

RACA

REGULATED AIR CARGO AGENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MAINFREIGHT

Why and What are Air Cargo Screening Regulations?

In response to the disrupted terrorist plot in Sydney in July 2017, the Australian Government announced, on 8th May 2018, they would implement security measures to further strengthen Australia's international cargo security. These new initiatives would commence immediately across Australia's major and regional airports.

The Australian Government announced new export screening requirements for air cargo, effective to all destinations from 1 March 2019. All international air cargo must be examined under the Enhanced Air Cargo Examination (EACE) program before it is loaded onto an aircraft.

To further ensure the security of Australia's aviation industry remains robust, the Government introduced Phase 1 of the domestic air cargo reforms, effective 1st July 2020. The requirement is that domestic air cargo must also be security screened at piece level by a Regulated Air Cargo Agent (RACA) unless originating from a Known Consignor.

What did Mainfreight do when these Regulations came in?

To support our customers, minimize potential delays and to support increased security measures, Mainfreight proactively made the decision to become an accredited Regulated Air Cargo Agent. The focus for Mainfreight was, and still is, to screen customers' cargo in a timely manner, making sure to maximise efficiencies and minimise delays with getting it to its next destination.

What is a RACA?

A Regulated Air Cargo Agent (RACA), is a business that handle and or make arrangements to transport air cargo. They examine, clear and issue a **security declaration** for air cargo under an Examination Notice (**EACE**). They follow and comply with a **Security Program**.

What is a RACA Security Program?

The RACA Security Program is provided under the Regulations. It sets out the security requirements all RACAs must comply with. This includes requirements for:

- Security of facilities
- Security of personnel
- Training for personnel
- Clearing cargo
- Ensuring the chain of custody for cargo
- Handling high risk cargo, and
- Oversight of the measures, procedures and requirements listed above

Branches covered under the program: Melbourne (123), Sydney (132), Brisbane (134) are operating sites, (examine cargo). Perth (108), Adelaide (105), Townsville (124), and soon to be, Gold Coast (144), are desk top operations. (Arrange and organise transport for air cargo)

How do I find out if a business is a RACA?

Under the Regulations, the details of RACAs' are published on the Department's website.

Click this link for the current listing [Regulated Air Cargo Agent \(RACA\) list \(1252KB PDF\)](#)

What is an EACE Notice?

The Enhanced Air Cargo Examination Notice (EACE) is issued to a business once it is designated as a RACA. It sets out the requirements for how cargo must be examined. Under the EACE Notice, all outbound international and domestic air cargo must either:

- Be examined at 100% piece-level by a Regulated Air Cargo Agent (RACA) or
- Originate from a Known Consignor



X-Ray Machine

What is a Known Consignor?

Is a business that demonstrates they have the necessary security measures and procedures in place to be approved by the Department of Home Affairs. Once approved they are responsible for securing air cargo that originates from their business to another regulated business. They issue their own security declarations.

What Equipment does Mainfreight use?

Mainfreight have approved X-Ray, EMD and ETD equipment on all 3 perishable sites. All equipment was purchased through Smiths Detection.



Electronic Metal Detector (EMD)

What Examination Methods are used?

The screening methods are separated into two categories:

Approved Primary examination methods include:

- X-ray
- Electronic Metal Detection (EMD)

Approved Secondary examination methods include:

- ETD
- Physical examination

The Primary screening method for **General cargo** is X-Ray with ETD as Secondary

The Primary screening method for **Perishable cargo** is EMD with ETD as Secondary



Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)

What is 100% piece-level examination?

Piece-level examination refers to the examination of cargo at the lowest level. i.e. Pallets must be broken down, (unless the cargo is **homogenous**), and each carton examined individually. The cargo can then be consolidated once each piece has been examined and cleared.

What is homogenous cargo?

The Department of Home Affairs has indicated that homogeneous goods are defined as:

'Each individual item within the consignment is of the same size, shape, material and density. The physical characteristics and the design elements of the packaging for each individual item must also be the same. This enables detection of any anomalies.'

- **Example:** A pallet of 30 cartons containing **plastic ballpoint pens only** would be regarded as homogeneous goods - therefore can be screened as **one pallet**
- **Example:** A pallet containing 15 cartons of **plastic ballpoint pens** and 15 cartons of **metal ballpoint pens** would not be regarded as homogeneous goods - therefore the pallet must be broken down and all cartons screen individually.

What is a Security Declaration?

A Security Declaration is a document issued by a RACA or a Known Consignor. A Security Declaration indicates that cargo is cleared and ready to be uplifted on an aircraft.

What is a Regular Customer Undertaking Letter and why does the customer have to sign this?

It is advisable that Regular customers complete and sign a Regular Customer Undertaking. This allows them to be placed on the Regular Customer list of Mainfreight Air & Ocean Pty Ltd.

This is a requirement in our Security Program and the Department audit us on the Customer List.

By signing the Undertaking, the customer is agreeing:

- To take appropriate security measures to prevent unauthorised carriage of an explosive or an explosive device
- To secure undamaged packaging
- The contents of the cargo have not been tampered with
- That the documentation identifies the Customer as the consignor of the cargo
- Their representative (driver) is a person who can be verified as a representative of the Customer
- That their cargo will be subject to security and clearing procedures
- It is illegal without authorisation, to consign as cargo, an explosive or an explosive device

[Learn more about the RACA scheme here.](#)

