International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/22 & RASG-MID/12 Meetings

(Doha, Qatar, 4 – 8 May 2025)

Agenda Item 4.2: **Outcomes of the RASG-MID Groups (SEIG/6 Meeting)**

THE CHALLENGES OF INDIVIDUAL STATE-BASED
LICENSE VERIFICATION SYSTEMS

(Presented by United Arab Emirates)

SUMMARY

This working paper highlights the difficulties faced due to the diverse license verification systems implemented by different States. The paper discusses how the lack of a standardized approach can lead to inefficiencies and complications in the verification process.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3

REFERANCE

- ICAO ANNEX1 - PERSONNEL LICENSING
- ICAO DOC 9379

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The verification of air crew licenses is a fundamental process for ensuring aviation safety and regulatory compliance.

1.2 The absence of a standardized global approach has led to a proliferation of unique verification systems, each with its own set of requirements and procedures.

1.3 Currently, having different verification systems for each State had inadvertently created challenges for operators, regulators, and personnel seeking license validation across borders.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Each State implementing its own license verification system has resulted in several challenges, including:

2.1.1 Inconsistencies in requirements: Some States requires notarized documents, while others require online verification portals.

2.1.2 Administrative workload burden**:** authorities and stakeholders within the industry needs to highlight different procedures, leading to delays in hiring and operational inefficiencies.

2.1.3   Barriers to international mobility: Pilots and other aircrew who wish to transfer between Operators face unnecessary obstacles due to the lack of harmonization in the verification process. This adds up to the stress associated with the hiring process.

2.1.4   As part of global modernization efforts, ICAO is currently developing the Electronic Pilot License (ePL), a secure digital alternative to traditional paper-based pilot licenses. The ePL aims to improve efficiency, reduce fraud, and streamline cross-border validation of licenses. Its introduction also presents an opportunity to align licensing systems with digital academic credential frameworks, thus supporting the broader objective of recognizing aviation licenses as equivalent to academic qualifications.

2.1.5   To mention that the UAE is going to present a WP during the assembly about the importance of the unified system and utilisation of ICAO EPL as the ultimate solution, we need the region's support.

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2.2   COMPLIANCE ISSUES

2.2.1   ANNEX 1 provides guidance on licensing procedures, but it does not mandate a standardized method for verification. This gap allows States to implement diverging processes that may not fully align with ICAO's principles of standardization and mutual recognition.

2.3   DELAYS IN LICENSING AND EMPLOYMENT PROCESSES

2.3.1   non-uniform systems often lead to delays in license validation, impacting airlines, operators, and flight crew. Some pilots face significant hurdles when transferring between States due to unfamiliar or inaccessible verification processes.

2.4   UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WORKING PAPER TO BE PRESENTED IN ICAO ASSEMBLY

2.4.1   In alignment with ICAO's vision for global standardization and recognition of aviation competencies, the United Arab Emirates is currently preparing a dedicated Working Paper to be presented at the upcoming ICAO Assembly. This paper will focus on establishing pathways for equating professional aviation licenses with academic qualifications, and will propose policy recommendations and collaborative frameworks for Member States to consider.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

   a) Take note of the content of this paper.

   b) States to conduct a survey to explore means of countering licensing verification issues and following the publication of the survey and the collection of outcomes, the regional office is required to provide the necessary recommendations for the next steps.

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