prplus.com.hk.