



SPECIAL AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN (AFI) REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION (RAN) MEETING

Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008

Agenda Item 6: Development of a set of comprehensive work programmes in the air navigation field, aimed at improving efficiency of the air navigation system (Efficiency Committee)

AERODROME CERTIFICATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents the status of aerodrome certification in South Africa and the experiences gained in implementing the certification requirements.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Given the trend towards the privatisation of aerodromes, and to ensure that States remain responsible for the provision of adequate and safe aerodrome facilities and services in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) developed by ICAO, Annex 14 - Volume I – *Aerodrome Design and Operations* introduced the requirements for aerodromes used for international operations to be certified by the State, as from 27 November 2003.

1.2 A part of the certification process, it is a requirement that States establish a safety programme and achieve an acceptable level of safety, as well as the implementation by the aerodrome operator of a safety management system (SMS).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 While the airport authorities are responsible for aerodrome safety, the SA Civil Aviation Authority provides a safety oversight responsibility in order to achieve and ensure an acceptable level of safety in accordance with the SARPs developed by ICAO.

2.2 The SA Civil Aviation Authority and Airport Authorities have attended seminars/workshops on the requirements for aerodrome certification and safety management systems.

2.3 The SA Civil Aviation Authority has developed, approved and published national legislation and regulations, in accordance with relevant ICAO SARP's, on aerodrome certification and safety management system requirements.

3. **DISCUSSION**

3.1 There are 131 international aerodromes in the AFI Region, among which 10 are in South Africa. These aerodromes are managed and operated by airport authorities.

3.2 All 10 international aerodromes in South Africa have been certified in terms of the aerodrome certification regulations and the aerodrome operators have implemented safety management systems, which have been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

3.3 When developing the aerodrome certification requirement and the safety management regulations, the following should be taken into consideration:

- a) a framework for the certification process and implementation must be developed;
- b) staff involved with the development and implementation of the certification requirements must be adequately trained in the guidance in the Manual on Certification of Aerodromes (Doc 9775) and Annex 14, Volume I provisions for aerodrome certification; and
- c) there must be adequate consultation between the Civil Aviation Authority and the Airport Authorities/Operators.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 In order to effectively implement an aerodrome certification and safety management system, a structured approach is needed.

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