



Piece-Level Examination

What is piece-level examination?

Before cargo can be uplifted on an aircraft, it needs to undergo examination under current arrangements or new 'piece-level' arrangements.

Piece-level examination is the examination of cargo at a low-level of consolidation using technology. This means examining it before it is packed into unit load devices (ULDs) or onto pallets, or deconsolidating loads for piece-level examination.

From 1 July 2017, only cargo that has been examined at piece-level, or that originates from a Known Consignor can be uplifted onto a US-bound aircraft. The Known Consignor scheme is accepted by the US as equivalent to piece-level examination (see overleaf for details). Current examination arrangements remain for non-US bound cargo.

Who conducts piece-level examination?

Piece-level examination can only be conducted by Regulated Air Cargo Agents (RACAs) who hold an Enhanced Air Cargo Examination (EACE) notice issued by the Australian Government.

There are two primary examination methods:

- x-ray; and
- electronic metal detection.

The method of examination that can be used will depend on the type of goods being examined.

Some goods may be unsuitable for piece-level examination. This may include large items, delicate items, those sensitive to x-rays, or goods which have to be consolidated before they arrive at a RACA.

How can piece-level examination help my business?

Having your cargo examined at piece-level by a RACA is one way to comply with the new requirements for US-bound air cargo. It does not require your business to become regulated by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department) as does becoming a Known Consignor.

Which freight forwarders offer piece-level examination?

The decision to offer piece-level examination is a commercial decision made by a freight forwarder. The Department will publish a list of RACAs with an EACE notice from 1 November 2016.

The Department strongly advises you to discuss piece-level examination options with your freight forwarder.

What do I do if I can't have my cargo examined at piece-level?

If you export to the US by air and cannot have your cargo examined at piece-level, you must become a Known Consignor to continue exporting to the US after 1 July 2017.



The Known Consignor Scheme

What is the Known Consignor Scheme?

Before cargo can be uplifted on an aircraft, it needs to undergo examination. For air cargo to the US this must be 'piece-level' examination (see overleaf for details).

However, some cargo is unsuitable for piece-level examination or piece-level examination may not be available to you. In this case, exporters that meet approved security outcomes can apply to become 'Known Consignors' and secure their cargo at its source. Cargo originating from Known Consignors, that continues to be handled securely, can be cleared for uplift on an aircraft and does not need to undergo examination.

Is the Known Consignor Scheme suitable for my business?

If you export to the US by air and cannot have your cargo examined at piece-level, you must become a Known Consignor to continue exporting to the US after 1 July 2017.

If you do not export to the US, you can apply to join the scheme however your application will not be dealt with as a priority and your cargo will be handled as it is currently – there are no piece-level requirements.

What is required to join the Known Consignor Scheme?

To join the scheme, businesses must demonstrate that they can meet strict security measures that provide a security outcome for their cargo.

These measures include facility security, security of information and personnel, and training requirements.

As part of the approval process, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department) will visit your site(s) to inspect your security measures and procedures.

If you meet the security outcomes, and agree to adhere to them, the Department will approve your business as a Known Consignor, and you will be issued with a Security Program containing your regulatory obligations.

The Department conducts compliance checks on regulated businesses to ensure they continue to meet their regulatory obligations.

How much does it cost to join the Scheme?

There is no application fee to join the scheme. However, there may be costs associated with upgrading your security measures to meet the Scheme's requirements, and in obtaining background checks for some key personnel.

How do I join the Known Consignor Scheme?

To submit an expression of interest, visit:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/security