



International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER

FALP/6-IP/4
13/4/10
English only
Revised
19/4/10

FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

SIXTH MEETING

Montréal, 10-14 May 2010

Agenda Item 5: Review of the health-related SARPs of Annex 9

INFLUENZA A (H1N1): ACTION BY ICAO

(Presented by the Secretary)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Attached for information are the following documents that complement FALP/6-WP/7, “Proposal to amend the health-related SARPs of Annex 9 – *Facilitation*”:

1.1.1 **Electronic Bulletin 2009/13**, dated 6 May 2009, “Influenza A (H1N1): Encouraging a Harmonized Response”; and,

1.1.2 **State Letter AN 5/17.4-09/75**, dated 9 October 2009, “ICAO Council Declaration related to the current Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic”.

ATTACHMENT A



International Civil Aviation Organization

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

For information only

EB 2009/13

6 May 2009

INFLUENZA A(H1N1) – ENCOURAGING A HARMONIZED RESPONSE

1. Reporting procedure by pilots in command of a suspected case of communicable disease

1.1 Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, paragraph 8.15 and, from November 2009, the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – *Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM), require the pilot-in-command (PIC) to promptly report a suspected case of communicable disease to air traffic control, for onward transmission to the destination aerodrome. This requirement was introduced to improve the reliability of notification of the public health authority at destination of an on-board suspected case of communicable disease. In March 2009, the ICAO Council approved the air traffic control procedure which becomes applicable in November. However, in light of current events, States are strongly encouraged to implement the procedure with immediate effect. The wording in the PANS-ATM is available on the ICAO website, at the end of the document ‘Guidelines for States concerning the management of communicable disease posing a serious public health risk’ at <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm>.

1.2 Directors General are kindly requested to ensure that flight and cabin crew are aware of the requirement for the PIC to promptly notify air traffic control of a suspected case of communicable disease, and that air traffic service units are aware of their role in forwarding the message to the destination.

2. General Declaration – Health Part

2.1 Attention of Directors General is drawn to the revised health part of the aircraft general declaration in ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, Appendix 1, which provides guidance to cabin crew regarding the identification of a suspect case of communicable disease, including Influenza A(H1N1). Aircraft operators are encouraged to use this material when advising cabin crew concerning the identification of a case of communicable disease. The Aircraft General Declaration is available on the ICAO website <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm> and the WHO website http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/Annex9_en.pdf.

3. Passenger Locator Card

3.1 To provide an appropriate method for rapidly collecting passenger information concerning those who may need to be contacted following an on-board event related to communicable disease such as Influenza A(H1N1), ICAO has assisted the WHO and other international organizations in developing a ‘Passenger Locator Card’ (PLC) and which is contained in ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation*, Appendix 13. The form is available electronically on the ICAO website <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm> and the WHO website http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/locator_card/en/.

3.2 It has come to ICAO's attention that States are not uniformly utilizing the PLC. To minimize logistical problems for airlines that carry the PLC into different States, it is helpful if States only request the internationally approved PLC from inbound aircraft. Directors General are encouraged to draw the attention of their public health authority to the WHO/ICAO approved PLC.

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General

ATTACHMENT B

Tel.: +1 (514) 954-8219 ext. 8150

Ref.: AN 5/17.4-09/75

9 October 2009

Subject: ICAO Council Declaration related to the current Influenza A(H1N1) pandemic

Action required: To note and take action as necessary

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to refer to the current Influenza A(H1N1) outbreak which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 June 2009 and required States to react to a global health emergency that has not been faced for over forty years.
2. Since the outbreak began in April 2009, the WHO has recommended that countries should not close borders or restrict international traffic and trade. On 24 September 2009, the Director General of the WHO determined that such a recommendation, amongst others, should be continued.
3. In response to concerns that some States were imposing travel restrictions which were not in accordance with WHO advice, the ICAO Council issued a Declaration urging States to lift any such restrictions. The Declaration, which remains valid, is contained in the attachment to this State letter.
4. The Influenza A(H1N1) virus has continued to spread during recent months and a future increase in pandemic activity can be anticipated. States are urged to ensure that their national aviation plan for a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern is up-to-date. Such a plan is required under ICAO Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, paragraph 8.16. Guidelines concerning the development of preparedness plans and for management of communicable disease events in air transport are available from the ICAO* and WHO** websites. Additional information is also available on the websites of the International Air Transport Association and Airports Council International.

B-2

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

* <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm>

** http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/guidance/national_authorities/en/index.html

Enclosure:

ICAO Council Declaration related to the current outbreak of
the Influenza A(H1N1)

ATTACHMENT to State letter AN 5/17.4-09/75

Montréal, 19 May 2009

**ICAO DECLARATION ON
INFLUENZA A(H1N1)**

Whereas Article 14 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* states that “Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate, and to that end contracting States will keep in close consultation with the agencies concerned with international regulations relating to sanitary measures applicable to aircraft”;

Whereas ICAO Resolution A35-12 states that “the protection of the health of passengers and crews on international flights is an integral element of safe air travel and that conditions should be in place to ensure its preservation in a timely and cost-effective manner”;

Whereas Article 44 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* states that “The aims and objectives of the Organization are to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ...[m]eet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport”;

Whereas Annex 9 (*Facilitation*) to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* contains Standards and Recommended Practices relating to health measures that should be taken by Contracting States to prevent the spread of communicable disease by air;

Whereas the ICAO Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA) project is an appropriate measure to improve global harmonization of preparedness planning, and Contracting States should be encouraged to support it;

Whereas Article 2 of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (2005) states that “The purpose and scope of these Regulations are to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”;

Whereas during the current outbreak of Influenza A(H1N1) the WHO has consistently advised against travel restrictions, which would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global community;

Whereas some States have nevertheless imposed restrictions which are not in accordance with WHO advice;

The Council therefore declares that:

1. During the current outbreak of Influenza A(H1N1), Contracting States should make every effort to ensure that air transport services remain uninterrupted, so as to avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade;

2. Contracting States should implement relevant Standards and Recommended Practices, take account of additional guidance material issued by ICAO, and facilitate the exchange of relevant information between airport and aircraft operators, and public health authorities;

3. Contracting States should comply with the International Health Regulations (2005) and the WHO's recommendations and advice issued with regard to this outbreak. Measures taken by Contracting States should be proportionate, appropriate, non-discriminatory and strictly limited to meet health risks;

4. Those Contracting States which are considering introduction of health measures in addition to those recommended by WHO shall do so in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005), including Article 43, which states in part that, when determining whether to implement the additional health measures "States Parties shall base their determinations upon:

(a) scientific principles;

(b) available scientific evidence of a risk to human health, or where such evidence is insufficient, the available information including from WHO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international bodies; and

(c) any available specific guidance or advice from WHO"; and

5. Contracting States that have imposed restrictions which are not in accordance with WHO advice, are urged to withdraw these restrictions.