

Office of the Director General

LIBERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 68
Harbel, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia
Cell #:+231-776-998-849
Email: liberiacao@lcaa.gov.lr
Website: www.lcaa.gov.lr



LIBERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

SECURITY DIRECTIVE # 13

Mandatory Licensing of Cargo Agents / Air Freight Forwarders and Strengthened Air Waybill Controls in the Secure Supply Chain

In consonance with the powers conferred on the Director General under the Liberia Civil Aviation Act of 2019, Subchapter IV §§401–402; and pursuant to *Liberia Civil Aviation Regulations* 17.3.1(f), 17.3.3, 17.3.15, and 17.9.1; and in accordance with the *National Civil Aviation Security Program (NCASP)*, Section 7.8; and in fulfillment of Liberia's obligations under the *ICAO Chicago Convention and Annex 17* (specifically all Standards under Section 4.6), the following Directive is hereby issued:

DIRECTIVE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. Purpose of Directive

Following a comprehensive assessment of cargo-security vulnerabilities and the increasing role of intermediaries in the air-cargo supply chain, the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) hereby strengthens regulatory oversight of all entities involved in the processing, acceptance, consolidation, and forwarding of air cargo within Liberia.

This Directive establishes **mandatory licensing requirements** for all cargo agents and air freight forwarders and imposes **new obligations on aircraft operators** regarding the issuance, verification, and acceptance of Air Waybills (AWBs).

2. Regulatory Basis

This Directive is issued pursuant to:

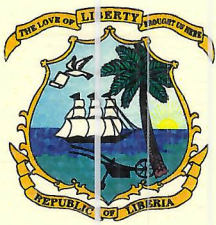
LCAR Part 20A – Allied Aviation Services

- **Section 10.1:** “No person shall undertake Cargo Agency and Air Freight Forwarding unless on the authority of a license issued by the Authority.”

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- **Section 10.6(a):** Requirements for Registration of Cargo Agents / Air Freight Forwarders.

LCAR Part 17 – Aviation Security

- **17.3.1(f)** – Security controls for cargo and mail
- **17.3.3** – Responsibilities of aircraft operators
- **17.3.15** – Chain-of-custody requirements
- **17.9.1** – Oversight and enforcement authority of the LCAA

NCASP Section 7.8

Requiring regulated control over entities handling cargo prior to acceptance by aircraft operators.

ICAO Annex 17 – Section 4.6

Standards governing secure supply chain entities, cargo security controls, and regulated agents.

3. Mandatory Licensing of Cargo Agents / Freight Forwarders

Effective immediately:

1. **All cargo agents, air freight forwarders, consolidators, brokers, and similar intermediaries must be licensed by the LCAA** before performing any cargo-related activity within the aviation supply chain.
2. Any entity currently operating without an LCAA license **must cease operations until licensed**. However, upon declaration to the LCAA of contracted operational status, including a letter of recommendation from a licensed Aircraft Operator, or other relevant licensed entity for which service is being provided, they may be granted a 30-day grace period within which they should formally apply to the LCAA for license.
3. Entities already licensed must ensure their license is **current, valid, and comply** with LCAR Part 20A and NCASP requirements.

4. Restrictions on Aircraft Operators – Air Waybill Issuance

To eliminate unregulated intermediaries and strengthen chain-of-custody integrity:

4.1 Aircraft Operators May Only:

- (a) **Issue the Air Waybill (AWB) themselves**, thereby assuming full responsibility for:

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- Verification of shipper/consignor identity
- Verification of consignee identity
- Verification of cargo description, packaging, and declared contents
- Ensuring compliance with NCASP and LCAR Part 15 (Dangerous Goods)

OR

(b) Utilize an LCAA-licensed cargo agent / freight forwarder, who will assume responsibility for:

- Identity verification of shippers and consignees
- Verification of cargo contents and documentation
- Maintaining secure chain-of-custody until handover to the aircraft operator
- Ensuring compliance with NCASP cargo-security requirements

4.2 Prohibition

Aircraft operators **shall not accept** any cargo processed by:

- Unlicensed freight forwarders
- Brokers or intermediaries not recognized by the LCAA
- Individuals or entities unable to demonstrate compliance with NCASP cargo-security standards

5. Phased Execution Plan (30-Day Compliance Window)

To ensure orderly implementation, the Authority establishes the following phased plan:

Phase I — Notification & Application (Day 0–30)

All aircraft operators, cargo agents, freight forwarders, brokers, and consolidators must **formally apply for licensing within 30 days** of issuance of this Directive.

Applications must include:

- Business Registration Certificate
- Articles of Incorporation
- Corporate profile

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- Physical business address and contact details
- Scope of operations (cargo acceptance, consolidation, brokerage, etc.)
- Police clearance and photocopy of ID for key personnel involved in cargo processing
- Dangerous Goods training certificates (where applicable)
- Security Manual or KCSP/RASP (if seeking regulated status)

Phase II — Inspection & Validation (Day 30–90)

LCAA will conduct:

- Office and warehouse inspections
- Personnel vetting
- Review of operational manuals
- Verification of chain-of-custody procedures
- Security program evaluation (NCASP compliance)

Phase III — Licensing & Enforcement (Day 90 onward)

- Licenses will be issued to compliant entities.
- Non-compliant entities will be **prohibited from operating**.
- Aircraft operators accepting cargo from unlicensed entities will face enforcement action under LCAR Part 20A and LCAR Part 17.

6. Administrative Penalties

Consistent with recent enforcement actions, entities found operating without proper authorization or violating this Directive may be subject to:

- **Administrative fines up to USD 200,000**
- Suspension or revocation of operating privileges
- Additional sanctions under the LCAA sanctions regime
- Referral for criminal investigation where applicable

7. Effective Date

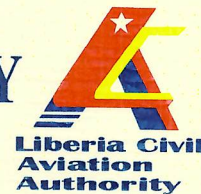
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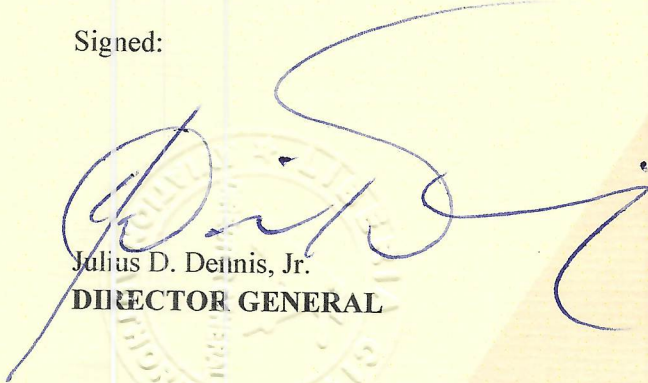
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This Directive takes effect **immediately upon issuance**, beginning **August 20, 2026**.

All stakeholders are required to comply fully.

Signed:


Julius D. Dennis, Jr.
DIRECTOR GENERAL

**Liberia Civil
Aviation
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