



**INTERNATIONAL  
CIVIL AVIATION  
ORGANIZATION**



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# Recent updates on Annex 9 Developments

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# Key Developments Annex 9 – Facilitation

- **The Thirteenth Meeting of the Facilitation Panel (FALP/13) : Montréal, Canada (26 February – 1 March 2024)**

Amendment 30 to Annex 9 - Adopted by the Council on 5 November 2024. Council Prescribes Amendment 30 become applicable on 11 July 2025.

- **Intersessional Meeting of the Facilitation Panel: Doha, Qatar (12–13 April 2025)**

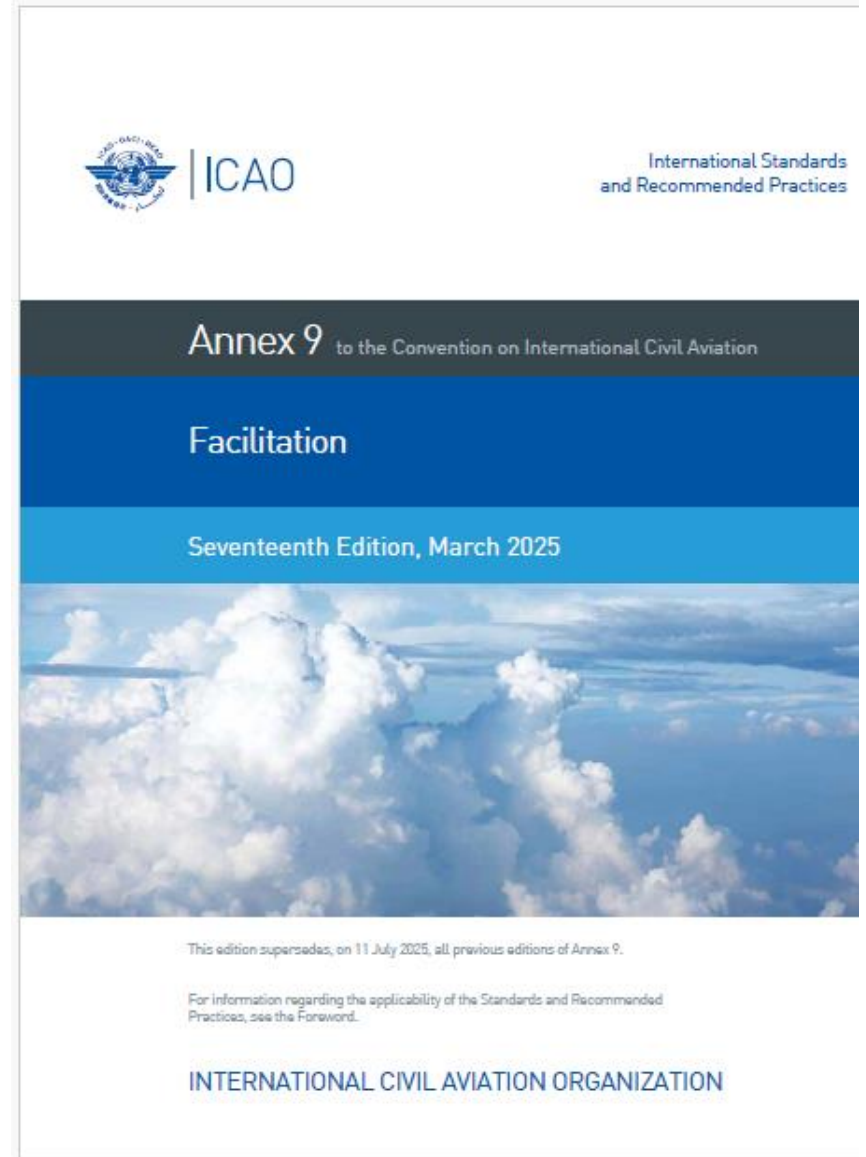
Convened in collaboration with TAG/TRIP and the ICAO PKD Board

- **New Guidance Material**

The Facilitation Manual, Doc 9957(2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

- **New Working Group/ Task force**

Working Group on Facilitation Capacity Building (WGFCB)  
Reinstated PNR task force



# FAL-Related Proposals under Review by the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) arising from ADOP/5

## 1. New Recommendation to Annex 14, Volume I – Assistance to Victims and Their Families

### CHAPTER 9. AERODROME OPERATIONAL SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS

#### 9.1 Aerodrome emergency planning

**9.1.5 Recommendation.** — *The plan should provide for assistance to victims and their families involved in an aircraft accident in coordination with the aircraft operator.*

*Note.* — *Further guidance is provided in the ICAO Policy on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (Doc 9998), Manual on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families (Doc 9973) and Airport Services Manual (Doc 9137), Part 7.*

## 2. Minor Amendment to Annex 9 - Ground Handling

### CHAPTER 6. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS — FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR TRAFFIC

**6.6 Recommended Practice.** — *Each Contracting State should, subject to relevant regulations and within the limitations established by the airport operator due to constraints caused by limited space or capacity, permit aircraft operators to choose ~~how, and~~ by whom their ground handling operations should be carried out.*



2024 YEAR OF  
FACILITATION

**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ICAO ANNEX 9 – FACILITATION  
AND THE ICAO YEAR OF FACILITATION**

#FAL2024

Recognizing the  
**75th Anniversary of Annex 9 — Facilitation**

ICAO's Council has designated 2024 as the  
**Year of Facilitation (#FAL2024)**

based on the theme

***Past. Present. Future: 75 Years of Enabling Air Travel***

<https://www.icao.int/facilitation-programmes/FAL2024>

## Some key activities

- ✈ **Facilitation Summit**  
Riyadh | 21–22 May 2024
- ✈ **Facilitation Global Forum**  
Bogotá | 21–23 October 2024
- ✈ **2<sup>nd</sup> AAVF Symposium**  
Haarlem | 26–28 November 2024
- ✈ **Accessibility Symposium (ICAO/ACI/IATA)**  
Montréal | 2–3 December 2024
- ✈ **Facilitation Regional Forum**  
Yaoundé | 3–4 March 2025
- ✈ **2025 ICAO Facilitation Conference (FALC 2025)**  
Doha, Qatar, 14 to 17 April 2025



### Air Transport Facilitation

In the context of international civil aviation, refers to measures to prevent unnecessary delays to aircraft, crews, passengers and cargo, especially, in the administration of the laws relating to immigration, quarantine, customs and clearance. The words “Facilitation of formalities” appears as a subtitle for Article 22 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

In September 1949, pursuant to Article 37 of the Chicago Convention, ICAO published the First Edition of Annex 9 — Facilitation that contained 89 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Over the years, many new and revised SARPs have been introduced through a series of amendments to the Annex that now contains more than 440 SARPs under ten chapters. These new and revised SARPs seek to address the evolving landscape of air transport, the contemporary needs of States, advances in technology, development of passenger and cargo traffic, and the

value of contributing to the continuing development of international civil aviation.

Air transport facilitation can be linked to 9 of the 15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations (UN). Therefore, the work that ICAO undertakes to facilitate air travel is crucial to maintaining a thriving aviation ecosystem vital to the world’s economic and social development. Air transport Facilitation holds great importance for international civil aviation and will continue to in the years to come.



## Doha Declaration – Strengthened Global Commitment

- FACILITATION CONFERENCE (FALC 2025) 14 to 17 ,April 2025, Doha, Qatar
- The Doha Ministerial Declaration (2025) was embraced by the Assembly as a policy driver for strengthening global mobility, accessibility, and passenger-centric border processing.
- The Declaration’s principles were incorporated into Resolution A42-17 (Appendix E) to better align Annex 9 with contemporary facilitation expectations.



## Assembly 42<sup>nd</sup> Session

- The Assembly reaffirmed that Facilitation is essential to ICAO's strategic objective of delivering reliable, accessible, and seamless mobility for all, reinforcing its link to aviation resilience and passenger confidence.
- The Assembly recognized a growing global need for harmonized facilitation frameworks, driven by increased traffic, tightening border control demands, and post-pandemic operational realities.



- Facilitation Policy
- Traveller Identification & Border Control
- National/International Action & Cooperation
- Passenger Data Systems
- Global Commitment

<https://www.icao.int/events/assembly-42nd-session/Resolutions>

# FAL Capacity Building - Training Courses



## ICAO Annex 9 - Facilitation

The ICAO Annex 9 – *Facilitation* is virtual classroom course that develops competencies relevant to staff from Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) and border control authorities to deal collectively, in an inter-agency manner, with Annex 9’s facilitation provisions.



## Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families

This course will provide CAA representatives, other government officials, aircraft and airport operators and non-governmental organization with the competencies to effectively support aircraft accident victims and their family assistance efforts, in accordance with ICAO Policy.



## Visible Digital Seals for Travel-Related Public Health Proofs

This course provides State authorities with the competencies required to implement a national Visible Digital Seal for Non-Constrained Environments (VDS-NC) solution for travel health proof, in accordance with ICAO Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents, Parts 9-13.



## Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy

The course provides to the target audience the competencies to implement the five key elements of the ICAO TRIP strategy, ensuring interoperability and internal cooperation, in accordance with Annex 9.



## Managing Air Transport Facilitation Course

The course provides the target audience with the competencies required to develop a management system whereby the Coordinating Authority (ies) designated by the State is (are) able to coordinate the required national policy framework, coordinate Facilitation matters with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders and to assess the implementation of Annex 9 SARPs and create a national evaluation framework.

## Implementation Package (iPacks)

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ICAO currently has four Facilitation-focused iPacks in its catalog, including:

- ✓ Implementing and Establishing the National Facilitation Programme and the Committees-(FAL)
- ✓ Establishing National Facilitation Oversight Mechanisms
- ✓ Visible Digital Seals
- ✓ Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families

And coming soon:

- ✓ Implementing the ICAO TRIP Strategy Roadmap



## Key Planned Activities (2026)

- **AAAVF Workshops**

EUR/NAT ICAO–ECAC Workshop – Madrid (27 January 2026) \*Done  
Regional Workshops – Mexico (October) & Lima, Peru (December)

- **21<sup>st</sup> TRIP symposium**

ICAO HQ, Montréal (22 - 24 September)

- **FAL Implementation Seminar**

Abuja, Nigeria (Last week of October 2026)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Accessibility Symposium**

ICAO HQ, Montréal (October 2026)

- **Air Transport Conference (ATConf7)**

ICAO HQ, Montréal (16 - 20 November 2026)



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# Thank You

