



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/19 & RASG-MID/9 Meetings

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 14 – 17 February 2022)

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**Agenda Item 4.9: Development of Regional Rotocraft/Helicopter Workgroup (RWG-MIDs)**

**DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ROTORCRAFT/ HELICOPTER WORK GROUP (RWG-MID)**

*(Presented by Saudi Arabia)*

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides a proposal on the establishment and development of regional rotorcraft/ helicopter working group that aims at sharing experience, information and lessons learned in an effort of increasing safety awareness and avoid risks. The proposal comes in alignment with the core aims of RASG-MID in achieving its intended goals in minimizing operational risks while reaching optimum utilization of efforts and resources as to circumvent duplication of actions with the region.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph/ item 3 below.

**REFERENCE(S)**

**LIST THE MAIN REFERENCES**

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), July 2017, Regional Aviation Safety Group – Middle East (RASG-MID) - Procedural Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition,

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Rotorcraft/ Helicopter civil operations is an industry that is fairly new in the region.

1.2 Operators in the region share much of the operating conditions and environment yet undergo much of the development process alone.

1.3 This working paper is driven primarily by the set aims and objectives of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Middle East (RASG-MID) - Procedural Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, as it paves the grounds on which developing of the proposed work – group would start and builds on.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The Rotorcraft/ Helicopter operation is in its early years as part of the civil operations industry as much of existing operations was mainly carried as part of the defense/ military and Oil and Gas operations.

2.2 In general, helicopter commercial operations are considered to be in its early stages as most of the helicopter/rotorcraft operations were carried for military/defense operations and Air-

Ambulance/ Medical Services. Nonetheless, with the increased demand and anticipated expansion of the rotorcraft commercial operations with the MID region, establishing a working group would contribute significantly towards achieving the set goals and objectives of RASG-MID.

2.3 There are several rotorcraft commercial operators in the MID region, thus, bringing them together under the guidance of RASG-MID would constitute a good foundation/ start for this new type of commercial operations and develops a partnership between the regulatory states and those operators (see below proposed group work-frame).

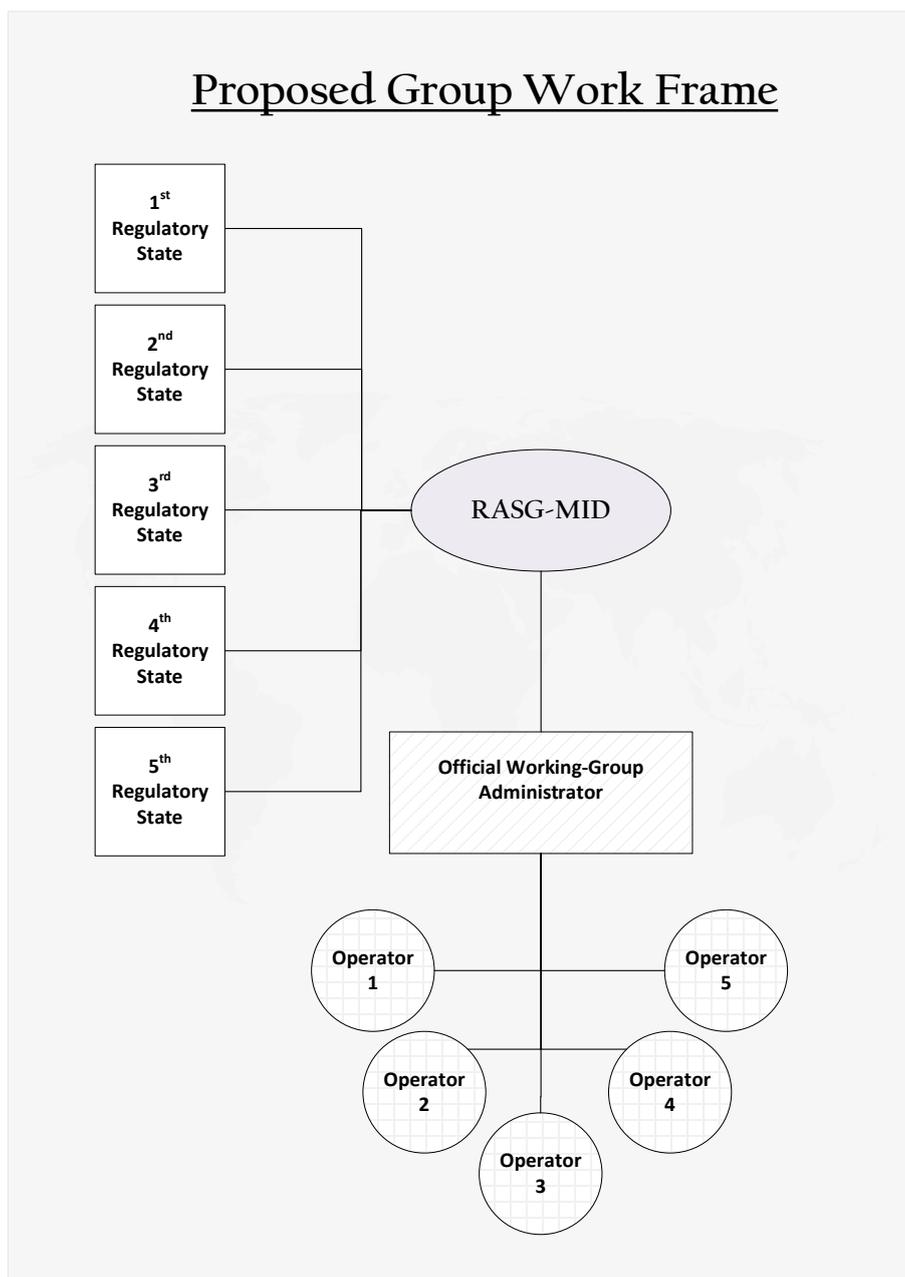
2.4 It is very important to highlight that the working group should compromise all operators and entities that are associated with rotorcraft, which include but not limited to Helicopter operators, Technical (MRO), manufacturers, OEMs, etc.

2.5 Developing a working group within the MID region would result in enormous benefits, which include but not limited to:

- 2.5.1 Collecting and analyzing safety information that are related to commercial civil aviation sector within the region, which can lead to developing action plans that support operators' concerns within the MID region,
- 2.5.2 Enable and open channels for sharing of information and experiences among all participants/ stakeholders in pertaining to safety and hazard,
- 2.5.3 Identify and develop hazard and safety platforms that are common to the MID region, which operators and governing states can monitor and control,
- 2.5.4 Develop action plans that ensure optimum deployment of efforts as to avoid duplication of actions while allocate resources to carrying activities relating to hazards and safety concerns within the MID region,
- 2.5.5 Develop and stimulate open communication channels amongst all stakeholders (governing states and operators) as to promote collaboration and resources allocations, which will allow for eliminating duplication, optimum resources/ time utilization, and development of robust results and outcomes of proposed solutions/ ideas, and
- 2.5.6 Address safety issues that are driven by MIDANPIRG.

2.6 Operators will be able to mitigate risks, share experience and knowledge, and develop collaborating teams that would result in much safer and efficient operations.

2.7 Developing the working – group would be of key significance to both governing states and operators as it enables a platform of sharing information and experience and at the same time provide a more transparent operational environment in which the core drive is to promote safe and hazard free operating conditions within the MID region.



**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this paper;
- b) call upon RASG-MID states to invite operators of Rotorcraft/ Helicopter to come together and take part in establishing the work – group; and
- c) develop roadmap on establishing WorkGroup Terms of Reference and scope of activities.