

# The Circular on the Transportation of Cargo in the Passenger Cabin of Passenger Aircraft

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The Circular on the Transportation of Cargo in the Passenger Cabin of Passenger Aircraft (“Circular”) was published on 29 April 2020 by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure General Directorate of Civil Aviation (“CAD”). This circular has been prepared to determine on the requirements for the transportation of passengers in the aircraft fleets of air cargo carriers, both in terms of transportation of certain passengers and procurement of medical supplies among countries for the elimination of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as protection and improvement of Turkey’s place in the international cargo carriage market.

Aforementioned operations shall be carried out by air cargo carriers without the approval of the CAD, provided that the requirements set out under this Circular are met. Additionally, according to the article 11 of the Circular, if there is a passenger seat in the cargo aircraft which is licensed to carry freight only, such passenger seat may now be used to transportation of certain type of passengers, such as public servants or others permitted by relevant ministries, provided that the health measures implemented by the Ministry of Health are satisfied. We believe that this article also aims to use such seats to transport certain infected persons from relevant countries back to their home countries, if a cargo aircraft visits such destination. This Circular shall be in force until 31 August 2020.

Last but not least, many airlines around the world have started cargo-only flights by using civil passenger aircraft to increase their global airfreight capacity. With no passengers filling aircraft seats as demand decreased due to travel bans during Covid-19 pandemic, an increasing number of airlines are now piling cargo in the cabins of their aircraft to generate revenue by carrying air cargo. For instance, Lufthansa loaded an Airbus A330 passenger aircraft with highly urgent goods, mainly from the medical sector.

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