

COUNTY OF KERN
DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS

Meadows Field Airport

3701 Wings Way, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Telephone 661-391-1800 Fax 661-391-1801 email: airports@lightspeed.net



JACK GOTCHER, CM, CAE
Director

System Airports

Elk Hills – Buttonwillow

Poso – Kern Valley – Wasco

Lost Hills – Taft – Meadows Field

September 16, 2009

Ms. Cindy J. Smith
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
C/O Dr. Maurine Bell
4700 River Road, Unit 129
Riverdale, MD 20737

SUBJECT: USDA Approval for the Handling of Regulated Garbage at Meadows Field Airport

Dear Ms. Smith:

Kern County Airports is looking to establish a compliance agreement to handle international garbage at Meadows Field Airport in Bakersfield, CA. In 2007 and 2008, Meadows Field Airport handled international flights from Guadalajara, Mexico via Mexicana Airlines. During that time Atlantic Aviation had a compliance agreement in place to handle international garbage at Meadows Field. Kern County Airports would like to enter into a new compliance agreement to handle garbage for corporate aircraft looking for Customs clearance at Meadows Field.

Kern County Airports currently receives, on average, about one aircraft a month looking to clear Customs at Meadows Field Airport, with minimal garbage, roughly a 13-15 gallon size bag of garbage. All garbage removed from an international flight is treated as regulated garbage; therefore, no method of separating would be required. The garbage is removed from the flight and immediately placed into a rigid, leak-proof container with a locking, tightly-fitting cover. The container is lettered with the words "REGULATED GARBAGE" in English and Spanish, with the lettering at least four inches high. Garbage is maintained locked in the containers for a maximum of 48 hours. Within that 48 hour time frame garbage will be processed by way of steam sterilization. The equipment is located on site, next to the Customs and Border Protection facility. We will process garbage at 240 degrees for 120 minutes. Once garbage has been processed, it is sent to local landfill by way of local refuse company (Varner Brothers).

In the event that the local sterilizer fails; Kern County Airports has an agreement with Kern Medical Center (KMC), located at 1700 Mount Vernon Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93306, to utilize their sterilizer. At which time the garbage would be transported, locked in the rigid, leak-proof containers and processed within the 48 hour time frame.



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Kern County Airports will provide training for personnel authorized to handle and process regulated garbage. Training will include:

1. Definition of regulated garbage;
2. Explanation and purpose of the regulations
3. Inclusion of film, slides, or other training aids of foreign animal and plant diseases and pest;
4. Specific outline-by demonstration, illustration, or picture-of proper regulated garbage handling procedures for the facility and step-by-step procedures from stripping of aircraft to disposal. A written, step-by-step protocol for reporting and handling emergency spills, maintaining control of regulated materials, and the cleaning and disinfecting of affected areas and equipment.

Kern County Airport formally requests approval to process regulated garbage at Meadows Field Airport and request that you forward the most current relevant Compliance Agreement for our review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)



Matthew Maass, C.M.
Deputy Director



LAREDO, TEXAS
1755

CITY OF LAREDO

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Cindy J. Smith
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
c/o Dr. Keith Wiggins
4700 River Road, Unit 129
Riverdale, MD 20737

Ref: Request for USDA Approval-Regulated Garbage

Dear Ms. Smith,

The Laredo International Airport (LRD) through this correspondence hereby respectfully requests approval to handle, store and/or process regulated garbage with respect to international commercial passenger and/or international commercial cargo operations. This request is required in order to achieve compliance with 7 CFR Part 330.400-330.403 and 9 CFR 94.5, as well as enter into a compliance agreement for same between the Laredo International Airport and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Background

The City of Laredo International Airport encompasses approximately 1,892 acres of which 900 acres are dedicated to aviation for passenger and air cargo terminals, runways, taxiways and aprons, and 982 acres are dedicated for industrial, commercial, retail, institutional, and recreational use.

For your information, LRD is currently being served by the following scheduled airlines: American Eagle to Dallas/Fort Worth, Express Jet D.B.A. Continental Express to Houston Bush Intercontinental and Allegiant Air to Las Vegas, Nevada and Orlando, Florida. On average, the airlines have in total nine (9) daily scheduled round trip flights. A top priority for the Airport is the re-instatement of direct air service to Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico.

Commercial passenger enplanement activity for 2010 increased by 8.4% compared to 2009. The increase exceeds the national average for all airports.

The airport passenger terminal is master planned to expand from the original three gates with four passenger-boarding bridges to twenty gates by the year 2025. The passenger capacity for the terminal is 600 passengers per hour and the Federal Inspection Station has capacity for 300 passengers per hour.

Three (3) scheduled cargo operators and twenty five (25) charter air cargo companies are currently serving the Airport. Major air cargo operators at the Laredo International Airport include: Federal Express, UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Air Transport Inc., Kallita Charters, USA Jet, AmeriJet, USA TSM, Northern Air Cargo, National Air Cargo, Cherry Air, AmeriStar, IFL Group, Air Cargo Carriers, Inc., and Contract Air. Cargo increased from 2009 vs. 2010 by approximately 57.3% as a result of the improved global economy primarily the automotive sector which sector accounts for approximately 90 percent of Laredo's air cargo.

Following is the additional information required with this formal request:

A. Name and Address of Airport.

Laredo International Airport
5210 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, Texas 78041

B. Name and title of airport's representative responsible for handling regulated garbage:

The POC concerning this application, inspection, and all follow up correspondence regarding the approval for handling of regulated garbage at LRD as well as monitoring of the compliance agreement will be: Mr. Humberto Garza, Airport Operations Manager who may be contacted at 956.795.2000 or by e-mail at hgarza@ci.laredo.tx.us

C. Name and physical location of the USDA approved processor (i.e., sterilizer/incinerator) on airport property responsible for sterilizing or incinerating regulated garbage:

Manufacturer: Sani-Pak
Model: Auto Clave Sterilizer
Serial #: 240-3030698-467.Del B4

This sterilizer is located on the grounds of the Laredo International Airport just northeast of the passenger terminal and adjacent to the central plant.

D. Name and title of the representative from the USDA-approved processor (i.e., sterilizer/incinerator) responsible for overseeing the processor:

The POC for overseeing the processor will be: Mr. Humberto Garza, Airport Operations Manager, who may be contacted at 956.795.2000 or by e-mail at hgarza@ci.laredo.tx.us

E. Name and address of any USDA approved catering or cleaning firm associated with the airport: Although none are currently approved. The airlines will need to contract with a firm to clean and decater the planes, and that entity will need to request USDA approval to handle regulated garbage as well. There will need to be a backup cleaner/decaterer as well. Both local FBO's have expressed a desire to serve in those roles.

F. Name and address of any Fixed Based Operator associated with the airport:

Laredo Aero Center, Inc.
5203 Maher Avenue
Laredo, Texas 78041

Altair Aviation, LLC.
5103 Maher Avenue
Laredo, Texas 78041

G. Estimation of the amount of international garbage received on a daily basis:

LRD receives approximately five (5) pounds of international garbage on a daily basis that is presently derived from general aviation and cargo operations. Once commercial passenger traffic is re-established, LRD anticipates these operations will utilize B-737 or a similar aircraft configuration with an average passenger load of 100 to 130 individuals. Using past experience, we anticipate approximately 20 to 25 pounds of regulated garbage to be generated from each individual operation

H. Method of maintaining separation of regulated garbage from domestic garbage:

The regulated garbage would be collected in 4 ml thick bags which will be sealed, and then stored in rigid, covered, leak-proof containers, which are properly labeled "Regulated Garbage." These containers would be kept in a secured, labeled, lockable area used only for the storage of regulated garbage until the regulated garbage is sterilized. Once sterilized the garbage will be disposed of as recommended in the compliance agreement.

I. Complete description of entire process, including delivery of regulated garbage to the USDA-approved processor (i.e., sterilizer/incinerator), weighing, storing (if applicable), processing times and temperatures, removal from processing facility:

Upon receipt of a compliance agreement, only an approved firm trained in the processing and handling of regulated garbage will be allowed to clean the planes. The approved cleaning company employees will meet the plane and clean the cabin, galley, and lavatory of any regulated garbage. The regulated garbage will be placed inside 4 ml thick plastic bags, which will then be sealed. The bags will be placed by cleaning personnel in rigid, leak-proof, covered containers that are properly labeled "Regulated Garbage". The containers will be kept in a properly labeled, secure, lockable location until the garbage is sterilized. Proper records will be kept of the collection and storage of regulated garbage. Regulated garbage will not be stored longer than 72 hours before sterilization.

Between 5-8 employees will operate the sterilizer, and sterilize regulated garbage at an internal temperature of 212 degrees F for a minimum of 30 minutes. Time and temperature settings for the sterilizer will be determined by the semi-annual calibration tests conducted by USDA. Processing records will be kept for all loads of regulated garbage that are sterilized. Sterilized garbage will then be removed by Southern Sanitation or whichever firm is authorized by the airport under contract.

J. Name and address of landfill used to dispose of processed garbage:

City of Laredo Solid Waste Services
6912 HWY 359
Laredo, Texas 78043

K. Name and address of company hauling processed garbage to landfill:

Southern Sanitation
220 Guadalupe
Laredo, Texas 78040

L. Employee training, including type, frequency, and materials used:

All personnel involved in the handling or storage of regulated garbage will be trained annually on regulated garbage procedures to include safety, security and USDA approved training materials including the "No Free Ride" video, the compliance agreement, and any company Standard Operating Procedures for the handling of regulated garbage. Training would be conducted initially with all employees who may be involved in the handling of regulated garbage, and then annually thereafter. Any new employees will be trained before being allowed to handle regulated garbage.

M. Disinfection procedures and materials used:

Besides standard equipment cleaning and sanitary procedures, the cleaning and disinfection procedures described in the cleaning and disinfection addendum of the compliance agreement will be followed.

N. Pest control programs used:

LRD presently uses the services of the following companies to provide pest control services:

ASASH Pest Control Co. Inc.
1102 Clark Blvd.
Laredo, Texas 78041
(956) 724-8125

ORKIN
4204 Trade Center Blvd.
Laredo, Texas 78045
(956) 722-3531

O. Complete description of facility back-up plan:

In the event of a system failure resulting in the USDA approved sterilizer being placed out of service, the Laredo International Airport will adhere to the requirements of the compliance agreement and propose to utilize the below-listed company as an immediate backup:

Stericycle
6105 US Highway 87E
San Antonio, Texas 78222-1806
(210) 481-9585

If additional information is required please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Humberto Garza, Airport Operations Manager at 956.795.2000 or by e-mail at hgarza@ci.laredo.tx.us. Your expedited consideration to this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Humberto Garza
Airport Operations Manager