International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 35: Aviation safety and air navigation standardization

ELECTRONIC LICENSES FOR AIRCRAFT PILOTS

(Presented by the People's Republic of China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper outlines the Aircraft Pilot Electronic License Program that the CAAC will soon implement. This program is designed to make it much easier for the license holder to maintain the license and instantly update the relevant remarks attached to it, while ensuring the accuracy and security of the information that the license contains.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

a) introduce the electronic license program to Member States and, where necessary, assist Member States in obtaining information on this program;
b) encourage Member States to develop and implement aircraft pilot electronic license programs; and
c) obtain information on bilateral and multilateral understanding on the recognition of electronic licenses among member states in order to avoid barriers or misinterpretations likely to occur in routine inspections when operating overseas.

Strategic Objectives:	This working paper relates to Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency Strategic Objective.
Financial implications:	N/A
References:	Annex1

[1] Chinese version provided by China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An aircraft pilot's electronic license refers to a copy (electronic copy) of the aircraft pilot's license containing his/her registration information and relevant remarks attached to it as verified, produced and issued by the CAAC flight standards functional department based on network digital information. End users are able to obtain an electronic copy by downloading and installing the related application software (APP).

1.2 Source of regulation：

- The production and issuance of aircraft pilots' licenses using electronic media rely on regulatory provisions in ICAO Annex 1, 5.1.2, which states that quality paper or other suitable material, including plastic cards, should be used to show clearly the items specified in 5.1.1.2.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Basic functionality of aircraft pilots' electronic licenses:

a) Uses one of the six ICAO languages to describe the essential elements of a license as required by Annex 1;

b) Shows current valid physical examination information on the pilot;

c) Shows in detail all information on periodic examinations and competency tests requirements corresponding to the privileges and grades granted in the license, including historical records;

d) Traces back information on previous versions of a license;

e) Reminds of upcoming tests or expiration of privileges, such as physical and competency tests and examinations.

2.2 Anti-fraudulence and personal information security：

a) An electronic license holder's identity information can be instantly retrieved and verified by using any 2d barcode scanning software. By scanning the barcode, one can obtain basic information on the license holder as verified by the licensing authority.
b) Electronic licenses are produced in combination with the digital certification system, using heightened security codes for storage in keeping with national specifications for information security to ensure confidentiality, integrity, authenticity and operational non-rejectability of the information.

2.3 Implementation plan：

a) By the end of 2016, aircraft pilot electronic licenses will be used for all domestic operations within the country, and for operations outside China, paper-based licenses will be brought along as back-up.

b) It is hoped that comprehensive use of electronic licenses will be realized for operations overseas in three years.

3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 Use of aircraft pilot electronic licenses will lower substantially the costs of license management, streamline management processes and provide license holders with faster and more efficient services while ensuring security and reliability of the information.

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