

IATA-FIATA approve Multilateral e-AWB Agreement

- ★ Bilateral e-AWB agreements between airlines and freight forwarders not required anymore
- ★ The multilateral e-AWB agreement allows forwarders to sign only once to connect to all signatory airlines
- ★ e-AWB to reach the industry target of 100% penetration by 2015

The International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have announced that the Multilateral electronic Air Waybill (e-AWB) standard has been approved, removing the need for bilateral e-AWB agreements between airlines and freight forwarders. Airlines will have a single agreement with IATA that enables them to accept e-AWBs from all participating freight forwarders, while freight forwarders will have a single agreement that will allow them to tender e-AWB shipments to multiple

airlines at numerous airports worldwide.

Collaborating closely, IATA and FIATA, together with some of their members, developed and tested the multilateral e-AWB standard in 2012. Trials in October 2012 confirmed the value of the new agreement, which was endorsed by the IATA/FIATA Consultative Council in February 2013. Final consent was reached with the approval by the IATA Cargo Services Conference of the Multilateral e-AWB as the new IATA Resolution 672 in March.

(contd. on page 7)



Des Vertannes, IATA's Global Head of Cargo



COMPETITIVE FREIGHT RATES FOR AIR AND SEA

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Jindalgarh airport becomes India's first private (non-commercial) airport with Instrument Landing Procedure

Procedures designed by US-based Supreme Aviation

Jindalgarh Airport located in India's coal belt, Chattisgarh, has made a place for itself in the books of India's aviation history by becoming the first private airport with instrument landing procedures which are crucial to enable pilots to land aircraft in low visibility conditions. It is a mandatory requirement for cloudy weather conditions

and night landing.

The procedures were designed by Supreme Aviation, a Texas, USA based company.

None of the 18 DGCA approved private airports in India have any instrument landing procedures in place nor do the 105 airports owned and operated by state governments.

(contd. on page 7)



Imports of only cosmetics registered with Drug Controller allowed w.e.f. April 1, 2013

Customs has informed that as per a notification issued by the Ministry of Health w.e.f. April 1, 2013, cosmetic products can be imported into India only if that product is registered with Drugs Controller General (I), the Licensing Authority under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Cosmetics which were till now freely imported will not be permitted unless they have been registered. The notification says that import of

any cosmetics without registration will be considered as an offence under Drugs & Cosmetics Act. Hence, importers are required to make necessary application to the DCG (I) for registration of the cosmetics which they propose to import from 01.04.2013.

CDSO website: www.cdsco.nic.in and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, website: www.mohfw.nic.in may be referred for details regarding the gazette notification, application form and guidelines, etc.

Airports Authority of India proposes three party JV for jet fuel supply

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed to set up joint ventures with private oil companies and airlines to meet the requirement of jet fuel. Elaborating on the proposal Chairman, V P Aggarwal said AAI would own 13 per cent stake in the JVs and the rest would be held by oil companies and airlines. Combining the public sector, private oil companies and airlines would help in fair pricing of jet fuel. India has received a lot of flak in recent times due to the escalating cost of turbine fuel and varying state taxes. At present, state-owned HPCL, BPCL and Indian Oil Corporation sell almost all the ATF in the country.

The proposed joint venture has already been discussed with the petroleum secretary and the oil companies, the final modalities are now

being formulated.

ATF supply to carriers through the three-way joint ventures is expected to reduce fuel costs of local carriers by at least 10 percent, Mr Aggarwal said. This will include setting up fuelling stations and infrastructure at airports to enable direct import of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by domestic carriers.

The AAI chairman said that communication with airlines was in process to invite JVs for the same. In addition to public sector oil companies, private companies like RIL and Essar are also likely to join. "The rationale behind the JV is to provide fuelling facilities at all airports," said Mr Aggarwal.

The WCO Harmonized System Convention celebrates its 25th anniversary

Delegates attending the 51st Session of the Harmonized System (HS) Committee at the WCO were welcomed by the Secretary General, Kunio Mikuriya, on March 11, 2013.

The Secretary General stated that Harmonisation System (HS) had been very useful in ensuring fiscal and regulatory compliance, as well as efficient revenue collection. He stressed that the HS had become the genuine lingua franca for

commerce and industry, and that its importance is set to continue to increase over the years to come.

He said that the WCO Policy Commission had embarked on a strategic review of the HS to better understand what the optimal level of granularity and the most appropriate length of the review cycles of the HS should be.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in a note addressed to the Committee, highlighted the fact that the HS enabled

decision-makers at all levels of responsibility to generate, store, share and retrieve crucial information for the efficient and effective monitoring and management of the international trade system.

Developing countries were encouraged to participate in the HS work of the WCO more actively and appreciation was expressed for the assistance provided to developing countries by the WCO and the donor community in particular CCF Japan.

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(contd. from page 3)

Des Vertannes, IATA's Global Head of Cargo said, "The approval of the multilateral e-AWB agreement is the most important new cargo standard developed in the last two decades. It gives us critical momentum to achieving the e-freight vision of a paperless cargo system."

Rudi Sagel, FIATA's Chairman of the Air Freight Institute said, "Freight forwarders and airlines were looking forward to greater simplification

when they looked at the e-AWB agreement; now this new multilateral e-AWB agreement allows forwarders to sign only once to connect to all signatory airlines. It means significant progress as joining the multilateral e-AWB agreement provides the legal framework to transmit AWB data electronically to the carrier for AWB completion."

FIATA and IATA expect the multilateral e-AWB agreement to be well received by the airline and freight forwarding communities and will play a major role in increasing take-up of the e-AWB to reach the industry target of 100% penetration by 2015.

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(contd. from page 3)

Although all major airports owned and operated by AAI do have Instrument Landing procedures in place.

"Through the NDB navigation device installed, the IL procedure guides the pilot towards runway up to a safe descending altitude. At this level, the pilot proceeds to land if the runway is visible or follows a 'missed approach' procedure climbing the

aircraft and try re-approach", adds Steve McCone, ICAO expert from Supreme Aviation designing this procedure.

"It is encouraging knowing airport owners & operators in India are considering safety as priority and taking Supreme steps!" Remarked Captain Ammeet K Agarwal, CEO & President, Supreme Aviation International.

Jindalgarh airport is used by the Jindal Group. The airport handles about 15 business jet

aircraft and helicopter movements in a day.

