



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Ninth Meeting of the Aerodromes Operations and Planning Sub-Group (AOP/SG/9)

Bangkok, Thailand, 30 June to 4 July 2025

Agenda Item 4: Provision of AOP in the Asia/Pacific Region
– Planning & Design of Aerodromes

ICAO HQ UPDATE ON AGA MATTERS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information related to aerodrome activities carried out recently in the Airport Operations and Infrastructure section, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO Montreal.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Airport Operations and Infrastructure Section (AOI) delivers ICAO provisions on aerodrome matters to support States, air navigation service providers, aerodrome operators and air operators to achieve the relevant regulatory and operational improvements through its multi-disciplinary work programmes and technical expertise. The Section advises States, ICAO Council and Air Navigation Commission (ANC) on aerodrome matters with overall responsibility for Annex 14, Volume I & II - *Aerodromes and Heliports, Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) - Aerodromes* (Doc 9981) and related guidance materials.

1.2 In order to achieve the above, various programmes and activities had been conducted with the assistance of the Aerodrome Design and Operations Panel (ADOP). The Panel carries out its tasks with greater emphasis on safety, efficiency and capacity issues through its various working groups, task forces and expert groups. It also undertakes specific studies and subsequently develops provisions relating to aerodrome design and operations, as outlined in the Global Air Navigation Plan ([ICAO GANP Portal](#)) and Global Aviation Safety Plan ([Doc 10004](#)).

2. DISCUSSION

UPDATES TO GUIDANCE MATERIALS

2.1 As part of the ongoing process of continual updates to guidance materials, ICAO has successfully updated, and/or developed new guidance materials, as shown below:

- Circular on water aerodromes (2025)

Building on the document Asia Pacific Regional Guidance on Requirements for the Design and Operations of Water Aerodromes for Seaplane Operations (developed by the ICAO Asia and Pacific

(APAC) Office), and after analysing draft and current national water aerodrome regulations, the Water Aerodrome Working Group undertook a gap analysis of the guidance material and identified changes and/or additional considerations that could be incorporated into an ICAO Circular, which contains useful guidance to all members States. This Circular represents the first step in developing new Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) on water aerodromes.

- Airport Services Manual (Doc 9137), Part 6 (ongoing)

The next edition of this manual will include guidance material related to the new OLS amendments to facilitate effective implementation.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

2.2 The Council adopted amendment 18 to Annex 14, Vol I and amendment 10 to Annex 14, Vol II, with 4 August 2025 as the date upon which the amendments shall become effective, and resolved that the amendments become applicable on:

- a) 27 November 2025 for provisions related to aerodrome design, visual aids and apron management service in Annex 14, Volume I;
- b) 27 November 2025 for provisions related to obstacle limitation surfaces and visual aids (lighting) associated with heliports in Annex 14, Volume II;
- c) 26 November 2026 for provisions related to ground handling in Annex 14, Volume I;
- d) 26 November 2026 for provisions related to certification and an SMS for heliports in Annex 14, Volume II; and
- e) 21 November 2030 for provisions related to obstacle limitation surfaces in Annex 14, Volume I.

2.3 The Council also approved amendment 5 to PANS-Aerodromes (Doc 9981) related to visual aids and obstacle limitation surfaces with applicability dates as 27 November 2025 and 21 November 2030 respectively.

ADOP/WG/8 MEETING

2.4 The eight meeting of the Aerodrome Design and Operations Panel working group (ADOP/WG/8) was convened in Montreal from 28 April to 02 May 2025 and attended by 54 participants. The meeting reviewed the work programme of the Panel based on the updates and feedback provided by the rapporteurs of its subgroups and job card leaders. Work plan was initiated for the following four new job cards:

- a) Aerodrome compatibility of aircraft powered by alternative energy sources;
- b) Introduction of autonomous vehicles to airside areas;
- c) Apron Management; and
- d) Aerodrome Maintenance programme.

2.5 The meeting noted the outcomes of the fourteenth AN/Conf and agreed to include in its work programme the following items related to aerodromes subject to the availability of resources and due process for approval of new/amended job cards:

- a) Future aerodromes to accommodate new aircraft technologies
- b) Consideration of climate change in aerodrome standard setting
- c) The planning and construction of plateau airports
- d) Managing safety risks derived from hazardous lights in evolving airport environments
- e) Flight safety and wildlife hazards and risk management

2.6 Other related matters discussed at ADOP/WG/8 are:

- Proposal on A-SMGCS related amendments
 - *The meeting reviewed the A-SMGCS proposals related to PANS-Aerodromes. Coordination has been initiated with other panels such as ATMOPSP, FLTOPSP and SP requiring consequential amendments to their respective documents.*
- Runway Starter extension (RSE)
 - *The RSE is an infrastructure element that increases take-off distances in one direction. Being intended for the initial phase of take-off, which is a low energy stage, the proposal considers a particular set of dimensions for the RSE's safety areas, slightly different from that of the runway.*
 - *The meeting reviewed the feedback from FLTOPSP and will work on consequential amendments to Annex 4, 15 and PANS-AIM. In this regard coordination has been initiated with other relevant panels such as IMP, and ATMOPSP.*
- Performance Based aerodrome operating minima

Amendment proposals to the definitions of "instrument runway" and "non-instrument runway" in Annex 14, Vol I have been developed to align with PBAOM principles, removing outdated visibility and classification constraints and introducing clear lower limits based on decision height (DH) or minimum descent height (MDH) for non-instrument runways. It included consequential amendment proposals for PANS-Aerodromes (Doc 9981) and the Manual of All-Weather Operations (Doc 9365) to support the implementation of these changes. LVP, the impact of the possible changes in the definition on other provisions, and Impact assessments to be further worked out.

UPCOMING AMENDMENT PROPOSALS FOR STATE LETTER CONSULTATION

2.7 Amendments to Annex 14, Volumes I and II related to ground handling, assessment and reporting of runway surface conditions, aerodrome emergency planning and rescue and firefighting, integrating RPAS at aerodromes, and disabled aircraft removal, with consequential amendments to Annex 6, parts I, II and III, Annex 9, PANS-ABC (Doc 8400); PANS-Aerodromes (Doc 9981), PANS-AIM (Doc 10066), arising from the fifth meeting of the ADOP, are being reviewed by the ANC. A state letter consultation for this preliminary review is expected to be initiated by July/August 2025.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this Information Paper.

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