



(For Immediate Release)

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 January 2015

South Africa's National Cargo Security Programme receives further recognition from the US Transportation Security Administration

Midrand, 13-01-2015

The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has updated its recognition of South Africa's National Cargo Security Programme (NCSP) with immediate effect, to now include recognition of South Africa's Free Running National Explosives Detection Canine Programme, for use in the screening of air cargo bound for the United States. This follows the recognition of the NCSP which became effective on 9 May, 2013.

During site visits in January and February 2013, the TSA, in cooperation with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), validated its understanding of South Africa's NCSP in terms of specific security operations and the roles of programme participants. TSA officials were able to view canine screening operations in several air cargo screening facilities and discussed South Africa's National Explosives Detection Canine Security Programmes (K9SP), which included a performance review of relevant K9SP documentation pertaining to the use of the free running and conventional canine teams. These visits led to the team's recommendation that TSA should recognise South Africa's NCSP as providing a level of security commensurate with current US air cargo security requirements. This recognition extends to passenger air carrier cargo and mail operations.

This recognition follows a thorough review of South Africa's NCSP by the TSA to determine the level of comparability with current US air cargo security requirements, in order to support mutual recognition. The SACAA provided the TSA with documentation outlining South Africa's legislative and regulatory requirements for air cargo security. The ongoing cooperation between the TSA and SACAA is critical to the enhancement of international air cargo security. The recognition of NCSPs allows for greater facilitation of goods and commerce between the two countries, and eases the burden on industry by lifting, where appropriate, duplicative or redundant measures, while still ensuring the highest levels of security that both TSA and the SACAA require.

Effectively, TSA's recognition of South Africa's NCSP will allow passenger air carriers operating between South Africa and the United States to carry out the requirements of South Africa's NCSP, in lieu of their TSA-approved and accepted Aircraft Operator Standard Security Programme (AOSSP)

and Model Security Programme (MSP), as appropriate, for cargo transported on passenger flights from South Africa to the United States. As a result of appropriate amendments to the security programmes by the TSA, passenger air carriers will be responsible for full compliance with South Africa's NCSP for the relevant operations.

"This recognition comes at a time when the SACAA Board and Management have revised the Regulator's vision to be rated amongst the top 10/20 CAAs globally. This means that all our efforts are paying off and it serves as sufficient encouragement for us to push forward in meeting our organisational goals. All these achievements mean nothing if the benefit is not felt by our industry and this is the reason why we view this recognition as a major achievement for the Regulator and the industry at large," said Ms Khoza, head of the SA Civil Aviation Authority.

"The Regulator's reason for existence is to ensure that our industry is safe and secure and to this end we will continuously exert ourselves to ensure that we achieve this mandate for the benefit of this country and the Continent", concluded Ms Khoza.

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About the SACAA:

The South African Civil Aviation Authority ("SACAA") is a juristic body established in terms of the Civil Aviation Act, 2009 (Act No. 13 of 2009) ("the Act"). SACAA is governed and controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority Board ("the Board"). In terms of mandate, the SACAA is tasked with promoting and maintaining a safe, secure and sustainable civil aviation environment, by regulating and overseeing the functioning and development of the industry in an efficient, cost-effective, and customer-friendly manner according to international standards.

For more information contact:

Sandy Motale
Communications Manager
Tel: + 27 11 545 1314
Cell: + 27 83 451 2654
Email: motales@caa.co.za
Website: www.caa.co.za

Or

Phindiwe Gwebu
Senior Manager: Communications and Marketing
Tel: + 27 11 545 1086
Cell: + 27 83 461 6070
Email: gwebup@caa.co.za
Website: www.caa.co.za