ICAO Aerodrome Certification

Aerodrome’s Inspector Workshop
Sint Maarten 11 to 15 June 2012
Objectives

- Certification – what, why and how.

Outline:
- ICAO requirements and guidance associated with aerodrome certification.
- Requirements of and process for a certification programme.
- Wider scope and target of SARPs on safety management, as part of certification requirements, and addressing regulation at the (harmonised) system level.

- Review some States’ aerodrome certification documentation.
- Difference between Regulator and Service Provider obligations.
Learning Outcomes

For Delegates to:

- have reinforced their understanding of the need for airports to be certified;
- appreciate the relationship between initial certification and continued safety oversight;
- be able to identify any gaps or weaknesses in their own certification process; and
- be able to explain to another Delegate the scope of SMS in safety oversight.
Aerodrome Certification
What?

A process by which a State can demonstrate:

- That airports in its territory meet regulatory safety requirements on a continuing basis.
- That it is providing uniform conditions for aircraft of all other States, as required by Article 15 of the Chicago Convention.
Aerodrome Certification
Why?

- Ownership and management of aerodromes differs between States.
- More aerodromes being privatized.
- Standardization of procedures and technical aerodrome elements is critical; without it the necessary level of standardization is less likely.
- Certification facilitates standardization; and standardization enhances safety.
- ICAO Chicago Convention Article 15 and Annex SARPs.
Convention: Article 15

Requires that all airports in a contracting State that are open to public use, shall provide uniform conditions for aircraft of all other contracting states.

How do you do that?
Through the Aerodrome Certification process!
Aerodrome Certification
How?

With the necessary national primary and secondary framework, supported by appropriate guidance documentation, all of which reflect ICAO Annexes.

With a meaningful, demanding but realistic process, that reflects the national requirements of the State
Relevant ICAO Documents

27-NOV-03, Annex 14, 1.4.1
“States shall certify aerodromes used for international operations in accordance with the specifications contained in this Annex as well as other relevant ICAO specifications through an appropriate regulatory framework.”
Annex 14 Requirements (cont)

- The certification process establishes the baseline for continued monitoring of compliance with the specifications.
- Information on the status of certification of aerodromes would need to be provided to the AIS for promulgation in the AIP.
- As part of the certification process, States shall ensure that an aerodrome manual which will include all pertinent information on the aerodrome site, facilities, services, equipment, operating procedures, organization and management including a safety management system, is submitted by the applicant for approval/acceptance prior to granting the aerodrome certificate.
Scope of ICAO Safety Management SARPs

Doc 9859, Chapter 6 (Manual on SMS), second edition:
The safety management SARPs contained in Annexes 1, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 14 are aimed at both States, as well as service providers, i.e. Any organisation providing aviation services, specifically:

- Certified aerodromes
- Aircraft operators
- Approved maintenance organizations
- Organizations responsible for type design and/or manufacture of aircraft
- Air traffic Services
Scope of Safety Management SARPs

State safety programme to achieve an acceptable level of safety in civil aviation. As part of their SSP, a certified aerodrome to implement a safety management system acceptable to the State that, as a minimum:

a) identifies safety hazards;  
b) ensures the implementation of remedial action necessary to maintain agreed safety performance;  
c) provides for continuous monitoring and regular assessment of the safety performance; and  
d) aims at a continuous improvement of the overall performance of the safety management system.
Aerodrome Certification: Initial Requirements

Promulgation of basic aviation law
- Establish a State entity responsible for aviation (normally the CAA), having the authority to ensure compliance with established regulations
- Develop and promulgate CAA regulations, and within those aerodrome certification requirements, criteria and technical specifications.
Aerodrome Certification Requirements: Continued

Within a CAA’s functional area for Aerodrome Regulation: Assess staffing levels, skill sets and training requirements (initial and continuing)

Develop policies on:
- Type and duration of certificates
- Exemption procedures
- Transfer and amendment of certificates
- Obligations under certificates
- Cancellation or surrender of certificates
Aerodrome Certification Requirements: Continued

Processes, procedures and technical guidance for:

- Communicating with stakeholders
- Responding to expressions of interest and assessing applications, including submitted Aerodrome Manuals.
- Granting, refusing and cancelling certificates, including the setting of any general or aerodrome specific conditions.
- Initial and continuing safety oversight, in relation to certification.
Examples of States’ Certification Docs

T Canada Application Form
Obligations of the State, Regulator and Service Providers

They are not the same and the differences are important. Doc 9734, the Safety Oversight Manual, spells out some of these.
State Responsibilities

Establishing a Safety Policy and setting the certification and standards for safety management, including Acceptable levels of Safety (Doc 9859 Edition 2 refers).

Whilst States have some discretion on what aerodromes under its jurisdiction should be certified they must remember that Annex 14 says that all aerodromes used for international operations shall be certified.
State Regulators Certification
Duties and Responsibilities

- Safety oversight, including the use of initial and continuing safety inspections, in order to seek satisfaction that aerodromes are operationally competent and are complying with national standards and practices, including safety performance agreed between the Regulator and airport, data accuracy and promulgation and occurrence reporting.
State Regulators Certification
Duties and Responsibilities (cont)

- To be as competent in its role as the regulator expects of the industry in carrying out its operation and obligations.
- Work with the industry in the pursuit of common goals on safety.
Airports’ Obligations and responsibilities

- To be and remain operationally competent as an organisation (implied by SARP 1.4.4, a regulatory requirement in some States).
- Working with the regulator in pursuit of common goals on safety, establish measurable safety performance, to be agreed with the Regulator, and then met.
Airports’ Obligations and responsibilities (cont)

To comply with national requirements, including obligations placed upon it by its aerodrome certificate, including agreed safety performance, and conditions that may have been imposed, either initially or subsequently.
Review

Aerodrome certification requirements stem from Annex 14, Volume I, but must be in national legislation, drafted in a suitable form.

The necessary elements and processes of an aerodrome certification programme include.

The regulator’s and service providers’ obligations are different, but directed to a common cause.
ICAO Aerodrome Certification

Thank you and Questions/Comments