



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 38TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 30: Aviation Safety — Implementation Support

Agenda Item 35: Air Navigation — Implementation Support

**BENEFITS FOR SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY: UPDATE ON THE NEWLY LAUNCHED
ONLINE AIR OPERATOR CERTIFICATE (AOC) REGISTER**

(Presented by the Council of ICAO)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the current paper-based environment safety inspectors continue to have limited timely access to air operator certificate (AOC) information, especially for foreign operators.

At the same time, operators continue having to maintain a certified true copy of the AOC and a copy of the operations specifications current on each of their aircraft involved in international operations and to face a number of different foreign operator authorization processes.

To that end, the 36th Session of the Assembly supported the proposal that ICAO develop an online AOC register. ICAO has now launched the first version of this register.

This paper outlines the benefits of the online AOC register to both regulators and operators, and recommends further actions required to expand participation by Member States.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) encourage Member States to participate in the online AOC register;
- b) encourage Member States to take the voluntary measures outlined in paragraphs 3.4 c) and 3.4 d) to accelerate the data entry process and increase the safety and efficiency benefits of the online AOC register;
- c) instruct ICAO to continue working on a concerted roll-out and implementation of the online AOC register, as specified in paragraphs 3.4 a) and 3.4 b); and
- d) request ICAO to examine the need for new Annex provisions to support the use of the online AOC register.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	The activities referred to in this paper will be undertaken subject to the resources available in 2014-2016 Regular Programme Budget and/or from extra budgetary contributions.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 7300, <i>Convention on International Civil Aviation</i> Annex 6, Part I and Part III Doc 9899, <i>Report of the Technical Commission of the 36th Session of the Assembly</i> http://www.icao.int/SAFETY/OASIS/Pages/default.aspx

1. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AND KNOWN ISSUES

1.1 Annex 6 — *Operation of Aircraft*, Part I, *International Commercial Air Transport — Aeroplanes* and Part III — *International Operations — Helicopters* require all commercial aircraft involved in international operations to carry a certified true copy of the air operator certificate (AOC) and a copy of the operations specifications relevant to the aircraft type issued in conjunction with the certificate.

1.2 Safety inspectors continue to have limited timely access to AOC information, especially for foreign operators, in the current paper-based environment which does not provide the most efficient means for States to conduct surveillance of these operators.

1.3 At the same time, operators continue having to maintain a certified true copy of the AOC and a copy of the operations specifications current on each of their aircraft involved in international operations and to face a number of different foreign operator authorization processes.

1.4 To that end, the 36th Session of the ICAO Assembly supported the proposal that ICAO develop an online AOC register that would provide transparency to Member States of the validity and currency of AOCs, and the compliance integrity of the State of the Operator.

1.5 This online AOC register is designed to provide a means for efficiently exchanging information related to AOCs. It is not, at this time, intended to replace current paper-based AOCs.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONLINE AOC REGISTER AND ITS BENEFITS

2.1 The first version of the online AOC register was launched by ICAO in December 2012 in close cooperation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and delivers on the functionality as outlined below (and in accordance with the original scope of the project):

- a) to allow States to upload a dataset of AOC and operations specifications information, complemented by optional data;
- b) to provide the uploaded information to all States for surveillance purposes and allow defined outputs and searches, as well as timely notices of AOC and operations specifications status and changes thereto;
- c) to be linked to relevant data in the ICAO International Aircraft Information System (IIAIS), established under Article 21 of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*, in the *Designators for Aircraft Operating Agencies, Aeronautical Authorities and Services* (Doc 8585) and in the *Aircraft Type Designators* document (Doc 8643);
- d) to allow printing of AOC and operations specifications in Annex 6-compliant layout format; and
- e) to provide access to uploaded information by a specific operator.

2.2 Several Member States volunteered for the initial roll-out of the online AOC register. Based on the feedback received from participating States, it is recognized that the register provides more

efficient updating and advance access to relevant information by safety inspectors. The improved inspector access results in quicker turnaround times for operators and improved passenger service. It also improves the management and accessibility of up-to-date AOC and operations specifications. Lastly, it may, through harmonization, eventually lead to streamlining State-specific foreign operator authorization processes.

2.3 While participation in the online AOC register will require the allocation of resources, it is expected that the benefits that Member States receive from the register will outweigh the costs.

3. CHALLENGES TO AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING USE OF THE ONLINE AOC REGISTER

3.1 It has become apparent from the feedback received from participating States that there are some challenges which should be addressed to enhance the efficiency of uploading information into the online AOC register and to increase the number of users by making participation more attractive.

3.2 The possible challenges include:

- a) limited resources in States to upload and update AOC information; and
- b) low levels of awareness among States about the importance of participation in the online AOC register and about its benefits.

3.3 These challenges should be recognized within the context of the aviation environment (including the industry) today, such as:

- a) many operators are ready to participate in the uploading of AOC information;
- b) a continued proliferation of requests to operators for completed forms and other AOC information; and
- c) an increase in the numbers of operators and aircraft types.

3.4 To that end, the following actions are recommended:

- a) encourage States to upload and update AOC information in the online AOC register;
- b) request ICAO to increase roll-out of the online AOC register by providing guidance and implementation support material, including electronic training modules on the usage of the online AOC register;
- c) request States to collaborate with operators in uploading AOC information into the online AOC register (subsequent validation of uploaded AOC information should be done by the relevant State prior to its use); and
- d) encourage States to utilize the information contained in the online AOC register in parallel with their current practices consistent with Annex 6 as part of their foreign operator authorization and continuing surveillance activities in order to enjoy the benefits outlined in section 2 above.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 While some Member States use the online AOC register, a larger number of participants is required to assess its global direct benefits. ICAO will continue to work on a concerted roll-out and implementation strategy in this area.

4.2 Although the online AOC register allows States to view and search AOCs and operations specifications of foreign operators, Annex 6 requires the carriage on board of a certified true copy of the AOC and a copy of the operations specifications. As a result, operators are not released from this requirement. Based on the number of users and their feedback, ICAO should examine the need for new Annex provisions to support the use of the online AOC register.

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