CARGO CONTAINMENT

1. Applicability

This Notice is applicable to the approval of containers used in aircraft for the transportation of cargo in which the securing of the cargo to the aircraft structure is dependent upon the strength of the container. It includes containers used for the transportation of livestock e.g. pens and horseboxes.

2. Introduction

BCAR Section D, FAR 25 and JAR 25 require that cargo compartments and the means provided for the restraint of the cargo shall have sufficient strength to restrain the cargo under flight and ground conditions to prescribed acceleration factors. In addition, unless the compartment and cargo are so located that in the event of the cargo breaking loose in emergency alighting conditions it is unlikely to cause injury to the occupants of the aircraft, damage fuel tanks or lines, or to nullify any of the escape facilities, the compartment and the means provided for restraint of the cargo shall also comply with the emergency alighting conditions of the relevant airworthiness code.

3. Requirements

3.1 Containers, whether built into the aircraft or as self-contained units intended for transfer from one aircraft to another, shall with effect from the date of issue of this Notice, together with their means of installation into aircraft, comply with the appropriate strength requirements of either:

(a) the flight, ground and emergency alighting loads, or
(b) the flight and ground loads, depending on their intended location in the aircraft. The containers and their means of installation into aircraft shall have been approved in accordance with procedures acceptable to the DCA.

NOTES: (1) Containers which comply with the requirements of the National Air Safety Specification NAS 3610, Revision 6 will be accepted as being in compliance with JAR 25 but only for installation in those locations where compliance with the emergency alighting conditions is not required.

(2) For the purposes of this Notice, the “appropriate strength requirements” are the prescribed requirements associated with the type certification basis accepted by the DCA for the issue of the Certificate of Airworthiness for the aircraft in which the containers will be installed.

3.2 Operators shall make adequate provision for care and maintenance of containers under their control and shall, where appropriate, formulate and adopt procedures for ensuring that containers to be used on their aircraft are of an approved type and in an acceptable condition. These procedures will be examined by the DCA as part of the routine assessment of operators’ maintenance procedures.

3.3 The operator’s loading manual or similar document shall include adequate instructions for the assembly, installation and maintenance of containers and their installations.

4. Additional Information

4.1 DCA approval will be limited to the airworthiness features of the container with regard to the aircraft, flight crew and other persons present on the flight. It will not cover the safeguarding of the cargo or, in the case of livestock, its welfare.

4.2 It is recommended that containers should be sufficiently robust and simple such that assembly and/or installation into the aircraft would not constitute work necessitating the signing of a Certificate of Release to Service.

4.3 It is strongly recommended that, in view of the mishandling to which such equipment may be subjected, the instructions provided in accordance with paragraph 3.3 should also contain advice as regards tolerable damage and any resulting load limitations.
4.4 Operators are reminded that they are responsible for safeguarding the aeroplane structure and equipment against the effects of corrosive liquids and any other materials which could cause damage or malfunction.

4.5 Where restraint of the cargo and container is provided by approved nets, bulkheads, etc. and no reliance is placed on the strength of the container, then such containers will not be subject to the above requirements.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION
MALAYSIA