



ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 30: Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Policy

**30.3 Relevant Outcomes of the High-level Conference on COVID-19, Safety Stream
(HLCC 2021)**

SELF-REGULATION IN GROUND HANDLING

(Presented by Brazil)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the HLCC 2021 recommendations for the Standardization agenda is that the oversight of ground handling should be developed using a flexible and balanced approach, taking into account views from and impact on different stakeholders.

The concept of a flexible and balanced approach is related to modern regulatory practices, which advocate for alternative solutions before starting a standard-making process. One of the principles that should underpin regulatory design, according to these modern regulatory practices, is that less interventionist approaches should be preferred to more interventionist ones.

This paper presents one example of self-regulation in the ground handling sector in Brazil. In 2021, a voluntary certification programme for ground handling service providers (GHSPs) was launched. The certificate programme, known as Certificate of Regularity in Auxiliary Services to Air Transport (CRES) was designed to be complementary to other industry certification programmes and to assess compliance with local safety rules, ESG, labour and tax legislation.

The Assembly is invited to note this type of initiative as a valuable and efficient alternative to strengthen the oversight of ground handling, in line with the recommendations of the HLCC 2021.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable.
<i>References:</i>	Doc 10160, <i>High-level Conference on COVID-19. Report.</i> Doc 10121, <i>Manual on Ground Handling.</i> A41-WP/233, <i>Promoting Modern Regulatory Principles in the Development of SARPs</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021), Agenda Item 3.3 discussed the need to strengthen the oversight of ground handling. As a result, the HLCC agreed that oversight of ground handling should be developed using a flexible and balanced approach, taking into account views from and impact on different stakeholders. In order to achieve this goal, States and the industry also expressed the need to develop adequate impact assessments of potential alternative solutions under consideration.

1.2 The concept of a flexible and balanced approach is related to modern regulatory practices, which advocate considering alternative solutions before starting a standard-making process. One of the principles that should underpin regulatory design, according to these modern regulatory practices, is that less interventionist approaches should be preferred to more interventionist ones¹. On this subject, working paper A41-WP/233 proposes to ICAO Council some actions for the implementation of modern regulatory principles in the development of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

1.3 This paper presents one example of self-regulation in the ground handling sector in Brazil. In 2021, an industry voluntary certification programme for ground handling service providers (GHSPs) was launched. The certificate programme, titled Certificate of Regularity in Auxiliary Services to Air Transport (CRES) was designed to be complementary to other industry certification programmes and to assess compliance with local safety rules and labour and tax legislation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The CRES certification programme was designed by a national ground handling service providers association in Brazil (ABESATA - Brazilian Association of Air Transport Auxiliary Services Companies). According to ABESATA, two fundamental principles in the design of the programme were: not to burden the industry; and to be complementary to other industry certification programmes, such as IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO).

2.2 The certification is carried out by an independent entity, through document analysis. Five dimensions are assessed: (1) Regulatory, (2) Financial, (3) Operational, (4) People and (5) Environment, Social and Governance (ESG). The analysis is carried out with elements of weight between items in each dimension. There are eliminatory and qualifying criteria. The GHSP must meet all eliminatory criteria and achieve a minimum score to be certified. Once the certification is received, the company is then audited and monitored by the independent entity.

2.3 Currently, there are six GHSPs certified in the CRES programme, operating in 37 aerodromes in Brazil. Information on certified providers operating at each aerodrome is made available. The goal is to assist air and aerodrome operators in their selection process and raise the quality standard of the services offered.

2.4 From a regulatory point of view, this type of solution it is a kind of market solution and self-regulation that provides flexibility to industry, less resistance, lower costs and greater speed of

¹ Gunningham, N., Sinclair, D., *Designing Smart Regulation*. < <https://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/33947759.pdf>>. Accessed 1st September 2022

decision-making process, among other advantages. It also saves regulator's scarce resources, which can be directed to those who do not want or are unable to respond to such initiatives.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Assembly is invited to note this type of initiative as a valuable and efficient alternative to strengthen the oversight of ground handling, in line with the recommendations of the HLCC 2021.

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