



## Guidance for industry

### Prohibitions on in-bound international air cargo from Syria, Egypt, Bangladesh, Yemen and Somalia

The Australian Government has imposed prohibitions on the carriage of air cargo that has originated from, or transited through, Syria, Egypt, Bangladesh, Yemen and Somalia. These new measures supersede previous prohibitions in place for the carriage of air cargo from Yemen and Somalia.

#### How is the Government imposing the international air cargo prohibitions?

The prohibitions have been implemented through a legislative instrument made by the Hon Warren Truss MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development under Section 65B(2)(b) of the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*.

#### When did the prohibitions come into force?

The instruments came into force on **Saturday 19 December 2015**, and will remain in-force until the instruments are revoked.

#### Are the prohibitions consistent across all five countries?

Airlines are prevented from carrying **any** air cargo that has originated from, or transited through Syria, Yemen or Somalia.

Air cargo that has originated from, or transited through, Egypt or Bangladesh will be prohibited, **except** for items that are currently exempt from screening under Australian Regulations, such as diplomatic bags and smaller items of international mail.

#### Has a specific security threat been identified for flights to or from Australia?

The prohibitions are a preventive security measure, based on the Government's understanding of the threat and risk environment in these countries. There is no information to suggest that there is any specific threat for flights to or from Australia.

The prohibitions apply equally to air cargo carried on passenger and freighter aircraft.

#### Review of the prohibition

The Australian Government, through the Office of Transport Security (OTS), will continue to monitor aviation security developments, in cooperation with our international partners. OTS will provide advice to the Government on adjustments to Australia's air cargo security arrangements as necessary.



#### Need more information?

All enquiries related to the restrictions should be directed to the Office of Transport Security at:

[aircargosecurity@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:aircargosecurity@infrastructure.gov.au)

## Frequently asked Questions

### Q - Does the prohibition apply to all cargo?

A - No the prohibitions only apply to **air** cargo. Cargo sent as sea, rail or land freight is not prohibited.

### Q - How can I send my Bangladesh-produced garments to Australia?

The prohibition applies to air cargo only. There are no prohibitions on sea freight or land freight. If the freight is sent to another country by a means other than air cargo, for example as sea freight to Singapore or road freight to India, it could subsequently be sent to Australia by air.

### Q - One of my staff is travelling to Bangladesh for work. Can they carry samples back to Australia?

A - There are no prohibitions on passengers' checked or carried on bags.

### Q - I need to send urgent documents to Australia, can I do that?

A- It depends on the country of origin and the size of the items.

Airlines are prevented from carrying **any** air cargo that has originated from, or transited through Syria, Yemen or Somalia.

For air cargo originating from, or transiting through, Egypt and Bangladesh, the Government has granted an exemption for a limited range of items. This includes letter products and small items of cargo, defined as follows:

A **letter product** is an item of cargo that has all of the following characteristics:

- (a) it weighs 500g or less;
- (b) it contains only flexible items;
- (c) its longest dimension is 360 mm or less;
- (d) its second longest dimension is 260 mm or less;
- (e) its shortest dimension is 20 mm or less.

A **small item** means an item of cargo that weighs 250g or less, and is 5 mm or less in its shortest dimension.

If the cargo meets these requirements, then it can be sent to Australia as air cargo.

### Q - My air cargo is sent from Bangladesh to Australia via Hong Kong. Will that be permitted?

A - If the air cargo is transferred between flights at the airport (also known as a tail to tail transfer) it is considered as originating from Bangladesh and will not be allowed.

If the cargo clears customs in Hong Kong, and is subsequently sent to Australia, it is considered to be air cargo originating from Hong Kong and will not be subject to the prohibition.

### Q - My international freight forwarder security screens all air cargo. Can we receive an exemption?

A - The prohibitions are a legal requirement of the Government implemented under specific provisions made by the Parliament. It is not possible for the Department to grant an exemption under the legislation.