IATA’s Recommendation on Cargo-XML Standards

www.iata.org/Cargo-XML

XML has been endorsed as the strategic direction for air cargo industry electronic messaging as it brings many benefits:

- Reduced cost of development, transmission, maintenance and support
- Extended facilitation in implementing e-AWB, e-Freight and Advance Electronic Information
- Enable expansion of participation in e-commerce by SMEs throughout the logistics chain
- Improved data quality
- Improved availability of required business information to each participant
- Facilitate direct exchange of data by providing easy implementation between the partners
- Quicker response to change requirements
- Universally used and accepted standard
- Promotes the move to a common standard amongst all parties in the supply chain
- Compatible standards with other industry bodies e.g. World Customs Organization (WCO), International Standards Organization (ISO) etc.

It is recommended to use standard IATA Cargo-XML to exchange electronic information along the air freight supply chain as the alternative to IATA Standard Cargo-IMP.

It is envisioned that to achieve the maximum benefits of Cargo-XML, business processes on sender and receiver side are geared to transmit responses to Cargo-XML Messages in a timely manner.

It is planned to sunset the IATA Cargo-IMP manual by the end of 2014 and changes to IATA standard EDI messages will only be completed in the IATA XML messages beyond 2014. New messages will only be developed in Cargo-XML format.

It is recommended that industry stakeholders who want to start exchanging EDI messages, especially Small and Medium Size Enterprises, to adopt Cargo-XML standards and not IATA Cargo-IMP as agreed with their partners.

Industry stakeholders that are using IATA Cargo-IMP messages are encouraged to adopt IATA Cargo-XML standards as soon as possible or develop a plan to migrate to IATA Cargo-XML.

It is recommended to use IATA Cargo-XML as it facilitates the implementation and adoption of the e-Cargo initiatives such as the electronic Air Waybill (e-AWB) or e-Freight.

Shippers are encouraged to adopt IATA Cargo-XML in order to participate to the air cargo industry e-initiatives.

It is recommended to adopt IATA Cargo-XML as aids compliance to Customs and Security requirements by providing better flexibility in providing complete data elements.

IT Service Providers should offer IATA Cargo-XML solutions in addition to the traditional IATA Cargo-IMP as well as mapping/auto-conversion functionalities to support the industry migration form Cargo-IMP to XML.
IATA recommends that international organizations and regulators (including IATA, WCO, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Customs Administrations) should cooperate to ensure that standard XML messages are compatible and accepted.

It is planned to publish the first edition of Cargo-XML Manual by the end of 2012 which will include several features such as Business Rules, XML Schema, Mapping with Cargo-IMP, Supporting Documents, Examples and Case Studies etc.

It is recommended that the Global Air Cargo Advisory Group (GACAG) shall encourage its member organizations (and their descendent groups) including the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) and the Global Shippers’ Forum (GSF), to adopt Cargo-XML standards.