

NACA

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Tariff Impacts

NACA issued a letter to the White House and the Treasury Department expressing strong concerns about the impacts of tariffs on the U.S. economy, particularly affecting U.S. cargo carriers. We provided details on the number of flights that could be reduced, as well as the economic downturn that could occur for these carriers. We also highlighted the role that many of these carriers play as members of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), and how tariffs could impact their availability for CRAF missions, as well as their overall viability. With tariffs fully in effect, we will be visiting the Hill and possibly the White House with our affected cargo carriers to discuss the impact on their businesses.

TSA Update

Ha Nguyen McNeill recently was appointed Deputy Administrator at TSA and is now serving as the Acting Administrator. Adam Stahl, who was the Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator, has moved back to his Chief of Staff position. Ms. McNeill has previously served as TSA Chief of Staff, is very knowledgeable and works well with industry – we know her well. We are awaiting the publication in the Federal Register of a call for resumes to serve on the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC). Once notice is issued, Paul Doell will re-apply for an appointment to the ASAC.

On-Demand Working Group

NACA and its impacted members have been working with TSA for several months to discuss, provide information, and offer potential solutions to address the deficiencies of the On-Demand cargo amendment. In our last meeting, TSA committed to provide proposed language to resolve the problems in the near future. We expect to receive their proposal and provide feedback towards the end of May.

Airlines Crew Program Payment (Passport Renewal)

The Department of State, through the Bureau of Consular Affairs, is rolling out a new payment process for airline pilots and flight crews using the Airline Crew passport renewal program. Personnel using this program will need to pay using a Pay.gov portal and to provide printed payment confirmation with their mailed applications. The Consular Affairs office recently provided demonstrations to industry. We delivered those notices to your staff.

Aviation Safety Team (AST) Update

There was a very robust discussion at April's AST meeting regarding NACA's stated concerns that certain CMOs are overreaching with respect to submission of documents from the airlines' SMS/SRA process. Other associations and labor groups also brought forward examples of overreach. Several parties emphasized that this overreach could jeopardize the integrity of the entire voluntary safety reporting program. Top FAA leadership acknowledged industry's concerns and reiterated that voluntary safety reporting should not be used for enforcement purposes. The AST industry co-chair is taking the lead in collecting data to help educate and resolve the misunderstanding of the SMS process. Part 193 protection and applicability was discussed, with FAA committing to provide more clarity on the application of SMS.

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Ramp Worker Safety Working Group

This newly formed working group was created in response to Section 353 of the FAA Reauthorization bill. AFS-300 contacted NACA to help assemble the working group. The first working group meeting is May 15 at FAA headquarters, with NACA and some of our members in attendance.

The Human Organ Transport Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC)

The Human Organ Transport ARC has completed work and is preparing their final report. The ARC was focused on passenger airlines only – after the report is issued in the next few weeks, there will be discussion of forming another working group for cargo airlines.

Flight Deck Secondary Barrier Retrofit Rule ARC

The Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) discussed and decided against getting involved with the Flight Deck Secondary Barrier Retrofit Rule ARC. While the FAA reauthorization bill requires an ARC on secondary barriers, most airlines see absolutely no need for retrofitting. NACA's goal is to minimize the impact of this requirement.

Infoshare 2025

Infoshare is scheduled for August 25-29, with NACA's George Paul co-chairing the four-hour cargo session. Topics for this session are in development; NACA will reach out to all our members for input. In the future, the cargo session will be driven by industry co-chairs from airlines and labor, along with the FAA. National Airlines and ALPA will serve as industry co-chairs; George will assist them at this Infoshare and then step down.

NACA Operations, Safety and Maintenance Council meetings

The technical councils met April 1-3 at NACA HQ, featuring very good attendance and robust, candid discussions, particularly with respect to the issue of CMO overreach on SMS documentation requirements. New vice chairs were elected to fill positions vacated with the recent departure of the low-fare carrier group from NACA. Details and presentations from the meeting were distributed to all council members. The next council meetings are scheduled for July 15-17 at NACA.

Security Council meeting update

To help reduce travel costs for NACA members, our next Security Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, to coincide with the technical council meetings later that week. As a result, airline staff serving multiple roles within the airline can attend multiple meetings on one trip to and from Washington.