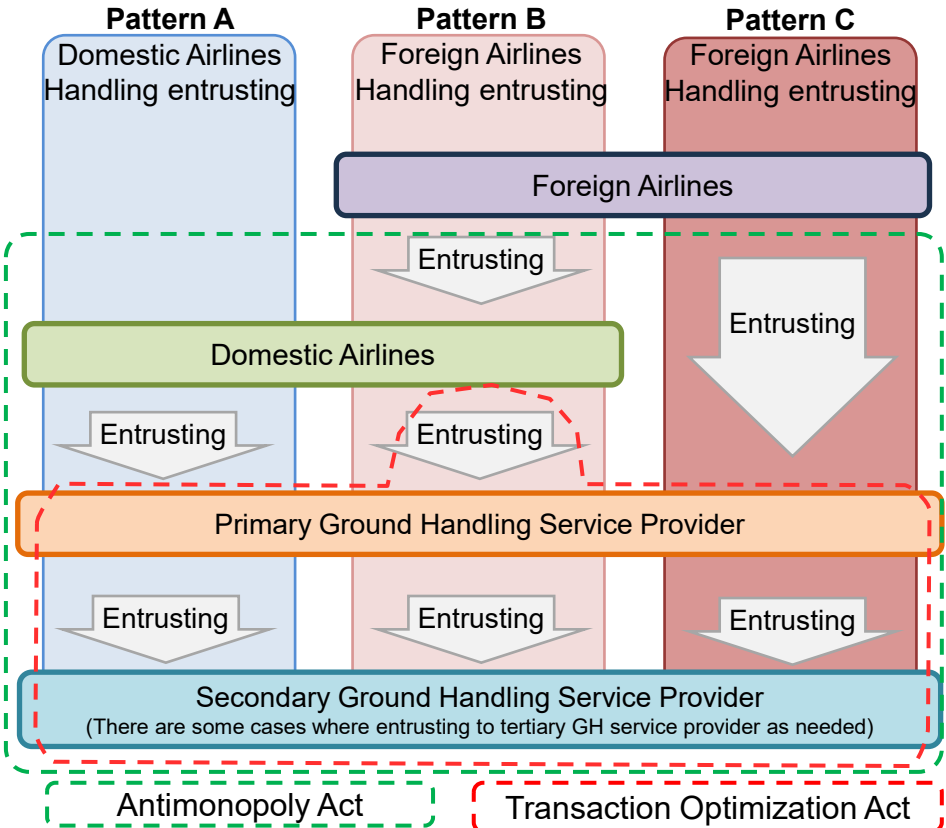


To ensure the sustainable development of airport ground handling services, it is essential to promote fair transactions through appropriate price adjustments in response to rising labor and other costs, while improving working conditions and securing a safe and reliable workplace environment. Based on this, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has formulated the Guideline for the Fair Transactions in the Airport Ground Handling Services.

Industry Structure of Airport ground handling services

The transaction types between airlines and ground handling service providers can be categorized into three patterns, reflecting the multi-tiered structure of the industry.



Application of the Antimonopoly Act

- The Antimonopoly Act broadly applies to transactions between airlines and GH service providers, as well as among GH service providers. Depending on the scale of the business, attention should also be paid to whether a superior bargaining position exists, and efforts should be made to promote appropriate transactions in line with the purpose of the Act.
- Even when the Transaction Optimization Act does not apply, engaging in conduct prohibited under the Act may still constitute an “abuse of superior bargaining position” under the Antimonopoly Act.
- An abuse of superior bargaining position refers to a situation in which a business operator, occupying a substantially superior position in a transaction, uses that position to unjustly impose disadvantages on the counterparty in light of normal business practices.

Transactions Between Airlines and Ground Handling Service Providers

- Entrusting entities should understand the circumstances faced by GH service providers, including social conditions such as sharp fluctuations in labor and energy costs, the importance of secondary and tertiary GH service providers, and changes in the business environment resulting from the rapid increase in the employment of foreign workers.
- Even for transactions outside the scope of the Transaction Optimization Act or the Antimonopoly Act, it is important to recognize that each transaction supports the safe and reliable operation of aircraft and to promote fair transactions.