



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Twentieth Meeting of the ICAO Aeronautical Information Services – Aeronautical Information Management Implementation Task Force (AAITF/20)**

Chitose, Japan, 9 – 13 June 2025

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**Agenda Item 4: AIS-AIM Updates**

**USOAP UPDATE – AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE AND  
AERONAUTICAL CHART**

(Presented by Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents an update of the 2024 edition of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP) Protocol Questions (PQs) and information on the known AIS and Aeronautical chart compliance status of Asia/Pacific States measured against the USOAP PQ.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 States' safety oversight capability can be determined by accessing the implementation of Protocol Questions (PQs). In the 2024 edition of the PQs a new category has been added and organized by nine audit areas, each associated with one of the eight CEs. The eight audit areas are Primary aviation legislation and specific operating regulations (LEG); Civil aviation organization (ORG); Personnel licensing and training (PEL); Aircraft operations (OPS); Airworthiness of aircraft (AIR); Aircraft accident and incident investigation (AIG); Air navigation services (ANS); Aerodromes and ground aids (AGA) and State Safety Program (SSP).

1.2 For a PQ to be assessed as “satisfactory”, States are required to show that all the elements of the PQ have been implemented and provided all the relevant evidence, in order for a PQ to be fully addressed. If a State provides insufficient or no evidence of compliance with the elements outlined in the PQ, the PQ is assessed as “not satisfactory”. The State is required to develop and implement a corrective action plan (CAP) that addresses all elements of the “not satisfactory” PQ, including the presentation of the necessary supporting documentation and evidence.

**2. DISCUSSION**

**USOAP CMA Protocol Questions (PQs)**

2.1 PQs are the primary tool used in the ICAO USOAP CMA for assessing the effective implementation of the eight critical elements (CEs) of a State's safety oversight system. Developed based on ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) and ICAO guidance material, the PQs are revised periodically by ICAO to reflect amendments to the ICAO provisions and reference documents.

2.2 The USOAP CMA amended the PQs in 2024 in accordance with the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) Recommendations (C-WP/15312 refers) regarding the

integration of State Safety Program Implementation Assessment (SSPIA) with USOAP CMA activities, that were approved by the Council of ICAO on 4 March 2022 (C-DEC 225/7 refers). A comparison of the PQs in the 2020 and 2024 versions and number of changes for the ANS area are shown in the **Table 1**.

**Table 1:** A comparison of the PQs in the 2020 and 2024 versions and changes for the ANS area

	Area	Number of 2020 PQs	Number of 2024 PQs		
1	LEG	23	23		
2	ORG	13	13		
3	PEL	93	100		
4	OPS	126	136		
5	AIR	186	198		
6	AIG	84	84		
7	ANS	122	128	New	11
				Revised	108
				Deleted	5
				Merged	0
				No Change	9
8	AGA	143	153		
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>		<b>790</b>	<b>851</b>		

2.3 A comparison of the Aeronautical Information Services (AIS) and Aeronautical Chart (CHART) PQs in the 2020 and 2024 versions is shown in the **Table 2**. There was total of 16 PQs of which 15 PQs have been revised and one PQ was unchanged.

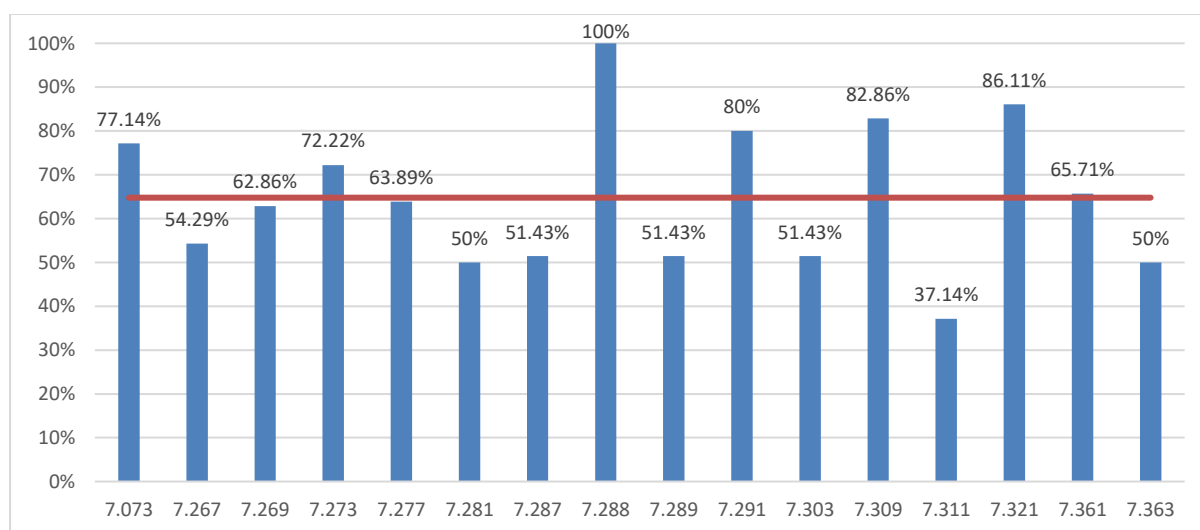
**Table 2:** A comparison of the AIS and CHART PQs in the 2020 and 2024 versions

PQ No. 2020	PQ No. and Protocol Question (2024 Ver)		Description of Change
7.073	7.073	Does the ANS inspectorate have a system for the maintenance of training records?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.267	7.267	Does the State ensure that the AIS has implemented and maintained a quality management system (QMS)?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.269	7.269	Does the AIS inspectorate have sufficient human resources to carry out its functions?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.273	7.273	Has the State established for AIS inspectors: a) job descriptions; b) appropriate minimum qualifications; and c) experience requirements?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.277	7.277	Has the State developed a formal training programme detailing the type of training that should be provided to its AIS inspectors?	Reference revised.
7.281	7.281	Is the training programme appropriately implemented for AIS inspectors?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.287	7.287	Has the State established and implemented a formal surveillance programme for the continuing supervision of AIS?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.288	7.288	Has the State established an authority for the provision of AIS? arranged for the establishment and provision of AIS in accordance with Annex 15 provisions	Question revised for clarity. Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.

PQ No. 2020	PQ No. and Protocol Question (2024 Ver)		Description of Change
7.289	7.289	Has the State established and implemented a mechanism/system with time frame for the elimination of deficiencies identified by AIS inspectors?	Reference revised.
7.291	7.291	Does the State ensure that formal arrangements are established between the originators of aeronautical data and information and the AIS? <del>on the timely and complete provision of aeronautical data and information</del>	Question revised for clarity. Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.303	7.303	Does the State ensure that the technical staff of AIS and cartographic service providers' personnel possess the competencies required to perform the assigned functions and tasks?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.309	7.309	Does the State ensure that the Aeronautical Information Regulation and Control (AIRAC) system is used to notify the establishment, withdrawal and premeditated significant changes of circumstances?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.311	7.311	Does the State ensure that aeronautical data and information are provided in accordance with the data quality specifications?	No Change
7.321	7.321	Does the State ensure the availability of charts either by producing the charts itself or by arranging for its production by another Contracting State or by an agency?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.361	7.361	<del>Has</del> Does the State guarantee that the AISP has implemented <del>taken reasonable measures</del> to ensure that the information that it provides and the aeronautical charts made available are <del>adequate comprehensive</del> and accurate, and that they are maintained up to date by a revision service?	Question revised for clarity. Reference revised.
7.363	7.363	Does the State ensure that the charts, which are applicable in the State, are available and went through a validation and verification process?	Guidance revised for clarity. Reference revised.

2.4 An analysis in May 2025 of the results of **16** USOAP AIS and Charts-related PQs for the Asia/Pacific Region indicated that the average Effective Implementation (EI) is **64.78%** (**Figure 1** and **Table 3**). *Source: ICAO iSTARs*

Note: the textual description in **Table 3** contained the 2020 edition PQs.



**Figure 1:** APAC Region Effective Implementation of AIS and CHART related PQs

**Table 3:** Summary of AIS and CHART-related PQs

No	ID	Questions	EI (%)
1	7.073 CE-4	Does the ANS inspectorate have a system for the maintenance of training records?	77.14%
2	7.267 CE-7	Does the State ensure that the AIS has implemented and maintained a quality management system (QMS)?	54.29%
3	7.269 CE-3	Does the AIS inspectorate have sufficient human resources to carry out its functions?	62.86%
4	7.273 CE-3	Has the State established for AIS inspectors: a) job descriptions; b) appropriate minimum qualifications; and c) experience requirements?	72.22%
5	7.277 CE-4	Has the State developed a formal training programme detailing the type of training that should be provided to its AIS inspectors?	63.89%
6	7.281 CE-4	Is the training programme appropriately implemented for AIS inspectors?	50%
7	7.287 CE-7	Has the State established and implemented a formal surveillance programme for the continuing supervision of AIS?	51.43%
8	7.288 CE-6	Has the State arranged for the establishment and provision of AIS in accordance with Annex 15 provisions?	100%
9	7.289 CE-8	Has the State established and implemented a mechanism/system with time frame for the elimination of deficiencies identified by AIS inspectors?	51.43%
10	7.291 CE-7	Does the State ensure that formal arrangements are established between the originators of aeronautical data and information and the AIS on the timely and complete provision of aeronautical data and information?	80%
11	7.303 CE-7	Does the State ensure that the technical staff of AIS and cartographic service providers' personnel possess the competencies required to perform the assigned functions and tasks?	51.43%
12	7.309 CE-7	Does the State ensure that the Aeronautical Information Regulation and Control (AIRAC) system is used to notify the establishment, withdrawal and premeditated significant changes of circumstances?	82.86%
13	7.311 CE-7	Does the State ensure that aeronautical data and information are provided in accordance with the data quality specifications?	37.14%
14	7.321 CE-6	Does the State ensure the availability of charts either by producing the charts itself or by arranging for its production by another Contracting State or by an agency?	86.11%
15	7.361 CE-7	Has the State taken reasonable measures to ensure that the information that it provides and the aeronautical charts made available are comprehensive and accurate and that they are maintained up to date by a revision service?	65.71%
16	7.363 CE-7	Does the State ensure that the charts, which are applicable in the State, are available and went through a validation and verification process?	50%

2.5 Amongst the 16 PQs related to AIS and Chart, more than half were below the average, the three lowest PQs with lowest scores were 7.311, 7.281 and 7.363. Therefore, administrations are strongly encouraged to review and improve the processes to ensure that aeronautical data and information including Charts are provided in accordance with the data quality specifications and the validation and verification process are applied.

2.6 In addition, training and competencies of the human resource would be an area of focus for enhancement.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the changes to the USOAP CMA PQs 2024 edition;
- b) review the revised PQs and the answers in the self-assessment module in the Online Framework (OLF); and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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