



**RSA-004**

## **RASG-PA SAFETY ADVISORY- 004**

**June 2014**

**Regional Aviation Safety Group-Pan America (RASG-PA)**

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### **Standardization of Spanish and English ATC Phraseology in Accordance with the ICAO PANS ATM (Doc 4444)**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The mission of the Regional Aviation Safety Group — Pan America (RASG-PA) is to improve civil aviation safety and efficiency in the Pan American Region by applying ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) principles through a collaborative approach in partnership with all aviation stakeholders under the leadership of ICAO.

1.2 RASG-PA has become the focal point to ensure harmonization and coordination of safety efforts aimed at reducing aviation safety risks in the Pan American Region and promotes implementation of resulting Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEIs) by all stakeholders including ICAO, States/Territories, international organizations and industry.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 RASG-PA has performed an analysis of the main aviation safety risk areas based on Pan American regional data. As a result, various projects have been developed to reduce accident/incident rates.

2.2 One of the projects approved at the Fourth Regional Aviation Safety Group — Pan America Meeting (RASG-PA/04) was to implement a strategy for the consistent use of Air Traffic Control (ATC) standard Spanish phraseology in accordance with the ICAO PANS-ATM (Doc 4444).

2.3 The Twelfth RASG-PA Executive Steering Committee Meeting (ESC/12) agreed to coordinate the project with GREPECAS to ensure no duplication of efforts.

2.4 RASG-PA surveyed pilots and air traffic controllers and results determined that the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS) initiative, which concluded with developing an amendment to Chapter 12, *Phraseologies* (Spanish only) of the PANS/ATM (Doc 4444) was insufficiently familiar to pilots and air traffic controllers, and that improper phraseology can be a contributing factor to incidents/accidents. Therefore, RASG-PA determined that there was a need to promote the use of proper phraseology in accordance with the ICAO Spanish standardized phraseology in radiotelephony (Doc 4444).

2.5 During the Fourteenth RASG-PA Executive Steering Committee Meeting (ESC/14), Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association (ALTA) presented a draft project implementation plan. During discussions, International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) raised the problem of improper use of English standard phraseology by pilots and controllers. The RASG-PA ESC agreed that even though the project was specific to Spanish phraseology, it should also highlight the correct use of approved English ICAO ATC phraseology during pilot – air traffic controller communications.

2.6 During the Eleventh Pan America — Regional Aviation Safety Team Meeting (PA-RAST/11), ALTA presented the revised project implementation plan, which was approved by the RASG-PA ESC/15.

2.7 The RASG-PA project evolved into the Standardization of Spanish and English ATC Phraseology in accordance with the ICAO PANS-ATM (Doc 4444).

### **3. Discussion**

3.1 ALTA, as Project Lead, developed the RASG-PA Standard Phraseology Programme, which consists of two main phases: a regional phraseology communication campaign — “*Standard Phraseology is not an Option, It’s an Obligation,*” and the development and implementation of a “*Train the Trainer*” Course performed in partnership with IATA, which will create State and service provider instructors. Additionally, aviation training centres will be urged to conduct initial training for aviation personnel who is required to use standard ATC phraseology in accordance with Doc 4444.

### **4. Summary**

4.1 RASG-PA is fulfilling the objective of enhancing safety in the Pan American Region by reducing duplication of efforts and human and financial resource expenditure.

4.2 The RASG-PA goal is for the RASG-PA Standard Phraseology Programme to reach all respective aviation stakeholders in the Pan American Region in order to enhance safety.

4.3 For additional information visit: [www.rasg-pa.org](http://www.rasg-pa.org) and/or contact: [info@rasg-pa.org](mailto:info@rasg-pa.org)

### **5. Recommended Action**

5.1 RASG-PA encourages aviation stakeholders to note the information provided.

5.2 States shall promote and enforce the consistent use of ATC standard phraseology in accordance with the ICAO PANS-ATM (Doc 4444).

5.3 RASG-PA encourages respective aviation stakeholders to promote and use the RASG-PA Standard Phraseology Programme as appropriate.

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