



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION AGREE ON GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND SHARING OF INFORMATION

MONTREAL, 22 March 2006 – Directors General of Civil Aviation from Contracting States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meeting in Montreal have agreed to post results from the Organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) on the ICAO public website.

Although the deadline for posting the results is set for 23 March 2008, ICAO urged Directors General to comply as soon as possible. At the conclusion of the conference, some 70 States had authorized ICAO to publish the information.

A progress report will be submitted to the next regular Session of the ICAO Assembly in the Fall of 2007 and a full announcement on transparency achieved will be issued on 23 March 2008, listing those States that have failed to meet the deadline.

USOAP consists of regular, mandatory, systematic and harmonized safety audits carried out by ICAO in its 189 Contracting States to assess the level of implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, identify safety concerns or deficiencies, and provide recommendations for their resolution.

Summary safety reports to appear on the ICAO website will cover eight critical areas: aviation legislation, operating regulations, structure of the civil aviation administration and safety oversight function, technical guidance material, technical personnel, licensing and certification obligations, continuing surveillance obligations and resolution of safety issues. States will be able to add complementary data to help evaluate the level of safety in their country.

"Transparency and sharing of safety information are fundamental tenets of a safe air transport system. I believe that this initiative and others taken at the conference will foster mutual trust between States, increase public confidence in air travel, and help maintain the integrity of the safest and most efficient means of mass transportation ever created," said Dr. Assad Kotaite, Chairman of the Conference and President of the ICAO Council.

Dr. Kotaite emphasized that implementation and enforcement of all safety-related provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, its Annexes, and ICAO Assembly Resolutions were essential to ensure aviation safety.

“Together, these documents constitute the essential regulatory framework for global air transport and must be fully utilized by all stakeholders, in a cooperative manner, to achieve optimum safety. Accidents most often happen when standards and regulations are not applied on a consistent basis,” he added.

566 participants from 153 Contracting States and 26 international organizations attended the conference convened by ICAO, from 20 to 22 March, to evaluate the current status of aviation safety worldwide, identify ways to make significant improvements in an assertive, coordinated and transparent manner, and formulate a Global Strategy for Aviation Safety in the 21st Century.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 189 Contracting States.
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