



ICAO

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION  
SAFETY TEAM (APRAST/15)**

*Bangkok, Thailand, 24 to 25 June 2020 on Virtual Platform*

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**Agenda Item 4: Presentations – State / Industry / ICAO (Issues arising from the  
COVID-19 Pandemic could be a focus for the WP/IP)**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF ICAO APAC COVID-19 CONTINGENCY AND  
RECOVERY PLANNING GROUP (ACCRPG)**

*(Presented by the Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

This Paper presents the work of ICAO APAC together with the DGCAs and Industry to harmonise and support the on-going aviation activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic leading to the eventual resumption of aviation activities.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Information Sharing web-conference was held on 31 May 2020 to discuss the issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 The Meeting decided to form the *ICAO APAC COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG)* to assist DGCAs with coordinating States' implementation of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Report outcomes, including the CART's recommendations and the set of risk mitigation measures presented in the guidance document, *Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis*.

1.3 The ACCRPG is Co-chaired by Australia, Mr. Jim Wolfe, Assistant Secretary, COVID International, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, and IATA, Mr. Conrad Clifford, Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific, International Air Transport Association, with Mr. Arun Mishra, Regional Director, ICAO APAC Office, as Secretary for the Meeting.

1.4 ICAO APAC Regional Office hosted the First Meeting of the ICAO APAC COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG/1) via web-conference from Bangkok, Thailand, on 05 June 2020. One hundred and two (102) registered participants from nineteen (19) Member States/Administrative Regions and twelve (12) International Organizations and aviation companies attended the Meeting.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 ACCRPG/1 agreed to establish three sub-groups to focus on specific CART recommendations, as follows:

- Aviation safety-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 1, 2 and 3);
  - Aviation public health-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 4 and 5); and
  - Aviation Security- and facilitation-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 6, 7, 8 and 9).
- **Recommendation #10** urges States to consider appropriate extraordinary emergency measures to support financial viability and to maintain an adequate level of safe, secure and efficient operations, while **Recommendation #11** relates to information-sharing and exchange on their actions and best practices by contributing to an ICAO database of measures.

2.2 The Safety sub-group (S-SG) comprises of members from 8 States and 6 Industry/International Organisations conducted two meetings (12 & 18 June). Activities of the SG include:

- update the SG on the various information, guidance and tools developed to support the CART;
- Highlight, Discuss and Share experiences on the issues/challenges to minimise unnecessary disruptions and delays to on-going aviation services;
- Seek further guidance and support from subject matter expert

2.3 Feedback/discussion includes:

- Need for clear and consistent communications between CAAs-certificated organisations and licence holders to ensure such approvals/licences remain valid especially when alleviations are granted.
- Need for crew awareness when operating an aircraft with light pay loads
- Wearing of PPE/Face shields can be a hazard in the event of cabin depressurisation

2.4 Meanwhile, ICAO has developed useful tools and established COVID-19 related websites to support coordinated and harmonisation approach to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. If appropriate, APRAST which is a sub-group within RASG-APAC, could be called upon to assist with aviation safety-related matters to support the ACCRPG objectives.

2.5 For more information, guidance and tools to manage the COVID-19 challenges, you can check out:

- ❖ <https://soa.icao.int/CMAUnifyLogin/Index.aspx> — for (NCCM) electronic filing of COVID-19 Contingency-Related Differences by States
- ❖ <https://www.icao.int/safety/COVID-19OPS/Pages/default.aspx> — access to information and guidance
- ❖ <https://portallogin.icao.int/> — access to COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Center (CRRIC)
- ❖ <https://www.easa.europa.eu/newsroom-and-events/news/easa-published-review-aviation-safety-issues-arising-covid-19-pandemic> — EASA

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this paper and to support; and
- b) support the ACCRPG Safety sub-group, when requested.

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