ASIC issuing body - Role-specific white ASIC

Factsheet 2 of 4 - Identity Security Amendments – 1 November 2016.

From 1 November 2016, aviation security identification card (ASIC) issuing bodies will be able to issue a new role-specific white ASIC. The new card will be issued to individuals who require a valid background check but do not require access to airport secure areas. To be eligible, an individual must be a staff member or a contractor of:

- a Known Consignor, regulated air cargo agent (RACA) or accredited air cargo agent (AACA)[1];
- an ASIC issuing body; or
- an airport visitor identification card (VIC) issuer.

> **At a glance**
> - White ASICs cannot be used to facilitate access to secure areas of airports.
> - Individuals involved in the issuing of ASICs or VICs will need to hold a valid ASIC (depending on their operational need, this may be red, grey or white).
> - The white ASIC will allow businesses that export or handle air cargo to background check staff or contractors in preparation for increased security requirements for United States bound air cargo.

Why the white ASIC is being introduced

From 1 July 2017, all United States bound air cargo must either originate from an approved Known Consignor or be examined at piece level. To be approved, Known Consignors will need to implement approved security measures, including an ASIC background check for individuals in certain nominated roles. Currently, air cargo exporters and handlers are not subject to background checking requirements, unless they have an operational need for a red or grey ASIC. The introduction of the white ASIC provides a mechanism for the background checks to occur.

In addition, those involved in the issue of ASICs and VICs will also need to hold an ASIC. This is to better support the process of issuing bodies engaging third-party operators to assist with the future face-to-face identity verification requirements and to provide formal evidence for individuals requiring a background check. The regulations will provide greater certainty around who is considered 'directly involved' in the issuing process. If an individual does not have an operational need for a red or grey ASIC, they will need to obtain a white ASIC.

1   *Known Consignors are a new type of industry participant to be regulated by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development who secure export air cargo at their facility. RACAs and AACAs are businesses that handle or make arrangements for the transport of air cargo.*

How will these changes apply to issuing bodies?

1. **When can I start issuing role-specific white ASICs?**

- The Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development will provide you with a temporary exemption to issue white ASICs in accordance with the regulations from 1 November 2016. This will give you time to submit a variation to your ASIC program. Your ASIC program variation must be submitted by 1 December 2016 for the temporary exemption to continue while your program is being assessed.

2. **What is different about issuing a white ASIC from a red or grey ASIC?**

- The white ASIC has the same issuing process as a red or a grey ASIC, the only differences are the card is white in colour and the applicant has a different operational need. The white ASIC operational need is linked to roles that require a background check but do not require access to airport secure areas.

3. **How do Known Consignor, AACA or RACA applicants prove operational need for a white ASIC?**

- An applicant will need to provide written evidence from his/her employer that they have a requirement for a role-specific white ASIC. For example, the employer may provide a letter stating they have, or are seeking, approval as a Known Consignor and the employee is in a role that requires an ASIC background check.

4. **Do I have to issue white ASICs?**

- It is a commercial decision whether you choose to issue white ASICs. However, if your staff and/or contractors are involved in the issuing of ASICs and do not have an operational need to hold either a red or a grey ASIC, then they will need to be issued with a white ASIC.

5. **Can I just issue red or grey ASICs to staff instead of white ASICs?**

- No, red or grey ASICs can only be issued if an individual has an operational need for frequent access to an airport secure area.

6. **Is the background check different?**

- No, the background check for a white ASIC holder is the same as for a red or grey ASIC.

7. **Can a white ASIC be replaced with a red or grey ASIC?**

- Yes, if evidence of operational need is provided. This is the same process as replacing a grey ASIC for a red ASIC or an airport specific card for an Australia-wide card.

8. Do I need to chase up expired white ASICs?

- No, the role-specific white ASIC does not need to be returned to the issuing body.

9. What are the conditions/applicant obligations attached to a white ASIC?

- White ASIC holders have similar obligations as red or grey ASIC holders (for example, reporting criminal offences and name changes).
- However, white ASIC holders do not need to display or return the card because they cannot be used to enable an individual to enter/access or remain unmonitored in secure areas of airports.

10. If my current staff have valid background checks, do they need a white ASIC?

- Yes, by 1 August 2017 everyone involved in the issuing of ASICs must hold either a white, red or grey ASIC. This can be done either:
  - when your staff's current background check expires (as they apply for a new card); or
  - on the basis of their current background check. The expiry date must match the expiry date of the existing ASIC background check.

11. Can a white ASIC be displayed in the secure area of an airport instead of a red or grey ASIC or a VIC?

- No. The white ASIC must not be used to facilitate access to secure areas of an airport.

12. What are the annual reporting requirements?

- Issuing bodies must include details of white ASICs that they issue in their ASIC register and should be able to report on the number of red, grey or white ASICs as required.
- Annual reporting figures on the non-return of expired/cancelled cards are only for red and grey ASICs. White ASICs do not need to be returned to issuing bodies and therefore should not be contained in the non-returned figures.

13. Will the issuing of white ASICs be the subject of the Office of Transport Security (OTS) audits?

- Issuing procedures of white ASICs will be subject to the same OTS audit and compliance scrutiny as the issuing procedures of red and grey ASICs. This includes the issue of white ASICs to issuing body staff.

14. Where can I get more information about the new white ASIC?

- If you require further information about the white ASIC, email the identity policy team at identity@infrastructure.gov.au