

Global Trade Security Depends on Implementation of the Revised International Health Regulations

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- The positions expressed in this presentation are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Overview of Presentation

- IHR and its importance to global trade security
- Opportunities for trade and tourism stakeholders to help address challenges to IHR implementation
- Possible framework for action



IHR Overview

- International legal agreement with obligations for all 192 countries in the World Health Organization
- Aims to protect against:
 - International spread of serious risks to public health
 - Inappropriate government restrictions in travel or trade for “public health purposes”
- IHR obligations are for governments, not businesses
- However, governments’ actions or lack of actions in implementing the IHR can greatly impact businesses



Major Elements of IHR 2005

- Focuses on “Public Health Emergencies of International Concern” (PHEICs):
 - Serious public health risk through international spread
 - Risk of international trade and travel restrictions
 - May require a coordinated international response
- Countries must develop “core capacity” to detect and respond to possible PHEICs on their territory and at their borders
- Countries must notify WHO promptly of possible PHEICs
- Establishes legal framework & procedures for WHO Director-General to
 - Gather and assess information and determine whether an event is PHEIC
 - Recommend containment measures based on external expert advice
 - Coordinate international response



Trade and tourism stakeholders have
a vested interest in IHR
implementation but may not realize it!



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Global Trade Security- Provisional Definition

- Stable trading environment, including
 - Safe and unhindered travel and transport
 - Stability of supply and distribution chains
 - Continuity of business operations
 - Safety of imports and exports



Flight cancellations in Singapore during SARS outbreak, 2003

Time	Flight	Destination	Gate	Status
17:00	GA 859	Singapore	16	Est at 19:10
		Jakarta		
17:20	MU 598	Shanghai/Pudong		Cancelled
17:45	KA 894	Shanghai/Pudong		Cancelled
17:50	KA 430	Kaohsiung		Cancelled
17:50	KA 604	Xiamen		Cancelled
17:50	KA 904	Beijing		Cancelled
17:55	KA 700	Gulin		Cancelled
17:55	MU 5020	Nanjing	66	Now Boarding
18:00	CA 420	Chongqing	64	
18:00	MU 204	Xian	26	Boarding Soon
18:00	PR 307	Manila	24	
18:05	AI 315	Delhi	33	Boarding Soon
		Mumbai		
18:05	KA 660	Fuzhou		Cancelled
18:20	CX 402	Taipei	67	
18:25	MU 510	Shanghai/Pudong	19	
18:30	SQ 885	Singapore	23	Boarding Soon
18:35	KA 622	Hangzhou		Cancelled
18:40	AC 008	Vancouver		Cancelled
		Toronto		
18:45	CI 616	Taipei	28	
18:50	TG 633	Bangkok	42	
18:55	KA 812	Nanjing		Cancelled
19:10	CX 111	Sydney	47	

Time	Flight	Destination	Gate	Status
19:10	CX 135	Melbourne		Cancelled
19:10	OF 088	Melbourne	18	
19:15	MU 538	Shanghai/Pudong	15	
19:15	NZ 070	Auckland	35	
	LH 9810			
19:20	KA 906	Beijing		Cancelled
19:20	SQ 869	Singapore		Cancelled
19:25	BR 872	Taipei		Cancelled
19:25	CZ 3078	Haihou	32	
19:40	5J 119	Manila	21	
19:40	CA 116	Beijing		Cancelled
19:40	CX 468	Taipei		Cancelled
19:40	CX 913	Manila		Cancelled
19:45	CI 642	Taipei	25	
19:50	MU 7002	Taiyuan		Cancelled
20:00	CX 715	Singapore		Cancelled
20:00	UA 805	Singapore		Cancelled
20:05	CI 616	Kaohsiung	28	
20:10	CZ 3078	Guangzhou	30	
20:10	OF 068	Brisbane		Cancelled
		Sydney		
20:15	KA 806	Shanghai/Pudong	29	
20:15	TG 630	Taipei		Cancelled
20:25	CX 107	Auckland	1	
	BA 4551			

Time	Flight	Destination	Gate	Status
20:35	KA 438	Kaohsiung		Cancelled
20:45	CX 464	Taipei		Cancelled
20:45	TG 607	Bangkok	42	
20:50	CI 616	Taipei		Cancelled
20:50	CZ 3032	Gulin	32	
21:00	BR 858	Taipei	38	
21:05	PR 311	Manila		
21:10	OF 128	Sydney	19	
21:45	KA 434	Kaohsiung	27	
21:45	KA 488	Taipei		Cancelled
21:50	CX 408	Taipei	4	
21:50	CX 905	Manila	31	
21:55	CI 672	Kaohsiung		
21:55	SQ 002	San Francisco		
22:00	VN 763	Ho Chi Minh		
	CX 763			
22:05	CI 666	Taipei		Cancelled
22:05	CX 709	Bangkok		Cancelled
22:25	EK 383	Bangkok	62	
		Dubai		
22:55	CX 462	Taipei		Cancelled
23:10	LH 731	Munich		Cancelled
	NZ 4631			
23:20	CX 103	Calina		
		Brisbane		



Technical Challenges to IHR Implementation

- Building core public health capacity at points of entry and throughout the country
- Countries need funds, equipment, supplies, technical assistance
 - Now developing national action plans to meet IHR requirements by 2012



The REALLY Tough Challenges for IHR Implementation

- Economic disincentives to transparency and disease control measures
 - Harm to a tourist or export industry
 - Cost of seized or destroyed goods
 - Direct cost of public health interventions



How can trade/tourism stakeholders help?

- Assist in public health capacity building
- Raise awareness in business and political circles before any event
 - “Better to quench the spark early”
- International scheme for partial economic compensation
 - Trust fund?
 - Insurance product?
 - Subsidized premiums for poor countries



Possible Framework for Action

- Focus on TRADE SECURITY, not health
- Collaboration between public health and trade/tourism stakeholders
 - Initiative by major trading nations?
 - WHO- WTO, WEF, World Bank initiative?
 - Chambers of Commerce, industry “best practice”, engaging smaller companies and suppliers?
 - Measures should be voluntary



Resource and Contact Information

- Weblinks re International Health Regulations
 - US Department of Health and Human Services
<http://www.globalhealth.gov/ihr/>
 - World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/en/>
- Please contact with questions, thoughts:
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