



SAFETY ALERT 2020-12

Issue 01

Date of Issue: December 9, 2020

SUBJECT:

MANAGING RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CARGO OPERATIONS

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

SAFETY DECISION 2020-12

REASON:

The aviation industry has undergone adverse changes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes have shifted normal operations and business models of airlines and operators due to travel restrictions imposed by States. As a response, cargo operations have been increasing in order to be able to deliver medical supplies and maintain global supply chains around the world.

Subsequently, aviation operations ended up with an increase in cargo operations which in many cases, was not anticipated prior to COVID-19.

Furthermore, the GCAA have noticed an increase in the rate of cargo loading related occurrences, contributed by the Aerodrome Operator and/or the Air operator in 2020.

Due to the increase in cargo operations, modifications to aircraft configurations to accommodate cargo in the passenger cabin and an increase on cargo related occurrences, the GCAA is issuing this Safety Alert to emphasize on the importance of conducting appropriate Management of Change to inline with the Safety Risk Management component of the operator SMS, to anticipate and mitigate the probability of increased hazards in cargo operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In line with their approved Safety Management Systems, organizations are recommended to:

- a) For existing identified hazards related to cargo operations, continue risk management activities and reinforce, where required, appropriate risk controls and mitigations.
- b) Identify emerging hazards which may be introduced due to the increase in cargo demand and reconfiguration of passenger cabin to accommodate cargo and apply appropriate risk controls and mitigations. Such hazards may be contributed to requirements for the special handling of vaccines, flying to/from new remote destinations.
- c) Continuously review their operation to ensure cargo operations is performed in accordance with the documented procedures for cargo (packaging, securing the cargo, restraining devices, load limitations, access to emergency equipment, movement in the cabin, dangerous goods etc.).



- d) Ensure the monitoring of the services performed by contractors / subcontractors to ensure cargo operations are conducted safely.
- e) Ensure reportable occurrences, associated with cargo loading operations are reported to the GCAA in accordance with pertinent regulations, as stipulated in AMC-22 – Incident Reporting

For Air Operators only:

- f) Ensure that any modification of the passenger cabin to accommodate cargo is approved by the GCAA and is being conducted in accordance with relevant procedures stipulated in SAFETY DECISION 2020-12

Organizations are also encouraged to review the following useful documents, which may be of assistance in the areas of cargo operations:

- IATA Guidance for the transport of cargo and mail on aircraft configured for the carriage of passengers Ed 3 04 May 2020 – Below is the link to the document:

<https://www.iata.org/contentassets/094560b4bd9844fda520e9058a0fbe2e/guidance-safe-transportation-cargo-passenger-cabin.pdf>

- SAFO 20008 Document, Transporting Cargo on Transport-Category Airplanes Configured to Carry Passengers issued by the FAA on 15 of April 2020 - Below is the link:

https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safo/L

- EASA Guidelines for the transport of cargo in passenger aircraft document dated 29 Apr 2020 – Below is the link:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/newsroom-and-events/news/guidelines-transport-cargo-passenger-aircraft>

- IATA Guidance for Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Logistics and Distribution

<https://www.iata.org/contentassets/028b3d4ec3924cb393155c84784161ac/guidance-for-vaccine-and-pharmaceutical-logistics-and-distribution---extract.pdf>

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