



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

FIFTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA/5)
OF ESAF AND WACAF STATES

Dakar, Senegal (4 November 2013)

Agenda Item 3: Aviation Safety

IMPLEMENTATION OF ICAO AIR OPERATOR CERTIFICATE (AOC) DATABASE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

In line with the current ICAO Annex 6 requirements, air operators are required to carry a certified true copy of the air operator certificate (AOC) and the associated operations specifications onboard each aircraft involved in international commercial operations. This practice provides limited access to AOC information, especially in respect of foreign operators.

In this regard, the 36th Session of the Assembly endorsed the proposal on the development of an online AOC register that would provide transparency of information on the validity and currency of AOCs and the compliance integrity of the State of the Operator.

The online AOC register is designed to provide a means for efficiently exchanging information related to AOCs but it does not replace the current paper-based AOCs.

This paper outlines the benefits of the online AOC register to both regulators and operators and recommends further actions required to encourage increased participation by member States.

REFERENCE(S):

Doc 7300, Convention on International Civil Aviation
Annex 6, Operation of Aircraft, Part I and Part III
Doc 9899, Report of the Technical Commission of the 36th Session of the Assembly
<http://www.icao.int/SAFETY/OASIS/Pages/default.aspx>

Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): This working paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective of ICAO.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Current ICAO Annex 6 provisions require that all aircraft involved in international commercial operations carry a certified true copy of the air operator certificate (AOC) and a copy of the relevant operations specifications granted to the certificate holder.

1.2 In the current environment, during ramp inspections, Safety inspectors have limited time to review AOC information, especially those relating to foreign operators; thus impacting on the efficiency of surveillance of these operators. The online register is therefore designed to provide a means for efficiently exchanging information related to AOCs.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONLINE AOC REGISTER AND ITS BENEFITS

2.1 The online AOC register was launched, by ICAO, in December 2012 in close cooperation with the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The project aims to provide an efficient single source data to member States and thus:

- a) allows States to upload a dataset of AOC and operations specifications information complemented by optional data;
- b) provides 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) is 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 *Aircraft Type Designators* (8643);
- d) allows printing of AOC and operations specifications in Annex 6-compliant layout format; and
- e) provides access to uploaded information by a specified operator.

2.2 In summary, the online AOC register allows uploading, validating, searching, viewing and printing of AOCs and operations specifications in accordance with the requirements of Annex 6 – *Operation of Aircraft*.

2.3 In July 2013, ICAO issued a State Letter informing member States about the inauguration of the ICAO web-based AOC register and encouraging them to make use of the AOC register. The letter also called for the designation of a focal point for the online AOC register. To date, only a few responses have been received in this regard, particularly from the AFI region. In terms of implementation, only five States, world-wide, have uploaded data to the online AOC register and these include: Brazil, Cape Verde, Iceland, United Arab Emirates and Estonia. Cape Verde, as the first and only African State to have uploaded the relevant AOC information to the register was duly commended on this initiative.

2.4 Based on the feedback received during the initial roll-out of the online register, it was noted that the register provides efficient updating and advance access to relevant information by safety inspectors which results in quicker turnaround times for aircraft operators and improved passenger service. It also improves the management and accessibility of up-to-date AOC and operations specifications.

2.5 The online AOC register has both immediate and potential benefits in terms information access and harmonization of requirements which leads to greater efficiency. These benefits, however, can only be realized if States provide the required data to make it functional.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage member States to:

- a) participate in the online AOC register by designating a focal point to help facilitate data upload and exchange of information; and
- b) take appropriate measures to accelerate the data entry process with a view to enhance safety and efficiency.

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