



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**MIDANPIRG/19 and RASG-MID/9 Meetings**

*(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 14-17 February 2022)*

---

**Agenda Item 3.2: MID Region Safety priorities (Plenary)**

**THE FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION GLOBAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

*(Presented by the Flight Safety Foundation)*

**SUMMARY**

The Flight Safety Foundation (FSF), in collaboration with the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO), launched a comprehensive survey that was sent to their members in order to collect information on the level of risk assessments performed and the mitigation strategies that may have been put in place during this global pandemic. The survey also collected information on the level of coordination between the regulator and service provider. 13 airlines from the MID region participated in the survey. This paper provides further details on the results of the survey and next steps.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global aviation community has been unprecedented and has resulted in an extreme reduction in aviation activity and in some cases a complete shutdown of operations commencing in the first quarter of 2020 and well into most of 2021.

1.2 The shutdown and subsequent return to service have led to many changes to the operating environment. This means that organizations need to address the management of change effectively and regulators need to engage with their organizations to ensure that the results are safe and effective.

1.3 For this purpose, FSF, in collaboration with airline associations around the world, have launched a comprehensive survey that was sent to their members in order to collect information on the level of risk assessments performed and the mitigation strategies that may have been put in place during this global pandemic. The survey also collected information on the level of coordination between the regulator and service provider. Over 185 airlines/air operators around the world participated in the survey.

1.4 The survey results, together with the information collected through focus groups and workshops will be used to perform a deeper analysis. The information will be shared as well with the respective RASGs for information as well as validation.

## **2. THE GLOBAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

2.1 The Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) has launched the development of a Global Safety Assessment Project to help FSF and its members to understand current global and regional safety needs by identifying synergies and gaps in addressing existing safety risks and emerging safety issues arising because of the global pandemic. The assessment focused on scheduled commercial air transport, business aviation and special operations.

2.2 Collaborating with regulators, regional groups and industry associations, FSF will determine the impact the pandemic has had on governments supporting their industry as well as on the industry keeping pace with its international obligations and national requirements. Additionally, the assessment will identify the new or emerging aviation safety issues arising because of the pandemic. The assessment will also focus regionally, and the results will provide a better understanding of existing safety risks and emerging issues leading to effective mitigation approaches.

2.3 Some metrics that will be considered are accident, serious incident and occurrence data, and the number of exemptions, extensions and alleviations issued. A deeper analysis is currently underway on the ability of regulators to issue exemptions and of service providers to perform thorough risk assessments to make informed decisions. Information has been collected through surveys and qualitative results reviewed through focus groups and workshops.

2.4 To this end, a survey has been prepared in collaboration with the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) and sent to its members, in order to collect information on the level of risk assessments performed and the mitigation strategies that may have been put in place during this global pandemic. The survey also collected information on the level of coordination between the regulator and service provider. 13 airlines in the MID region participated in the survey.

2.5 The responses to the survey, together with other information collected, provided FSF with information on the level of risk assessments performed by airlines including mitigation strategies put in place and an indication of Safety Management Systems (SMS) implementation at a regional level. The information collected also provided - from a regional perspective - an indication of a regulators level of implementation (maturity) of implementing a State Safety Program.

2.6 The survey results, together with a preliminary analysis, addressed the following areas:

- Business continuity plans (BCP) and emergency response plans (ERP)
- Safety management systems and risk assessment processes
- Ability to monitor and detect hazards and perform a risk analysis
- Change management process
- CAA and industry cooperation
- OEM consultation
- Human Factors and Crew Resource Management

2.7 A workshop is planned to be held with survey respondents as well as other AACO members on 02 March 2022, to review in depth the survey responses and exchange best practices and lessons learned amongst participants and to better understand the challenges and risks identified by airlines. The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to the deeper analysis being performed by FSF.

2.8 The Global Safety Assessment Project is underway and targeted for completion by September 2022 with the preparation of a comprehensive report comprising analysis and recommendations. A preliminary report of the regional results will be shared with the RASG-MID for its consideration. The results stemming from the project may form the basis of a working paper to be presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided.

-END-



