



ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 45: Next Generation of Aviation Professionals

COMPETENCIES AND LICENSES OF
AIR TRAFFIC SAFETY ELECTRONIC PERSONNEL (ATSEP)

(Presented by IFATSEA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Programmes for modernizing Air Traffic Management and Air Navigation Services (ATM/ANS) are well underway in Europe and the United States. However, some regions of the world have not much progressed toward next generation of aviation systems and professionals. Only global implementation will bring the full benefits of these initiatives. In order to develop and implement safely and efficiently the future global ATM/ANS system, new set of regulations are needed to support this major change in ATM/ANS. While States and regional initiatives are welcomed, the development of new regulations or adaptation of existing ones shall be done in a global context and led by ICAO. These regulations shall address the technology, the standards and more importantly the training and competency of ATM/ANS professionals. The International Federation of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Associations (IFATSEA) supports ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiatives.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) recognize the global context of ATM/ANS;
- b) support ICAO for updating its regulations including Annex 1 — *Personnel Licensing*; and
- c) endorse the concept of ATSEP licensing.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective A.
<i>References:</i>	Annex 1 Doc 9868, <i>Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Training</i> Doc 7192, <i>Training Manual</i> , Part E-2 – Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEP)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The technology is evolving more rapidly than the capacity for aviation stakeholders to cope with it. NextGen, SESAR and other similar programmes are developed for addressing this issue. However, the implementation of this new technology should take into account the rather short-life cycle of new equipment/systems. So, newer and faster computers become available even before the beginning of deployment of approved projects. The implementation and deployment of technology are not consistent worldwide. Some regions of the world are implementing new systems while others are still operating with very old equipment.

1.2 In this SESAR and NextGen context, we can foresee shifts in roles and responsibilities of front-end users (pilots, air traffic control officers (ATCO) and air traffic safety electronic personnel (ATSEP)). This is why ICAO is reviewing the regulatory documentation of air traffic management (ATM) professionals. Putting the human element in the centre of this development ensures a safe and efficient growth of aviation.

1.3 The training and competencies of ATM professionals, including ATSEP, are varying considerably between regions, States and in some cases within the same State. This situation raises not only safety and security concerns but also capacity and efficiency issues.

2. ATSEP TRAINING, COMPETENCIES AND LICENSING

2.1 ICAO Doc 7192, *ATSEP Training Manual*, provides good guidance to States for implementing ATSEP Training programmes. In Europe, EUROCONTROL even produced specifications for ATSEP training. However, IFATSEA strongly believes that uniformity and consistency in the field of ATSEP competency should be equally promoted and synchronized on global level.

2.2 The level of training of ATSEP varies considerably between States and regions. Therefore, the competencies of ATSEP should be captured under universal standards.

2.3 Licensing of aviation professionals has considerably enhanced safety by providing regulatory standards that guarantee global application of training and competencies programmes. ATSEP should be included into Annex 1, thus completing the front-end users safety chain.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly endorsed the concept of establishing licensing requirements for ATSEP. IFATSEA welcomes ICAO initiatives of addressing training, competency and licensing of all ATM professionals who are impacting safety. ATSEP licensing will ensure safety in the global development and implementation of programmes such as NextGen and SESAR.