



WORKING PAPER

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

Durban, South Africa, 24 to 29 November 2008

Agenda Item 4: Current status of aviation safety and related activities in the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) Region (Safety Committee)

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES (ATS) INCIDENT ANALYSIS GROUP

(Presented by the International Air Transport Association)

SUMMARY

This paper invites States and air navigation service providers to carry out thorough investigations on all reported air traffic services (ATS) incidents and take adequate measures to prevent repetition of similar occurrences. It also calls upon States to make their investigations, conclusions and recommendations readily available to all concerned parties.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with ICAO provisions in Annex 11 — *Air Traffic Services*, Annex 13 — *Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation*, the *Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management* (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444) and the *Air Traffic Services Planning Manual* (Doc 9426), procedures for reporting and investigating air traffic services (ATS) occurrences are required in order to ensure the highest standards of safety. Assuming that ATS incidents are investigated thoroughly and that adequate measures have been taken to prevent similar occurrences in the future, however, corrective actions and safety recommendations are not always made known to all concerned aircraft operators. Unfortunately, users receive little or no feedback on air safety reports (ASRs) from some States and air navigation service providers (ANSPs).

1.2 ATS Incident Analysis Group (AIAG)

1.2.1 Due to poor feedback, the AIAG was established to provide a forum for various aviation organizations and stakeholders, including but not limited to ICAO, IATA, the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the *Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar* (ASECNA), the Air Traffic and Navigation Services

Company of South Africa (ATNS), the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA) and the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations (IFATCA), to review reported incidents and formulate recommendations to prevent similar occurrences in the AFI Region.

1.2.2 The group meets on a yearly basis, generally in March, to analyze ATS incidents for the preceding year. The following tasks have been assigned:

- a) assess incidents by type, i.e., airprox, procedure, facility and establish degree of risk to the extent practicable;
- b) identify primary and contributory causes as far as possible and recommend appropriate corrective actions;
- c) develop submissions to be made to ICAO, the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG), airlines and other airspace users, States and ATS providers concerned, with the intention to address the identified causes or major trends and prevent repetition of the incidents;
- d) determine the extent to which the IATA In-Flight Broadcast Procedure (IFBP) is instrumental in detecting and/or solving conflicts and make appropriate recommendations that may enhance the effectiveness of the procedure; and
- e) determine the extent to which the airborne collision avoidance system (ACAS) has been instrumental in detecting and/or solving conflicts and make appropriate recommendations that indicate required changes to the infrastructure.

1.3 AIAG/2008 Meeting

1.3.1 The most recent AIAG meeting was held in March 2008 in Johannesburg and was attended by thirty-two participants from ICAO, States, the airline industry, ANSPs, IFALPA and IFATCA.

1.3.2 Of ninety-six incidents reported, the concerned ANSPs provided feedback in fifty-six cases. The response rate varied significantly from one State to another. Accordingly, the following recommendation is proposed:

Recommendation 4/x — Investigation of air traffic services incidents and provision of comprehensive feedback to parties involved

That, in coordination with their air navigation service providers, States:

- a) diligently conduct investigations on all reported air traffic services incidents having taken place in airspace under their responsibility; and
- b) provide timely, documented feedback to all involved parties through participation in the established AIAG mechanism via the relevant ICAO Regional Office.

2. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

2.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of this working paper; and
- b) approve the draft Recommendation at paragraph 1.3.2 above.

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