

ELEVENTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montreal, 22 September to 3 October 2003

**Agenda Item 2: Safety and security in air traffic management
(ATM)**

2.3 Safety regulation

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SARPS “NOTIFICATION OF DIFFERENCES” PROCEDURES AND PANS STATUS

(Presented by the International Federation of
Air Line Pilots’ Associations — IFALPA)

SUMMARY

Global standardized provisions are of vital importance for the conduct of safe and secure international aviation. The implementation of SARPs and PANS by the ICAO Contracting States is the key to achieve this goal. The current procedures in regard to the notification of differences and the status of some technical material do not provide the optimum framework for global standardization and compliance.

Action by the conference is in paragraph 3.

1. STATUS OF ICAO PROVISIONS VERSUS GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION

1.1 The objective of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) is the implementation of global, standardised provisions for international aviation.

1.2 However, the present basis and structure of the ICAO provisions — SARPs and PANS — do not support this goal to the desired extent. This fact has been noted through the universal safety oversight audit programme (USOAP) in regard to the implementation of Standards, an even greater and mostly undocumented divergence exists in respect to Recommendations and PANS.

1.3 Although the concept of Standards and Recommended Practices as used in the Annexes proper, is also reflected in PANS, these do not have the same status. This inherent situation is also visible in the distinction between the adoption of Annexes and the approval of PANS documents. As a consequence, only differences from Standards in an Annex are notified and published (see Appendix).

1.4 It is proposed that provisions in PANS documents should be classified as Standard or Recommended Practice with the same qualification as the SARPs in Annexes (“necessary for the safety” versus “desirable in the interest of safety”) and be subject to an appropriate procedure regarding the “Notification of differences”.

2. NOTIFICATION OF DIFFERENCES TO RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

2.1 Although the implementation and application of “Recommended Practices” is regarded as “desirable in the interest of safety”, Contracting States are not required to notify differences. This current notification practice is detrimental to the stated goal that Contracting States should “endeavour to conform” with “Recommended Practices”.

2.2 It is proposed that the applicability of Article 38 of the Convention regarding the “Notification of differences” is extended to also encompass “Recommended Practices”.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The conference is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this paper;
- b) consider to extend the same qualifications and procedures to SARPs provisions in PANS as in Annexes; and
- c) consider the extension of “Notification of Differences” to encompass Recommended Practices.

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