

## Air Carrier Items Taken Onboard Aircraft

*For the purpose of this position paper, “air carrier items” refers to air carrier/company mail and/or material taken onboard.*

### BACKGROUND

Air carrier items are taken onboard commercial aircraft on a daily basis. It is therefore necessary to have appropriate procedures in place to ensure that these items have been subjected to screening or other security controls. The lack of such procedures may place the pilot-in-command in the difficult position of making a judgment call on whether to accept these items or not, sometimes without even knowing their nature or content. This situation is clearly unacceptable.

### POSITION

IFALPA believes that States should ensure that their registered air carriers have implemented measures to subject air carrier items to appropriate security controls prior to being loaded on aircraft. Such controls, that could include screening, should be carried out using appropriate methods taking into account the nature of the item. The following guidelines should be considered:

1. When loaded into the hold of an aircraft, air carrier items should either be screened as hold baggage or subjected to the same security controls as cargo and mail.
2. When loaded into any other part of an aircraft, air carrier items should be screened as cabin baggage.
3. Once subjected to screening or other security controls, air carrier items should be protected from unauthorized interference until the departure of the aircraft.
4. Air carrier items loaded onto the aircraft should be issued with a security status, either in an electronic format or in writing. Such status should be available to the pilot-in-command. Any item with no security status should be (re)screened or subjected to additional security controls.
5. The pilot-in-command always has the final authority with respect to the safety and security of the aircraft, and should be satisfied at all times with the transport of air carrier items. If there is any doubt as to the security status of these items, they should not be carried.