



Managing & Protecting Digitalized Air Cargo Services from Cyber Attacks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)







Mr. Ahmed Wagih Senior Specialist, Dangerous Goods AVSEC Affairs Sector UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA)







UAE's Strategy on Digitalization

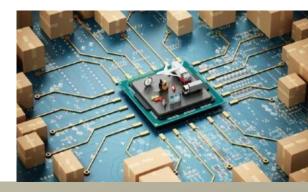


- The UAE Government adopted a Strategy on digitalization in 2010;
- For readiness.
- To face potential crisis and emergency situations (such as the COVID-19 or any other Pandemic).
- Establishment of a robust electronic digitalized services' infrastructure in the UAE.
- Encourage competitiveness.
- Establish a digitalization culture, to improve efficiency in business processes, public satisfaction, quality of life, happiness and productivity.





GCAA Strategy on Digitalization of Air Cargo Services



- Reduce the risk of cyber attacks and protect data against the unauthorized exploitation of systems, networks and technologies.
- Established and Implemented digitalization in air cargo and many other civil aviation related services.
- Established digitalization of services other than those related to air cargo.
- Coordinated, monitored as well as encouraged stakeholders to implement digitalization.
- Encourage innovation in digitalization.
- Benchmarking and best practices.





GCAA IT Approach to Protect Digitalized Services from Cyber Attacks



- Change the business model.
- In-house Platform.
- Increase safety and security through processes and controls to protect systems, networks, programs, devices and data from cyber attacks.
- Improve operational efficiency by reducing unnecessary delays.
- Enable better data analysis and information sharing.
- Encourage innovation.
- Independent/stand alone platform for AVSEC.
- Registration control.
- Support integration with other systems such as "Tarasol" system x Mol.





Current GCAA Air Cargo Digitalized Services



- Reporting of Security Breaches (ROSB).
- Reporting of Dangerous Goods Occurrences (RODGO).
- Aviation Security (AVSEC) Web-Board
- Voluntary Reporting of Security Breaches.
- Tarasol Security Clearance System in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Interior (MoI).
- Aerial Photography Approval.
- Dangerous Goods Certification.
- Oversight Self-Assessment.
- National Permit for UAE Airports.





Advantages of Digitalization Noted During the Covid-19 Pandemic

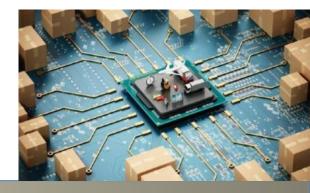


- Enabled efficient air cargo operations.
- Easily aligned with Covid -19 measures issued by the UAE Ministry of Health.
- Enabled stakeholders to continuously monitor and conduct safety and security related data analysis and risk assessment.





UAE GCAA Cyber Security Ongoing Activities



- Revised the National Civil Aviation Legislation including Air Cargo (to address cyber security).
- The UAE National Cyber Security Task Force (under processing).
- Drafting the UAE National Cyber Security Strategy (by the Task Force).
- Conduct Frequent Cyber Security Gap Analysis (ICAO Resolution R40).





Future Plan



- Continue to explore and benefit from new technologies.
- Further enhancement of current air cargo related digitalized services.
- Encourage new initiatives through GCAA QAFAZAT Program and communication with industry stakeholders.
- Establishment of Air Cargo Services through Mobile Applications.
- Interface/Integration with systems used by other concerned entities.
- Integration of systems (such as ROSB, RODGO, DG Certification system...etc.) at the national level and globally.





Thank you

