



AIG/08-WP/77
17/10/08

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

Montréal, 13 to 18 October 2008

(DRAFT) REPORT TO PLENARY ON AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Item 6: Regional Cooperation in Accident and Incident Investigations

The meeting held one meeting on Agenda Item 6 on 17 October 2008.

N. Stoss
Chairman of the meeting

Agenda Item 6: Regional Cooperation in Accident and Incident Investigations

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 The meeting discussed the issue of regional cooperation in accident and incident investigations and the possibility to establish regional accident investigation capability.

6.1.2 Audits conducted under the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) have highlighted that many States do not have the means necessary to investigate the full range of aircraft accidents and serious incidents, and to carry out thorough analyses of the accident and incident data received. For these States, the establishment of a regional accident investigation organization, or the creation of a regional pool of qualified investigators, might be the only solutions to achieve the effective implementation of an investigation and prevention system.

6.1.3 The meeting was presented with the work carried out by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) Member States to enhance cooperation in investigation matters in the European region, including two tools developed and in use in the region: a checklist on investigations to assist Member States to assess their needs in terms of assistance, and a “Code of Conduct” to organize cooperation between signatory authorities. It was highlighted how beneficial it is for investigation authorities in a region to meet regularly, share experience, and pool resources when necessary.

6.1.4 A presentation was given about the actions taken by the Central American States (COCESNA States) to strengthen investigation and prevention systems in the region, and about the project to create a regional commission for the investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents in the Central American region.

6.1.5 A regional organization shared the experience it has in conducting accident investigations on behalf of its Member States. The regional organization proposed that paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1 should be amended to include the possibility to delegate investigations to international organizations, which would enable the States concerned to include the relevant provisions in their legislation.

6.2 DISCUSSION

6.2.1 There was unanimous support for recommending that ICAO develop guidance regarding the establishment of regional investigation organizations. A group of States noted that the ICAO *Safety Oversight Manual*, Part B — *The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight System* (Doc 9734) should also be considered. Doc 9734, Part B should be amended if necessary, when developing guidance material regarding regional investigation organizations, with a view to ensuring consistency between the relevant documents developed by ICAO.

6.2.2 Several States highlighted that, in regions where individual States do not have investigation capability, implementing regional investigation organizations would ensure the effectiveness of investigation tasks, reinforce compliance with the provisions of Annex 13, and contribute to the enhancement of aviation safety. One regional organization, which also supported the creation of regional investigation organizations, suggested that States pay particular attention to the interfaces between organizations. One State pointed out that it is essential to ensure sustainable funding for implementing a

regional investigation organization. Regarding the project under consideration in the Central American region, the AIG/08 Meeting unanimously supported the creation of a Central American commission for the investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents. One regional organization invited the Central American States to its headquarters and offered to share its experience with these States and other interested States.

6.2.3 The meeting considered the “checklist on assistance” proposed by a group of States, and it was agreed that this matter would be reviewed within the Agenda Item 2 (Recent developments in investigation and prevention matters).

6.2.4 Regarding the proposed amendment of paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1, one State suggested using the term “regional accident investigation organization” instead of the term “international (interstate) organization”. There was unanimous support for the amendment of paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1 using the new term suggested.

6.2.5 As a result of the discussions, the meeting agreed to recommend the following amendment to paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1 as follows:

RSPP

Recommendation 6/1 — Amendment to Chapter 5, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1

Amend Chapter 5, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1 as follows:

CHAPTER 5. INVESTIGATION

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State of Occurrence

5.1 The State of Occurrence shall institute an investigation into the circumstances of the accident and be responsible for the conduct of the investigation, but it may delegate the whole or any part of the conducting of such investigation to another State or a regional accident investigation organization by mutual arrangement and consent. In any event, the State of Occurrence shall use every means to facilitate the investigation

5.1.1 **Recommendation.**— *The State of Occurrence should institute an investigation into the circumstances of a serious incident. Such a State may delegate the whole or any part of the conducting of such investigation to another State or a regional accident investigation organization by mutual arrangement and consent. In any event the State of Occurrence should use every means to facilitate the investigation.*

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6.2.6 As a result of these discussions, the meeting also made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 6/2 — Guidance on the establishment and management of a regional accident and incident investigation system

That ICAO develop guidance for States on how to establish and manage a regional accident and incident investigation system, that would be made available to States in an appropriate ~~AIG~~ document.

Recommendation 6/3 — Regional cooperation in accident investigations

- a) To urge Contracting States to conduct safety investigations pursuant to Article 26 of the Chicago Convention when an accident occurs in their territory, and to obtain regional support if the required capabilities or resources are not available,.
- b) To encourage States seeking or providing regional support to consider the “Code of Conduct on Co-Operation” established by the ECAC State members and available on: www.ecac-ceac.org, “Publications and Documents”.

Recommendation 6/4 — Project of creating a regional investigation commission in the Central American region

That ICAO provide support for the establishment of a Central American commission for the investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents in the Central American region.

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