

## **Air Passenger Rights: the “one-bag rule”**

Whilst certain airlines, mainly in Europe, have relaxed their “one-bag-only” rule for passengers carrying hand baggage on board flights, problems are still being encountered in some other regions where duty free purchases are subject to the inclusion in hand baggage size or weight limit restrictions. It is recommended that airports globally should continue to work with their partner airlines to minimise the impact of hand baggage rules on retail purchases. It is important to stress with our airport partners that they should include, as part of their air service agreements with airlines, the rights of passengers to carry their duty free shopping onboard in addition to their hand baggage and at no extra cost. In the EU, revisions to the Air Passenger Rights Regulation, whilst dormant for many months, is now back on the political agenda with the European Commission considering whether to re-present the proposed revisions to Member States or to review and amend the proposals. One of the proposed amendments to the Regulation establishes the principle that airlines cannot charge for carrying hand baggage on board, including at least one bag of airport shopping. The duty free industry, working with our airport partners, continues to stress the importance of enshrining this principle in legislation.