Need to move to the latest version of Cargo-IMP messages or towards Cargo-XML

About Cargo-IMP

Cargo Interchange Message Procedures (Cargo-IMP) is used by airlines as the standard for electronic exchange of cargo information with various stakeholders including, freight forwarders, ground handling agents, Customs administrations and other parties. This includes booking information, air waybill data, house waybill data, flight manifest data, shipment status, customs information, and more.

New Customs and Security Requirements

Increasingly, Customs administrations and other Regulatory authorities around the world are demanding more electronic information to further secure the air cargo supply chain. For example, new EC regulations require the use of a Movement Reference Number (MRN) for their Import and Export Control Systems.

Accordingly, IATA upgrades the Cargo-IMP message specifications, through the Cargo Business Processes Panel (CBPP) and the Cargo Data Interchange Task Force (CDITF), to ensure that the IATA standard electronic messages meet the increasing information requirements for customs and security purposes.

Latest version of FWB and FHL messages

Of particular importance are the Air Waybill (FWB) and Consolidation List (FHL) messages. The latest version of these messages, **FWB version 16 and FHL version 4**, are equipped the meet the new customs and security requirements and recommended to be used by all parties.

Why it is critical to upgrade to latest version of FWB and FHL messages?

For those who are currently using Cargo-IMP messages it remains critical to use the latest version of the FWB and FHL messages:

- To ensure compliance with new customs requirements and to provide advance electronic information for risk assessment purposes
- To ensure compliance with the latest security requirements and to maintain an audit trail of who screened what and how
- To ensure forward compatibility with the equivalent Cargo-XML messages when and if you plan to migrate to Cargo -XML
- To ensure that clients and partners have the necessary and fullest operational information

XML is the future of cargo messaging

The IATA Cargo Committee in March 2010 endorsed XML as the strategic direction for the air cargo industry electronic messaging as it can:

- Reduce the message transaction costs by transmitting messages over the Internet directly between parties without the use of third party service providers where feasible;
- Reduce implementation and maintenance costs due to its flexibility;
- Increase adoption and penetration of electronic messages by stakeholders including Small and Mid size Enterprises (SMEs);
- Facilitate connection to Customs administrations and regulatory authorities by moving toward a common standard.

In March 2010, the IATA Cargo Services Conference (CSC) and Cargo Agency Conference agreed that IATA will stop maintaining Cargo-IMP standard messages by end of 2014, maintaining only on Cargo-XML standard messages. This will not prevent anybody to continue using Cargo-IMP but no new Cargo-IMP versions will be released.

The XML equivalent of the Air Waybill (FWB) and Consolidation List (FHL) messages, amongst other IATA standard Cargo-XML messages that have been have been developed by the IATA Cargo-XML Task Force (CXMLTF), meet the new customs and security requirements.

The following XML message specifications have been developed by the CXMLTF:

- Waybill Specification Version 1.1
- House Waybill Specification Version 1.1
- House Manifest Specification Version 1.1
- Shippers Letter of Instruction Specification Version 1.1
- Flight Manifest Specification Version 1.0
- Freight Booked List Specification Version 1.0
- Status Message Specification Version 1.0
- Shippers Declaration for Dangerous Goods Specifications Version 2.0
- Invoice Specifications Version 2.0
- Packing List Specifications Version 2.0
- Certificate of Origin Specifications Version 2.0

Some standard IATA Cargo-XML messages are being developed and some more will be developed in the future according to the industry needs.

The following XML message specifications are currently under the CXMLTF development:
- Error Message (FNA)
- Acknowledgment Message (FMA)
- Booking Request (FFR)
- Booking Answer (FFA)
- Customs Status Notification (CSN)

The XML message specifications are available on the CXMLTF website:
www.iata.org/cargo-xml

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact cargo@iata.org.