

GVK – Mumbai International Airport rated e freight compliant by IATA

GVK-Mumbai International Airport Limited (GVK MIAL) always believes in advocating the cause of green environment and which has always been in the forefront of its business philosophy.

Recently, GVK MIAL has been rated as e freight compliant by International Air Transport Association (IATA) for adopting paperless initiatives at the air cargo operations in Mumbai.

Background

In 2006, IATA had launched its e-freight initiative with the endorsement of the members of the Global Air Cargo Advisory Group (GACAG). The objective behind e freight was to replace paper out of air cargo operations with the exchange of electronic data and messages. This initiative aims to minimize and subsequently eliminate the vast quantities of paper documents the air cargo industry relies on today to support movement of air freight. An average air cargo shipment generates up to multi different paper documents, resulting in increased shipment processing times and costs.

The Journey

GVK MIAL has been supporting the e-freight initiative since the announcement by IATA and has been actively involved leading the way with the initiation of e-reception and online carting order issuance.

In 2014, GVK decided to go ahead with elimination of hard copy of the Airway Bill at export cargo acceptance thus becoming the first airport operator in India to achieve this milestone. Subsequently paperless air freight handling has been successfully introduced at various critical levels of cargo terminal operation both in BIAL and MIAL.

Thereafter GVK MIAL went a step further and began implementing other initiatives such as Advance Shipment Information in exports; Online Delivery Order message for Master Airway Bill and House Airway Bill in imports; Automated Vehicle Token generation in exports to provide real time update of cargo vehicles.

Involvement of partners and benefits

GVK MIAL played a vital role in consolidating and integrating the various parties involved in the air cargo supply chain, subsequently laying the foundation to e-freight adoption at Mumbai. This has resulted in expeditious processing, quality improvement and substantial time savings in cargo operations.

The e-freight compliance by GVK MIAL involves air carriers, ground handlers, shippers, customs authorities and freight forwarders to effectively streamline processes, cut costs and improve speed and reliability. Some of the benefits of e-freight compliance are Process efficiency, Productivity, Improved quality and reliability, Cost savings and Environment-friendly.

The above initiatives have reduced the waiting times and expedited acceptance and delivery processes of air freight shipments at Mumbai resulting in significant savings in both processing and cost.

Way ahead

Going forward for GVK MIAL, plans are on the anvil in organizing workshops with the stakeholders including exporters and importers to eliminate paper transactions to the best possible extent in the supply chain.

*“We would like to thank the entire trade fraternity for making this globally accepted industry-wide initiative a great success at Mumbai and in particular our technology partner ‘Kale Logistics’ and stakeholders ‘Lufthansa Cargo’, ‘Freight Wings’ & ‘Khimji Poonja’ for official participation in the e-freight audit process, said **Manoj Singh, Vice President and Head (Cargo)**.*

Other Cargo Developments

MIAL is on track with the construction of its new **“Export Heavy and Bonded Cargo Terminal”** at CSIA. The upcoming facility set to be completed by June 2015, provides a one-time holding capacity of 400 tons to offer exclusive handling for export odd dimension cargo, heavy shipments and bonded cargo received from hinterland. The facility planned over an area of 7500 sqm (aprox) comprise of infrastructure like battery operated forklifts, truck docks with dock levelers, X-ray machines and hydraulic pallet trucks with dedicated access and way out for hinterland cargo.

MIAL has added additional 4000 Sq. Ft. area for **Export General Cargo customs examination**, which will create an additional capacity of 200 tons per day to the current general facility.



MIAL has also initiated expansion of the temperature controlled facility **“Export Perishable Cargo Terminal”** by 3000 Sq. Ft. to cater growing pharmaceutical and agro exports. The facility set to be fully operational by end of Feb 2015. It offers an additional handling capacity of 150 tons per day.

