

PREPARING FOR NEW AIR CARGO SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

The Australian Government has introduced air cargo security measures requiring **all export air cargo**, regardless of destination, to be examined at a **piece-level** or originate from a **Known Consignor** by **1 March 2019**. These measures have been in place for US-bound air cargo since July 2017.

What your business needs to consider

If your business is currently exporting - or intends to export your products - by air you will need to understand the impacts of the security requirements on your operations.

Under the strengthened security arrangements export air cargo not originating from a known consignor will be examined at piece-level by a Regulated Air Cargo Agent (RACA). **Piece-level** refers to the examination of export air cargo at the lowest level of consolidation using technology. Ask your freight forwarder how this applies to your cargo.

Growers and exporters will need to make a commercial decision to register as a [Known Consignor](#) or use a [Regulated Air Cargo Agent](#) to undertake piece-level examination of its air freight shipments. A list of current approved RACAs can be found [here](#).

Your business can apply to become a **known consignor or a RACA**. The known consignor scheme provides businesses with the ability to meet its security obligations without requiring a RACA to conduct the piece-level examination on its behalf. A known consignor is responsible for securing its own air cargo, and must demonstrate it has the necessary security measures and procedures in place. Businesses can apply to the Department of Home Affairs to become a known consignor (Please note: while there is no application fee to join, there may be costs associated with becoming a known consignor). More information on the known consignor scheme is available [here](#).

Exporters (primarily consolidators) may also consider seeking approval to become a RACA. More information on becoming a RACA is available [here](#).

Next steps

If you export cargo by air, you will need to understand the new requirements and assess the potential impacts on your business (such as changes to cost, delivery times, when phytosanitary measures are applied, handling and/or packaging). Businesses are strongly encouraged to talk with their supply chain partners about the new measures, including with transport operators and freight forwarders.

Austrade regularly engages with the Department of Home Affairs (the agency responsible for the implementation of the new measures) and is working with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to support industry readiness and assist agriculture businesses transition to the new security requirements. Further updates will be provided in the lead up to the 1 March 2019 implementation date.

In the interim, information is available on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) and [Department of Agriculture and Water Resources](#) websites. Your industry association may also have details on how the changes are expected to impact your specific industry sector.

Contact details

The [Department of Home Affairs](#) is implementing the security changes and have prepared an [industry countdown notice](#). If you have any further questions or concerns you can contact guidancecentre@homeaffairs.gov.au or call 1300 791 581.

Alternatively, if you have any specific feedback that you would like to share with Austrade, please respond via email to Food-Agri@austrade.gov.au

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