



ICAO

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

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Agenda Item 4: Provision of AOP in the Asia/Pacific Region

**EXPERIENCE SHARING BY PAKISTAN IN AERODROME GROUND AIDS (AGA) AREA
OF ICAO USOAP CMA FULL SCOPE AUDIT AND ICAO COORDINATED VALIDATION
MISSION (ICVM)**

(Presented by Pakistan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents experience of Pakistan in Aerodrome Ground Aids (AGA) Area of ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) during Full Scope Audit as well as ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM). This paper also outlines various initiatives taken by Pakistan for review of AGA Area Protocol Questions (PQs) and highlights Pakistan's approach towards planning, preparation and coordination of all ICAO USOAP CMA and ICVM related activities. The ICVM was conducted in Pakistan from 5 to 12 June 2024. After the ICVM overall Effective Implementation (EI) of Pakistan is 84.41 percent whereas EI of AGA area is 80.16 percent.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The USOAP CMA is designed to monitor the safety oversight capabilities and safety performances of States on a continuous basis. The USOAP CMA audit assesses the safety oversight capability of a State by evaluating its implementation of the eight critical elements (CEs) of a safety oversight system. The safety oversight capability of a State is measured by the Effective Implementation (EI), which is calculated for each CE or each audit area. The overall EI of a State is the percentage of “satisfactory” Protocol Questions (PQs) over the total number of “satisfactory” and “not satisfactory” PQs.

1.2 The ICAO USOAP CMA Full Scope Audit for Pakistan was conducted from 29th November to 10th December 2021 whereas the ICVM was conducted in Pakistan from 5th to 12th June 2024. Subsequent to intimation by ICAO regrading conduct of Full Scope ICAO USOAP CMA Audit, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) accepted the conduct of Audit for Pakistan. The ICAO USOAP CMA Full Scope Audit for Pakistan was conducted on the 2017 edition of ICAO USOAP CMA Protocol Questions (PQs).

2. DISCUSSION

Pakistan's Experience of AGA Area of ICAO USOAP CMA Full Scope Audit and ICVM

2.1 After accepting the ICAO USOAP CMA Activity, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) arranged an extraordinary meeting for advanced planning to ensure smooth coordination of all the USOAP CMA Audit-related activities. PCAA's top tier management decided to engage COSCAP-SA for technical assistance in Audit preparation. Accordingly, COSCAP-SA was engaged for technical assistance, and focal persons from PCAA were nominated for each ICAO USOAP CMA Audit Area to coordinate with COSCAP-SA experts.

2.2 The Aerodrome Standards (AS) branch of Airspace and Aerodrome Regulations (AAR) Directorate of PCAA was designated for the Aerodrome Ground Aids (AGA) area. The AS branch initiated a thorough correspondence with Aerodrome Operators for intimation of ICAO USOAP CMA activity and follow-up for timely completion of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for various AGA technical specialist areas. In this context, AS branch also arranged series of meeting with Aerodrome Operators for detailed briefing of ICAO USOAP CMA activities and schedule.

2.3 The PCAA AS branch in close collaboration and coordination with COSCAP-SA AGA expert conducted a thorough review of 2017 edition of Protocol Questions (PQs), Compliance Checklists (CCs) and State Aviation Activity Questionnaire (SAAQ). The comprehensive review of AGA area PQs was completed through series of virtual meetings and discussions with the COSCAP-SA AGA expert to confirm ICAO USOAP CMA Audit requirements. This review helped in identifying some twenty seven (27) points which require an update on ICAO USOAP CMA OLF and twenty two (22) AGA area Protocol Questions were also recommended to be supplement with further evidences. Collectively, as result of this activity, certain regulatory requirements, procedures, aerodrome industry guidance material and inspector checklists were reviewed and updated. This includes issuance of guidance material on Conduct of Aeronautical Studies, regulatory requirements for Aeronautical Ground Lighting and PCAA Aerodrome Certification requirements and procedures. Accordingly, PCAA AS branch completed the self-assessment for all applicable PQs, Electronic Filing of Difference (EFOD)/ CCs and SAAQ on ICAO USOAP CMA OLF and uploaded further evidences as identified during review with COSCAP-SA expert. In-house progress review meetings were also held from time to time to ensure timely completion of all actionable points.

2.4 The Full Scope audit was finally conducted and which resulted in an overall EI of 72.31 per cent for the eight CEs of the State's safety oversight system for Pakistan with AGA Area score of 72.19%. Thereafter due to the introduction and migration towards 2020 edition of the PQs, the Effective Implementation (EI) score of Pakistan was slightly changed & new overall EI score and AGA area score were adjusted to 70.39% and 70.63% respectively, as projected by the ICAO in EB 2021/36 dated 26th November 2021.

2.5 After the receipt of draft report of ICAO USOAP CMA Full Scope Audit, PCAA AS branch held internal meetings to identify task pertaining to high priority and other priority areas in AGA and developed a road map for taking onboard all the internal and external stakeholders for timely preparation and submission of CAPs to ICAO on USOAP CMA OLF. As per the agreed road map, the AS branch prepared corrective action plans of the non-satisfactory PQs. The SAAQ (State Audit Activity Questionnaires) and the CC/EFOD (Compliance Checklist/ Electronic Filing of Differences) were also completed and updated on the OLF (Online Framework). As per high priority area recommendation, PCAA AS branch reviewed Aerodrome Inspector Handbook and developed guidance on systematic review of outcome of conduct of Aeronautical Studies and Aerodrome Manual submitted by Aerodrome Operators. The exclusive guidance on Wildlife Hazard Management at Aerodromes were developed and published.

2.6 For a thorough review and guidance on the preparation of PQs, SAAQ, CCs/EFOD a team of experts from ICAO Asia/Pacific (APAC) office conducted a follow-up Combined Action Team (CAT) Technical Assistance Mission to Pakistan CAA from November 06th to 10th, 2023, to assist Pakistan in its preparation for upcoming ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) CMA activity (ICVM). During the five days of the mission, the following activities were conducted:

- a) Interpretation/explanation of the intent of Protocol Questions (PQs) and related references for enhancing an understanding of USOAP CMA PQs 2020 edition.
- b) Guidance on preparation for future onsite USOAP CMA activity;
- c) Explanation on findings of previous USOAP activities;
- d) Examples of evidences from other States.

2.7 The CAT Team noted that Pakistan CAA has been progressing in CAP implementation with regard to 2021 USOAP Audit findings and encouraged PCAA to endeavor to meet the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP 2023 - 2025) target of 75% EI by 2024 in each critical element of the safety oversight system. As result of five day CAT mission activities, High priority recommendations were given in AGA PQs based on Critical element of each PQ.

2.8 Finally, the ICVM was conducted in Pakistan from 5th to 12th June 2024 for the areas of LEG, ORG, PEL, OPS, ANS and AGA and virtually for the area of AIR. The ICVM team reviewed the progress in addressing 180 PQs in the referred seven areas. Following this review, the status of 98 PQs was changed to satisfactory resulting in an updated overall EI of 84.41 percent whereas EI score of AGA was updated to 80.16 percent.

2.9 PCAA considers the ICAO USOAP CMA OLF a very useful monitoring tool that serves as both safety benchmark and a significant milestone towards safe Aviation Activities. PCAA fully utilized the review guidance provided with each PQ and the guidance outlined in the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Manual (Doc 9735) to comprehend audit requirements and prepare CAPs based on the Critical Element of each PQ. Accordingly, the evidence containing Primary Aviation Legislation, Operating Regulations, Standards, Procedures and industry guidance material were uploaded and submitted to ICAO on USOAP CMA OLF.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented through this paper; and
- b) consider sharing experience of AGA area of ICAO USOAP CMA in their respective states and discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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