



ICAO ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP - ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS (RASG-APAC/11)

(Video Teleconference, 25-26 November 2021 at 10:00-13:00 hrs. Bangkok Time, UTC+7)

Agenda Item 4: ICAO / Member State / Industry Presentations

THE FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION GLOBAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

(Presented by Flight Safety Foundation and Association of Asia Pacific Airlines)

SUMMARY

The conference is invited to be informed of the FSF initiative of the development of the Global Safety Assessment Project and is encouraged to collaborate with FSF in its implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global aviation community has been unprecedented and has resulted in an extreme reduction in aviation activity and in some cases a complete shutdown of operations commencing in the first quarter of 2020 and well into most of 2021.

1.2 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), together with the civil aviation community is to be commended for its quick action in the development of the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) document providing a framework for addressing the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on the global aviation transportation system in a phased approach including the associated guidance to regulators as well as the industry such as the guidance on the issuance of temporary exemptions and alleviations. However, regulators, as well as service providers, need to manage exemptions and alleviations based on robust risk management and to better understand and address the root causes of errors, deviations and incidents that can be expected in these unprecedented circumstances.

1.3 The shutdown and return to service have led to many changes to the operating environment. This means that organizations need to address the management of change effectively and regulators need to engage with their organizations to ensure that the results are safe and effective.

1.4 Without a doubt, ICAO, states, regional and international organizations as well as the industry have been impacted in their overall progress to complete safety enhancement initiatives (SEIs) and progress efforts in achieving Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) goals. Furthermore, as the global recovery will certainly be uneven, new safety hazards will be identified and may differ by region and for each operator.

1.5 The ICAO regional Office of the APAC region is commended with the activities performed to support its States and industry particularly during the period of the Pandemic.

2. LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

2.1 The Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) has launched the development of a Global Safety Assessment Project to help FSF and its members to understand current global and regional safety needs by identifying synergies and gaps in addressing existing safety risks and emerging safety issues arising because of the global pandemic. The assessment will focus on scheduled commercial air transport, business aviation and special operations.

2.2 Collaborating with regulators, regional groups and industry associations, FSF will determine the impact the pandemic has had on governments supporting their industry as well as on the industry keeping pace with its international obligations and national requirements. Additionally, the assessment will identify the new or emerging aviation safety issues arising because of the pandemic. The assessment will also focus regionally, and the results will provide a better understanding of existing safety risks and emerging issues leading to effective mitigation approaches.

2.3 Some metrics that will be considered are accident, serious incident and occurrence data, and the number of exemptions, extensions and alleviations issued. A deeper analysis will be performed on the ability of regulators to issue exemptions and of service providers to perform thorough risk assessments to make informed decisions. Information will be collected through surveys and qualitative results reviewed through focus groups and workshops.

2.4 To this end, a survey has been prepared in collaboration with the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines and sent to its members, in order to collect information on the level of risk assessments performed and the mitigation strategies that may have been put in place during this global pandemic. The survey also collected information on the level of coordination between the regulator and service provider. 36 airlines in the APAC region participated in the survey.

2.5 The survey results together with the information collected through focus groups and workshops will be used to perform the deeper analysis as reflected in para 2.3 above. These different sources of information will provide insights to enhance FSF members' understanding of global and regional safety needs by identifying synergies and gaps in addressing existing safety risks and emerging issues leading to effective mitigation approaches. Further, the project will produce insights and lessons learned that might help shape global aviation safety policies and best practices going forward.

2.6 The Global Safety Assessment Project is underway and targeted for completion by September 2022 with the preparation of a comprehensive report comprising analysis and recommendations. The results of the survey will be shared with the conference participants. A preliminary report of the regional results will be shared with the RASG-APAC for its consideration. The results stemming from the project may form the basis of a working paper to be presented at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 FSF has launched the development of a Global Safety Assessment Project to help FSF, its members, States and the industry to understand current global and regional safety needs by identifying synergies and gaps in addressing existing safety risks and emerging safety issues arising from the global pandemic.

3.2 The project is targeted for completion by September 2022 with the preparation of a comprehensive report comprising analysis and recommendations. A survey was performed with 36 members of AAPA. The results of the survey will be shared with the conference participants. A preliminary report of the regional results will be shared with the RASG-APAC for its consideration. The results stemming from the project may form the basis of a working paper to be presented at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 4.1 The Meeting is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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