

SATS COOLPORT CERTIFIED AS THE WORLD'S FIRST CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN PHARMACEUTICAL HANDLING



SATS Coolport is Asia's first on-airport perishable handling centre dedicated to the cold chain handling of perishable air freight for import, export and transshipment. Photo courtesy of SATS Ltd.

To cater to the high growth in pharmaceutical air freight, SATS Coolport set up the world's first Centre of Excellence (COE) in Pharmaceutical Handling. Asia's leading provider of gateway services and food solutions, SATS Coolport handled more than 15,200 tonnes of pharmaceuticals in 2013. This number is expected to rise in the years ahead.

"The shipping of pharmaceutical products is the fastest-growing market segment in the air freight industry," said Mr Tony Tyler, Director General and CEO of IATA. "I congratulate SATS Coolport in their successful completion of the assessment as a Centre of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Handling."

As part of establishing this COE, SAT Coolport was certified by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The IATA certification will give pharmaceutical companies the guarantee of excellence in service and ease in conducting audits onsite. Mr Alex Hungate, President and CEO of SATS shared, "The development of SATS Coolport as the first Centre of Excellence

in Pharmaceutical Handling will give our airline customers and global shippers further assurance that their pharmaceutical shipments are handled to the most exacting standards.” With IATA’s guidance, the certification process went smoothly, taking just three months to complete. It comprised some upgrading of SATS Coolport’s facilities, including enhancements to its dedicated pharmaceutical zone for both acceptance and delivery of pharmaceutical shipments. SATS Coolport’s pharmaceutical handling procedures and policies were assessed by IATA against national and international standards, in particular adherence to the IATA Temperature Control Regulations and best practices.

To ensure compliance and continuity of standards moving forward, over 80 SATS employees were enrolled in IATA’s specialised 12-month training programme in pharmaceutical handling. Upon graduation in October 2014, the candidates will receive an IATA-certified Diploma in Pharmaceutical Handling.

“SATS Coolport’s certification reinforces a niche of excellence that will strengthen the Singapore aviation hub and the air cargo and logistics sector here,” remarked Director General of Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Mr Yap Ong Heng. “This achievement will certainly enhance Changi Airport and Singapore’s position as a choice location for pharmaceutical air freight. CAAS is pleased to support SATS collaboration with IATA in building this novel, distinctive capability through our Aviation Innovation Programme.”

Operating Asia’s first on-airport perishable handling centre dedicated to the cold chain handling of perishable air freight for import, export and transshipment in Singapore, SATS will look at extending its state-of-the-art cold chain capabilities to its other operations across Asia. This will help meet the growing demand for assured handling of end-to-end, high value pharmaceutical products.