

Swissair's computerised cargo information system

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SWISSAIR'S COMPUTERISED CARGO INFORMATION SYSTEM

With the introduction of its mixed passenger/cargo DC-8-62F Jet Trader on the North Atlantic, Swissair's ultra-modern customer service facility called "Datadoc" is now fully operative for all of the airline's flights from Zurich to New York. This new equipment transmits and processes cargo information by use of a computer.

While the aircraft are flying over the North Atlantic, all data about the cargo shipments on board are telexed to New York, where they are fed into the computer. The new system works from punch card equipment in Zurich. Outbound cargo data are transmitted by telex to the central processing unit located in New York. The receiving equipment automatically prints out customs documents, such as the Carrier's Certificate and Transfer Manifest in the exact form specified by the Customs Department. By the time the aircraft lands at Kennedy International Airport, the U.S. import papers for each shipment are complete, so that customs clearance can begin as soon as the cargo is unloaded.


The new computerised system means time savings of up to 12 hours to the importer as same-day customs clearance and pick-up can now be arranged by the broker. In the same way, transit cargo can be speeded through customs for morning delivery throughout the U.S. Immediate information to individual clients and cargo agents can be provided, an important new feature of Swissair's cargo concept.

Exporters in Europe also benefit from the processing system since the documents accompanying each shipment need no longer include a Carrier's Certificate. With the introduction of "Datadoc", the certificate is completed automatically by the receiving unit located in Swissair's Cargo Department at Kennedy Airport.

The "Datadoc" programme has been developed jointly by Swissair's cargo service and R. Dixon Speas Associates of Manhasset, New York. The latter also pioneered computer flight planning on the North Atlantic in co-operation with Swissair. "Datadoc" is at present available for Swissair flights from Zurich to New York, but plans are in hand for the future to include flights from Geneva.

Swissair is the first airline to use this new cargo information transmission system on the North Atlantic.

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