

FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

(Third Meeting, Montreal, 12 to 16 February 2001)

Agenda Item 3: General revision of Annex 9 – Chapters 2 and 3

AIRCRAFT DISINSECTION

(Presented by the Secretary)

References

FALP/3-WP/4
WHO *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (WER) No. 15,
10 April 1998

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Facilitation Panel, at its Second meeting (FALP/2, 11 to 15 January 1999), agreed to defer work on Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) concerning aircraft disinsection until the completion of the plans of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and its recommendations on aircraft disinsection.

1.2 In order to provide input to WHO's work on disinsection, ICAO sent a questionnaire to all Contracting States, seeking details of their aircraft disinsection practices. The questionnaire and a summary of States' replies are reproduced in Information Paper No. 1.

2. CURRENT STATE PRACTICE

2.1 Of the 64 States that responded to the State letter, 37 States require disinsection of aircraft arriving from other States. Of the three application methods recommended by the WHO (i.e. "Blocks away", "Preflight and top-of-descent spraying" and "Residual treatment"), 18 States recommend the first method, 10 States the second and 19 States the third. Some States recommend more than one application method. Ten States recommend methods other than the three mentioned above.

2.1.1 Information obtained by the Secretariat from other sources (reports and Web sites) reveals that 23 States which did not respond to the ICAO questionnaire also require disinsection of aircraft arriving from other States. It is reported that procedural requirements differ from country to country, and are subject to change.

3. WHO'S REVISION OF ITS IHR

3.1 The WHO's IHR Revision Project is still underway. A recent update of the Project can be found in Information Paper No. 2.

3.2 Where disinsection is concerned, field studies to test the efficacy of insecticide application by different methods are to be initiated in 2001, and some comprehensive disinsection studies are also planned. In the meantime, the WHO's recommendations on the disinsection of aircraft, that resulted from the November 1995 Informal Consultations on Aircraft Disinsection (WHO/PCS/95.51), and published in WER No. 15, remain valid.

4. THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS ON THE REVISION OF DISINSECTION SARPS

4.1 The proposals contained in FALP/3-WP/4 were made, keeping in mind the following:

- a) existing State practice on disinsection;
- b) the uncertain situation in the revision of WHO's disinsection recommendations; and
- c) most importantly, the ongoing comprehensive revision of Annex 9.

4.2 *State practice.* Among those States that require disinsection, there is no uniform practice or procedures on the method of disinsection to be followed, and on the type(s) of insecticide to be used for disinsection. However, nearly all States responding to the ICAO survey indicate that they recommend one or more of the three WHO-approved methods listed.

4.3 *WHO revision.* The disinsection methods and insecticides which are acceptable for use in aircraft, originally developed in ICAO, are now the subject of WHO guidelines and the IHR. Revised WHO guidelines on disinsection are unlikely to be forthcoming in the near future.

4.4 *Revision of Annex 9.* The Secretariat believes that the revision of Annex 9 SARPs on aircraft disinsection can and should proceed, in line with the general revision of Annex 9, despite the absence of revised guidelines from WHO. Delaying the inevitable revision of this part of the Annex, while waiting for an uncertain revision of the IHR, might not serve the needs of ICAO's membership, and is not necessary.

4.5 After the many debates on disinsection which have been conducted in the FAL Panel and other ICAO meetings over the past 5 years, the Secretariat has concluded that Annex 9 SARPs should address only the facilitation aspects of disinsection, making reference to the specific procedures and insecticides as WHO requirements. When the WHO does complete its work, and issues new guidelines on disinsection application methods and insecticides, these may be included as guidance or reference material in ICAO documents. This procedure will be followed for each subsequent change in WHO recommendations.

4.6 Therefore, the Secretariat, in FALP/3-WP/4, has made the following recommendations regarding the disinsection SARPs of Chapter 2.

4.6.1 It is recommended that existing Recommended Practice 2.24 be amended and upgraded to a Standard. In the light of the volume of concerns expressed on the effect, on human health, of the insecticides used for aircraft disinsection, it would appear that there is sufficient support worldwide for such an upgrade.

4.6.2 It is recommended that existing SARPs 2.25 and 2.26 and their “Notes” be deleted, and replaced by three new Standards (paragraphs 2.24, 2.25 and 2.28 of FALP/3-WP/4). This will allow a measure of stability to the central disinsection provisions of the Annex 9, since the methods of application, and insecticides recommended, will form part of the FAL Manual, which can be amended by authority of the Secretary General, as and when required. This will follow current ICAO practice being applied to all Annexes, which requires Annexes to contain "core" SARPs, with “technical” details to be placed in guidance material.

4.6.3 It is recommended that existing Recommended Practice 2.28.1 be amended and upgraded to a Standard (paragraph 2.27 of FALP/3-WP/4). As in the case of Recommended Practice 2.24, it would appear that worldwide public sentiment would support this change.

4.6.4 It is recommended that existing Standards 2.27 and 2.32 (paragraphs 2.29 and 2.26, respectively, of FALP/3-WP/4) be amended, to improve the language.

4.6.5 It is recommended that existing SARPs 2.28, 2.29, 2.30, 2.31 and 2.33 be deleted and relocated to the FAL Manual, since the subject of these provisions are more “technical” in nature and in large part are the responsibility of operators rather than governments.

5. **ACTION BY THE PANEL**

5.1 The Panel is invited to note the information presented above, and take it into account when debating FALP/3-WP/4.

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