

# ANNEX 9 - YEAR OF FACILITATION



## Air Transport Facilitation

in the context of international civil aviation, refers to measures to prevent unnecessary delays to aircraft, crews, passengers and cargo, especially, in the administration of the laws relating to immigration, quarantine, customs and clearance. The words “Facilitation of formalities” appears as a subtitle for Article 22 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

In September 1949, pursuant to Article 37 of the Chicago Convention, ICAO published the First Edition of Annex 9 — Facilitation that contained 89 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Over the years, many new and revised SARPs have been introduced through a series of amendments to the Annex that now contains more than 440 SARPs under ten chapters. These new and revised SARPs seek to address the evolving landscape of air transport, the contemporary needs of States, advances in technology, development of passenger and cargo traffic, and the

value of contributing to the continuing development of international civil aviation.

Air transport facilitation can be linked to 9 of the 15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations (UN). Therefore, the work that ICAO undertakes to facilitate air travel is crucial to maintaining a thriving aviation ecosystem vital to the world’s economic and social development. Air transport Facilitation holds great importance for international civil aviation and will continue to in the years to come.



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2024 YEAR OF  
**FACILITATION**



In 2024, Annex 9 – Facilitation will celebrate its 75th Anniversary, which presents an excellent opportunity for ICAO to collaborate with its Member States and the global aviation community in highlighting the importance of air transport Facilitation and the necessity for global awareness and implementation of Annex 9 SARPs. In recognition of the milestone of the 75th Anniversary of Annex 9, the ICAO Council, during the Third Meeting of its 230th Session, reaffirmed the importance of air transport Facilitation and in doing so, approved 2024 as the Year of Facilitation (FAL 2024).

The FAL 2024 will involve activities related to the different aspects of air transport Facilitation under the ten Chapters of Annex 9 that will be organized in collaboration with Member States and partner organizations. Activities will include promotional campaigns, webinars, seminars, training, and launching of dedicated websites, all aimed at inter alia, highlighting the milestones achieved in air transport facilitation by ICAO, Member States, and relevant international organizations emphasizing the importance of Facilitation, and providing a platform for collaboration and exchange of perspectives through cross-border information sharing.

ICAO Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders are invited to join ICAO in celebrating the FAL 2024 and to contribute to inter alia, promoting and enhancing global awareness of the importance of facilitation. To this end, on 16 January 2024, ICAO issued State Letter EC 6/3 – 24/6 on the Year of Facilitation, which includes among other things, a list of proposed activities for the FAL 2024. We look forward to an exciting, informative and collaborative year with our Member States and the aviation community, making 2024 memorable and rewarding. More on FAL 2024 to come, so be on the lookout for future articles.



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