

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**MALAYSIA’S EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING THE KEY
CHALLENGES IN ENSURING THE PERFORMANCE
CAPABILITIES OF SCREENING SYSTEMS**

(Presented by Malaysia)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper is intended to inform the members of the Conference on Malaysia’s efforts to address the key challenges identified in ensuring the performance capabilities of screening systems are on par with the current threats while maintaining compliance with SARPs Annex 17.

MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING THE KEY CHALLENGES IN ENSURING THE PERFORMANCE CAPABILITIES OF SCREENING SYSTEMS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Security screening is a mandatory measure to prevent any prohibited items from being introduced to priority risk areas, including an aircraft. This measure forms part of an integrated aviation security system in guaranteeing the safety of passengers, crew, ground personnel, and the general public in all matters related to safeguarding against acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation.

1.2 Any civil aviation-related decisions shall have security as their highest priority. With respect to the screening measures, this includes:

- a) being up to date in identifying the current threats in civil aviation within the global and domestic context; and
- b) tailoring the operational requirements of security screening equipment in line with the identified threats.

1.3 This information paper is intended to inform members of the Conference on Malaysia's efforts to address the key challenges in ensuring the performance capabilities of screening systems are on par with the current threats while maintaining compliance with SARPs Annex 17.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 This paper examines Malaysia's multi-faceted approach to maintaining and enhancing the performance capabilities of aviation security screening systems, emphasising the role of an adequate legal framework, inter-agency coordination and engagement with domestic manufacturers to align detection capabilities with current threat profiles.

2.2 It also outlines practical steps taken—risk-based baseline settings, regional and international reference to mature evaluation frameworks, and forthcoming certification and testing initiatives—and invites the Conference to note these recommendations and support continued technical exchange and capacity building to strengthen screening oversight across the region.

2.3 Key Challenges

2.3.1 Malaysia has identified several key challenges in ensuring the continuous maintenance of standards in security screening operations. However, the following two (2) points were identified as highly critical challenges in achieving the required performance capabilities of screening systems:

- a) Determining the accuracy of the security screening equipment detection capabilities in accordance with Malaysia's threat evaluation; and
- b) Urging the equipment manufacturer to adopt a more transparent approach by providing pertinent information relating to the technology assessment requirements, capabilities, detection performance, and maintenance of the security screening equipment.

2.4 Addressing the Key Challenges

2.4.1 In addressing the aforementioned two critical points, it is determined that there are three (3) crucial elements to ensure the success of these efforts. These elements are: -

- a) adequate legal framework;
- b) coordination with the relevant State Authorities; and
- c) fostering and cultivating cooperation with the homegrown equipment manufacturer.

2.5 Adequate Legal Framework

2.5.1 An adequate legal framework is fundamental in enabling the CAAM to execute its functions and to comply with the ICAO critical elements of an effective State aviation security oversight system. As such, Malaysia's current legal framework has been equipped with the necessary enabling provisions allowing CAAM to conduct approval, enforcement and coordination relating to the security screening capabilities.

2.5.2 It is acknowledged that in addition to the legal framework, the industry must be supplemented with the relevant guidance materials and necessary support from the State. In addition to the adoption of Doc 8973 – Security Manual, Malaysia is in the midst of enhancing the performance requirements and operational requirements that are tailored to the aviation security needs within the domestic context and the global risks.

2.6 Coordination with the relevant Government Agencies

2.6.1 To streamline the effort in ensuring the security screening capabilities, Malaysia has established a joint committee between Government Agencies and Government Research Institute. The information provided by the ICAO on global risk, together with pertinent information shared by the members of the committee, has yielded better contextualised data in realising the enhancement of performance and operational requirements for security screening capabilities.

2.6.2 This valuable information enabled Malaysia to refine a risk-based approach in ensuring the achievement of the aviation security objective in its security screening systems, including the establishment of baseline detection settings that are more suited to current threats associated with the regional context.

2.6.3 A series of preliminary committee meetings also revealed that a few components of the screening equipment testing method need to be developed to ensure the right approach in executing the approval of security screening capabilities.

2.7 Fostering and Cultivating Cooperation with the Homegrown Manufacturer

2.7.1 Detailed information on the security screening equipment is often associated with sensitive security information. While it may hinder States from developing minimum detection settings, Malaysia acknowledges that the sensitivity of this information is due to the defence and business interests of the manufacturer and the State of the manufacturer.

2.7.2 Malaysia notes the publication of the equipment evaluation process for performance standards provided by the ICAO Member States, together with the valuable assistance it provides to the other States. However, the issues in complying with the SARPs of Annex 17 persist. Pursuant to this,

Malaysia has endeavoured to foster and cultivate cooperation with homegrown screening equipment manufacturers.

2.7.3 This cooperation aimed to deliver results by having a more transparent approach between relevant parties with respect to the security screening equipment capabilities. While still in the preliminary stage, CAAM has opened continuous communication with the identified manufacturers and is working as a bridge between the joint committee and the industry players.

2.7.4 Way forward, Malaysia foresees that this cooperation would lead to the development of a certification process, together with the relevant Malaysian certification bodies as established by the other State of the manufacturer, while incorporating the tailored regional context for its certification requirements. This may include the development of testing materials associated with SARPs of Annex 17 with greater accuracy and conducting the testing in a better-controlled environment.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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