

Federal Aviation Administration

Survey Data

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Background

- FAA obtained emergency approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a new information collection in connection with the FAA COVID-19 Vaccine Air Transport Team's work with aviation trade associations, air carriers, governmental partners, and other aviation stakeholders that participate or have participated in the safe and efficient transport of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Federal Register Notice titled, "Air Transportation of the COVID-19 Vaccines," published on Feb. 2, 2022 (87 FR 5932).
- The information collection via the survey link opened on Mar. 14, 2022 and closed on the extended deadline of Apr. 29, 2022.

Results

Air Transportation of the COVID-19 Vaccines

∎Yes ■No



Did the volume of vaccines transported, per pound of dry ice, increase over the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Were the observed lower sublimation rates due to improved packaging technology or other factors?

Was there anything that limited your ability to transport vaccines efficiently while maintaining safety?

Results



Results



Results

Q7. Transport limitations -	sport S Continuously evolving COVID-19 pandemic led to testing, quarantine, and entry restrictions to all-cargo and passenger airline flight crewmembers globally	Created confusion regarding expectations
		At times, limited ability to transport cargo and vaccines efficiently
	Airframe manufacturers conducted their own dry ice testing	Service Letters issued prior to COVID-19 pandemic with suggested maximum allowable dry ice limit
		Air carriers relied on their SMS programs and worked directly with FAA to ensure safe and efficient distribution (urgent public health response and demand for COVID-19 vaccines)
	FAA Tech Center also conducted dry ice testing to determine varying sublimation	Created confusion regarding applied conditions
-	rates per varying conditions of different aircraft configurations	Limited knowledge of whether same conditions applied during the vaccine transportation process
	Varying AOC interpretations of manufacturers air circulation rates across same aircraft make/version	

Results

Q8. Key takeawavs		Communication and collaboration were key to success	Established early in the COVID-19 pandemic between aviation industry stakeholders and government, with inclusion of pharma, for safe and efficient transport of the vaccines
Transit times secured with support via on-time monitoring and activation of contingencies			Worked through labeling, handling, and quantity limits for flight data recorders powered by lithium batteries with DOT/FAA and PHMSA domestically and ICAO internationally for shipments
		FAA created a Vaccine Transport website updated frequently with pertinent resources	
100% quality control with no product loss	-	New standards enhanced risk mitigation and safety assurance	FAA worked with EASA and ICAO to establish updated
			Efforts recognized unique nature and scale of vaccine transport and distribution
A new and innovative platform addition to the Life Science Industry for enhanced shipping	-	Lack of uniformity from FAA for limits granted to each air carrier	
Expansion of Dangerous Goods handling footprint (dry ice and active data loggers/ temp devices)		Industry can maximize dry-ice quantities onboard aircraft	Pro: Shippers must declare packaging sublimation rates
	_		Con: Applying a worst-case scenario (2%) across all shipments

Results

Air Transport Lookahead

Q9. Additional dry ice regulations, minimum standards, and guidance

- Guidance should further incorporate SMS considerations and strategies in its application to air carrier operations
- Require shippers to declare sublimation rate of dry ice shipments tendered to maximize capacity of the applicable aircraft, rather than the 2% default
- Require aircraft manufacturers to supply a sublimation rate chart specific to the decimal, rather than use of whole number values
- A complete study on limits encompassing flight conditions (i.e., device events when air conditioning is off, limited airflow per mechanical, and mixed shipments)



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Questions?





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Thank you!