



ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION (AIG) DIVISIONAL MEETING (2008)

Montréal, 13 to 18 October 2008

Agenda Item 1: Annex 13

1.4: Format of the Final Report in Annex 13

CONCLUSIONS IN FINAL REPORTS

(Presented by the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the use of the word “cause” in the Final Report of an accident or incident instead of “contributing factors”.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting is to consider the need to replace the word “cause” with “contributing factors” in the format of the final report as contained in the Appendix to Annex 13, so as to bring the focus of the final report in line with SMS concepts.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 ICCAIA is of the opinion that accidents are frequently the result of a string of events (not a singular cause). The format of the final report should reflect this fact. “Causes” or “contributing factors” meets this intent.

2.2 However, the word “Cause” may imply that there are “culprits” and this may be taken by the judicial authorities as a means to blame organizations and/or their personnel. “Contributing Factor” is more general and directs the understanding of the facts and their relation for the benefit of prevention programs, in accordance with the SMS concepts.

3. ACTION PROPOSED

3.1 The meeting is invited to note ICCAIA support for the use of the word “contributing factors”.

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