



**WORKING PAPER**

**SPECIAL AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (AFI)  
REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION (RAN) MEETING**

**Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008**

**Agenda Item 6: Development of a set of comprehensive work programmes in the air navigation field, aimed at improving efficiency of the air navigation system (Efficiency Committee)**

**AERODROME CERTIFICATION IN AFI AND A  
FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper proposes a programme to ensure implementation of aerodrome certification in the AFI Region.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 With the global trend towards greater autonomy and privatization of aerodromes, the role of the aerodrome operator, in many cases, has changed hands from the State to the private sector. Some States have created aerodrome authorities or other government entities to manage and operate their aerodromes. However, the role of States to ensure safety remains unchanged. Under Article 28 of the Chicago Convention, States remain responsible for the provision of adequate and safe aerodrome facilities and services in accordance with Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) developed by ICAO. It is in this context that, since 2001, Annex 14 — *Aerodromes*, Volume I — *Aerodrome Design and Operations* has introduced requirements for aerodromes to be certified. Included in the requirements is the provision that a certified aerodrome must implement a safety management system.

1.2 Annex 14, Volume I provisions specify that aerodromes open to public use be certified by States in accordance with the specifications in the Annex and other relevant ICAO Annexes as well as national regulations. Furthermore, aerodromes used for international operations are required to be certified as from 27 November 2003. As part of the certification process, a certified aerodrome shall have in operation a safety management system.

1.3 Applicable from 23 November 2006, the safety management requirement in Annex 14, Volume I, was harmonized with those of Annex 6 — *Operation of Aircraft* and Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*. A new Section 1.5 in Annex 14, Volume I requires States to establish a safety programme and an acceptable level of safety, as well as the implementation by the aerodrome operator of a safety management system, at a certified aerodrome including defining lines of safety accountability.

1.4 Assembly Resolution A35-14, Appendix Q (superseded by A36-13, Appendix P) resolves that States shall undertake certification of aerodromes and should ensure that safety management systems are introduced at their aerodromes.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 A survey was carried out by the Secretariat in August 2006 to assess the level of global implementation of aerodrome certification and safety management systems in States and international aerodromes. By 31 December 2006, eighty-seven replies had been received from (then) 189 ICAO Contracting States, representing a global response rate of 46 per cent. In the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region, seventeen States responded, representing 36 per cent of a total of forty-seven States in the region.

2.2 The civil aviation regulations of a State should include provisions for the mandatory certification of all or certain categories of aerodromes in accordance with criteria established by the State. In response to a question on the availability of States' aerodrome certification regulations, thirteen States in the AFI Region indicated that they had developed and approved aerodrome certification regulations.

2.3 While ownership of aerodrome safety is increasingly being devolved by States to aerodrome operators, the overall responsibility for aerodrome safety continues to rest with States. In order to carry out this responsibility, States must establish a safety programme in order to achieve an acceptable level of safety in aerodrome operations. In response to a question on the availability of appropriate aerodrome safety management regulations, seven States out of the seventeen responding States in the AFI Region had developed and approved the safety management regulations.

2.4 There are 1 280 international aerodromes listed in the six ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plans, among which 131 are in the AFI Region. From the responses received, twenty airports in the AFI Region had been certified, representing 32 per cent (20/62) of those in the responding States, while the world average is 59 per cent (401/680).

2.5 With respect to the implementation of safety management system at international aerodromes, fourteen aerodromes in the AFI Region had in place a safety management system, representing 23 per cent (14/62) of those in the responding States, as opposed to 38 per cent (258/680) worldwide.

2.6 These responses to the survey formed the basis of WP/14 of the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly entitled, Report on the Implementation of Aerodrome Certification Requirements in Annex 14, Volume I. The report of the Assembly's Technical Commission on A36-WP/14 can be found in A36-WP/359 at the public website: <http://www.icao.int/cgi/a36.pl?wp>. The Technical Commission, noted the relatively low level of implementation of aerodrome certification, including safety management system, and urged States to undertake certification of aerodromes, as a matter of priority and to ensure that safety management system are introduced at their aerodromes.

2.7 The low level of implementation of aerodrome certification was corroborated by the results of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) audits conducted under the comprehensive systems approach where, out of the thirty-six States audited so far in the AFI Region, ten have promulgated regulations requiring certification of aerodromes, two have completed the certification of their aerodromes and three have partially implemented aerodrome certification mainly at their primary aerodromes. With respect to safety management systems (SMS), fifteen have promulgated regulations for SMS requirements and are in the process of implementing SMS.

2.8 It is noted that the sixteenth meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/16) discussed the issue of aerodrome certification and developed Conclusion 16/11, as follows:

**Conclusion 16/11: Aerodrome certification process – Aerodrome certification and safety management systems regulations.**

That:

- 1) States be encouraged to exchange their experiences in implementing the aerodrome certification requirement.
- 2) CAAs, which have not done so, consider putting in place a consultation framework with their airport operator with a view to developing a realistic action plan for the implementation of the aerodrome certification requirement based on a carefully considered gap analysis.
- 3) States, which have not done so, ensure the development, approval and publication of aerodrome certification and SMS regulations as well as formal certification process defining steps to be followed for the certification of aerodromes.
- 4) ICAO further assist States in organizing training courses for aerodrome inspectors.

2.9 To assist States in fulfilling the requirements of aerodrome certification and safety management systems, ICAO has been organizing regional workshops, with the assistance from States, in all ICAO regions. A total of eleven seminars/workshops have been organized in all ICAO regions to disseminate information on the requirements for aerodrome certification, including highlighting ICAO safety initiatives and States' commitment to safety, providing clarifications on the guidance material in the *Manual on Certification of Aerodromes* (Doc 9774) and sharing States experiences in the implementation of aerodrome certification. Within the 2008-2010 triennium three seminars/workshops on aerodrome certification are being planned by ICAO to be held in the regions.

2.10 It is considered that in order to effectively implement aerodrome certification and SMS at aerodromes in the AFI region, a structured approach is needed. Therefore, the meeting is invited to adopt the following recommendation to guide the work of APIRG:

**Recommendation 6/x – Implementation of aerodrome certification and SMS at aerodromes**

That the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG) adopt the Aerodrome Operation Objectives: Implementation of Aerodrome Certification as contained in the Performance Framework Form in the Appendix to this paper as its strategy for implementation of aerodrome certification.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to approve the draft Recommendation at paragraph 2.10 above.

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**APPENDIX**

**AERODROME OPERATION OBJECTIVES**

<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF AERODROME CERTIFICATION</b>				
<b>Benefits</b>				
<b>Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure aerodrome operators comply with relevant ICAO SARPs and/or applicable national regulations</li> </ul>			
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continued provision of safe and efficient aircraft operations at aerodromes</li> <li>strengthen States' safety oversight responsibility on aerodrome operations</li> </ul>			
<i>Strategy</i>				
<b>Short term (2010)</b>				
<i>Medium term (2011 - 2015)</i>				
<b>ATM OC COMPONENTS</b>	<b>TASKS</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME START-END</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>AO</b>	<p><i>En-route airspace</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create a scrutiny group to assist and monitor the implementation of aerodrome certification in the AFI Region</li> <li>analyze Annex 14, Volume I provisions on aerodrome certification vis-a-vis national legislations and regulations</li> <li>analyze guidance in the <i>Manual on Certification of Aerodromes</i> (Doc 9774) vis-à-vis national regulations</li> <li>develop and/or complete national regulations on aerodrome certification as necessary; and training of aerodrome inspectors</li> <li>develop an action plan for certifying all remaining aerodromes used for international operations, including implementation of SMS</li> <li>implement the action plan; and the scrutiny group to provide yearly feedback to APIRG regarding the status of the implementation of aerodrome certification</li> </ul>	<p>January 2009 – June 2009</p> <p>June 2009 – December 2009</p> <p>June 2009 – December 2009</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>		
<b>linkage to GPIs</b>	GPI/13: Aerodrome design and management; GPI/14: Runway operations			