

ТЕХНІЧНІ НАУКИ

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF AIR FREIGHT SERVICE

**(Roztocki Rafał, student of Faculty of Management
Kłak Marcin, BEng, PhD, Assistant Professor)
University of Technology, Rzeszów, Poland**

Cargo transportation is an important branch of air transport. This type of service is provided by specialized forwarding and courier companies, which have their own fleet of planes and vans, delivering small-size loads in a short time from the moment of dispatch to the moment the cargo is delivered anywhere in the world, and the handling agencies cooperating with them.

The most important advantage of air transport is above all a short transport time and a very large spatial range. However, this transport has a lot of disadvantages, which include the low load capacity of aircraft, which limits the size of transported cargo batches, unfavorable spatial distribution of the network of transport points, consequently extending the delivery time in the Door-to-Door relationship and a high level of freight rates, despite strong degression of unit costs over long distances. Cargo handling and related activities take place in the Cargo Terminal. The Cargo Terminal has a forwarding function and is a place for storing goods transported by air, both domestic and international.

Freight service consists of a series of activities preparing the goods for transport. It includes customs, forwarding and logistics services in export, import and transit traffic. The scope of air freight includes services such as: consolidation, delivery within a defined time, special service, checking of shipments, customs clearance and preparation of documentation [1]. In the scope of this service there are:

- handling cargo in export, import and transit, loading and unloading containers and determining the weight of loaded containers,
- providing appropriate equipment for handling goods,
- providing warehouses for general goods, special parcels, special goods and their storage, identification of transit goods and ensuring its transport to the warehouse,
- notifying the recipient or forwarder of the arrival of the goods,
- handling documents related to transporting loads, separating copies of waybills, preparing shipping documents (cargo manifest),
- customs and civil aviation security procedures agreed between the parties or resulting from circumstances.

Air shipments are subject to customs procedures. Often these are long-term activities related to completing a number of prints and documents. To speed up this process and make air transport more attractive in the field of cargo, the European Union has introduced the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program [2]. The regulations, which entered into force on January 1, 2008, are aimed at increasing the security of the international supply chain and modernizing EU customs procedures. The AEO standard is synonymous with trust, security, protection and transparent customs procedures in international trade. Granting this standard provides customers with a number of benefits:

- parcels prioritized by European customs,
- faster crossing of third country borders respecting the AEO status,
- obtaining the right to perform centralized customs clearance.

Air freight can be transported as part of the Door-to-Door, Door-to-Airport or Airport-to-Airport services.

Air freight is handled at the Cargo Terminal. The main function of the Cargo Terminal is forwarding and storage of goods transported by air in international and domestic trade. The terminal can be divided into two zones:

1. Landside - where there is delivery and collection of goods through a maneuvering yard and unloading ramp (public part).
2. Airside - transport from the airport apron (internal area) [3].

Specific assigned tasks are carried out at the Cargo Terminal. When defining the tasks performed for individual stages of the process, a very important element is to identify the range of goods and their size. The correct distribution of not only passengers but also luggage and cargo as well as its balance is one of the key operations in preparing the aircraft for take-off and one of the basic factors conditioning the proper operation and safe and economical flight performance. Appropriate placement of cargo on an aircraft requires knowledge of procedures regarding the weight and size of the cargo. Employees must undergo aircraft loading training to allow loading operations.

Air freight transport is an important element affecting the global trade market. The Polish air transport market was opened to EU carriers by Poland's accession to the European Union. The figures for goods carried by air do not seem optimistic. Many shipments are carried in the passenger airlifts. Transport planes do not often host at Polish airports. The reasons should be seen in the insufficient supply of goods. However, there are a number of courier companies with adapted aircraft types in their fleet. Currently, each transport company is trying to increase its efficiency while reducing costs. Increasing competition on the market, customer requirements and the desire to maximize profits pose new challenges. The problem of loading issues is to choose the largest number of loads that can be placed in the given cargo space at the same time so that the carrier achieves the greatest benefits.

REFERENCES

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