

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

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

**ENSURING EFFECTIVE X-RAY SCREENING THROUGH A NATIONAL
EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME: SRI LANKA'S EXPERIENCE**

(Presented by Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka)

SUMMARY

The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) has implemented a National Equipment Certification Programme to ensure the continued effectiveness, reliability, and compliance of aviation security screening systems. The programme focuses on verifying equipment performance, documentation, procedures, and operational arrangements throughout the equipment's lifecycle. It is primarily an administrative certification process aligned with national regulatory requirements.

This paper presents Sri Lanka's approach, including the regulatory framework, certification procedures, and operational considerations supporting effective and resilient aviation security measures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Security screening is a fundamental component of civil aviation security, with X-ray screening systems serving as one of the primary means of detecting prohibited items concealed within cabin baggage, hold baggage and air cargo. The effectiveness of security screening depends not only on the competence of screening personnel but also on the operational performance and reliability of the screening equipment.

1.2 Recognizing the importance of maintaining consistent screening performance, the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) has implemented a National Equipment Certification Programme to verify that aviation security equipment continues to meet established performance requirements throughout its operational life. The implemented programme is not a high-technology certification process; rather, it is primarily an administrative certification programme established to ensure that the Aviation Security Screening System, associated documentation, procedures, and operational arrangements comply with the applicable national regulatory requirements.

1.3 This Information Paper shares Sri Lanka's approach to certifying aviation security equipment in line with national interests and requirements, by highlighting the regulatory basis, certification procedures and operational considerations that ensure effectiveness, compliance, and resilience of aviation security measures.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The certification programme covers newly installed equipment, equipment following major repairs and periodic re-certification during operational service. Equipment that fails to achieve the required performance standards is subject to corrective action before being returned to operational use.

2.2 The certification process for Aviation Security Screening Systems has been designed by the CAASL as a systematic five-stage procedure to ascertain whether the system demonstrates the technical and operational capabilities required under the NCASP.

2.2.1 **Stage 01 - Granting Approval of Specifications of AVSEC Screening Systems:** During this stage, the applicant assesses the operational requirements for Aviation Security Screening Systems, consults the CAASL on technical specifications and available options, and submits application for approval of the specifications of the proposed screening system prior to procurement.

2.2.2 **Stage 02 - Formal application for certification of AVSEC Screening Systems:** Once the Approval for Specifications of Aviation Security Screening Systems is granted, the applicant is informed of the subsequent steps in the certification process. The applicant shall submit a complete certification application to the CAASL along with required supporting documents, including the Operator Manual, Maintenance Agreement, Operator Training Programme, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the screening system.

2.2.3 **Stage 03 - Document Evaluation:** During this stage, the applicant, together with the manufacturer/local agent/supplier/contractor, shall demonstrate to the CAASL that the screening system can be effectively deployed and operated in accordance with the approved procedures and manuals. The CAASL will review and observe the system's technical and operational capabilities to ensure compliance with the required standards.

2.2.4 **Stage 04 - Inspection Prior to Certification:** During this stage, the applicant, together with the manufacturer/local agent/supplier/contractor, shall demonstrate to the CAASL the readiness of the screening system for operational deployment in accordance with approved manuals and procedures. The CAASL will assess the system's technical and operational capabilities, including system details and approvals, operational demonstrations, screener training and certification, and maintenance arrangements. Any identified operational issues may require amendments to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). All requirements must be satisfactorily completed before progressing to the next stage of the certification process.

2.2.5 **Stage 05 - Certification of Aviation Security Screening Systems:** Upon successful completion of all previous stages, the CAASL will complete the necessary administrative actions to certify the Aviation Security Screening System and approve the relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A formal Screening System Certificate will then be issued, valid for one year.

2.3 The CAASL believes that sharing this experience and steps may be beneficial to other Contracting States that are considering establishing or enhancing national programmes for the certification of security screening equipment.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

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

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