

IMPORTANCE OF UNIT LOAD DEVICE FOR AIR CARGO BUSINESS.

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1.1 Introduction

The airlines which are operating for passengers usually have a good business, because the Passenger business is operated as shuttle. The Shuttle has a two way leg. The leg include bidirectional those passengers who book will book the same flight or other flights to return back. But air cargo does not settle with like, because the cargo transported will be delivered and it will not get loaded as the cargo during destination may not get cargo. The Airlines develop their cargo business by generating long term contracts with the freight forwarders to provide regular supply of cargo. Thus the airline fills their cargo space for regular supply and at a fixed cargo rate. If the cargo is not provided as per promise, then the airlines have to mitigate with other ways to fulfill the cargo space. In another way the airlines increase their sale by regular booking of cargo. The customer asks for the cargo space after fixing up the pricing terms, provides the cargo space. The airline check the price, size, weight, handling equipments and cargo space the price is fixed Most of such cargo space is booked on the day or a day before the departure of the flight.

1.2 Type of Cargo:

The type of goods which are transported through airlines can be as small as a box or a cargo which could fill the length and breadth of aircraft itself. The cargo agents prefer to ship in airlines because of its fast and safety. The air cargo business is very much expensive, actually the price of cargo would attract 10 to 50 times of the price of the cargo. The air cargo is basically classified into four categories viz., urgent, perishable, valuable and dangerous. The urgent cargo includes products such as spare parts fashion and living animal's perishable cargo includes flowers, drugs, fresh food. The valuable cargo includes Semi conductors, bank notes or works of art. Dangerous cargo includes Chemicals batteries and radioactive materials. All these cargo are in the form of box and other irregular shapes, barrels, sacks, multiple boxes, wooden pallet and the cargo covered in cardboard wood and sty foam, plastic foil and covered with reinforced metal edges.

1.3 Unit load devices:

In order to accommodate various forms of cargo the airlines use special air cargo pallets /containers, which are called unit load devices.(ULD). The unit load devices are placed at designated loading positions and are locked by latches on the ground. The unit load devices are made through plain aluminum pallets in different

designs which could accommodate cargo like cars, houses and frozen foods. The airline use pallet which are use to ship larger shipments. These palettes are normally placed in the lower desk of the airlines. Normally the unit load devices are classified under four categories viz. Main deck pallet (PMC) lower deck pallet (PMC), half sized lower deck container (AKH). The cargo is placed in the unit load devices and the ULD is placed in the airlines well before several hours before the flight gets departure. In a airline the cargo either in the lower deck in the front and in the center wing of the airlines. This allocation is so done to maintain the gravitational and point of gravity for flying. The loading and unloading workers and the agents act too quickly to place by looking in to the gravitational force and safety of the airline for aircraft.

1.4 Conclusion:

The air cargo is transported through the Airlines with at most safety, by placing the cargo in the unit load device (ULD). The items placed in the ULD for making the cargo safety without tipping, sleeping or breaking.

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