

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE**

**TWENTY-SIXTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
(26TH E/CAR IWG)**

(Barbados, 3 to 7 June 2002)

Agenda Item 6: **AGA Developments**

6.1 Aerodromes Certification

STATE AERODROME CERTIFICATION AND ICAO USOAP EXPANSION TO ANNEX 14

(Working Paper presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This paper provides the meeting with a status update on the new requirement for State certification of aerodromes and the expansion of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) to include aerodromes (Annex 14) audits.	
REFERENCES	
• Assembly Resolution A33-8 Continuation and expansion of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme • State Letter AN 4/1.2.18-01/36 dated 6 April 2001 Adoption of Amendment 4 to Annex 14, Volume I	

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides the meeting with a status update on the new requirement for States to certify their aerodromes and the expansion of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) to include aerodromes (Annex 14). These developments are welcome in a Region where much greater emphasis is required by many States on improving the inadequate condition of facilities, operations and services provided at most aerodromes. The current condition of aerodromes, which in some cases has resulted from neglect by States and aerodrome operators, is evidenced by the extensive and increasing number of urgent and long-outstanding deficiencies identified and reported for aerodromes in the Region.

1.2 The aerodrome deficiencies are situations which have a negative impact on the safety of aircraft operations. The deficiencies are items of non-compliance with ICAO Annex 14 Aerodromes standards and recommended practices and non-implementation of the required aerodrome facilities and services as specified in the ICAO regional air navigation plan. These include differences to standards notified by States to ICAO when these deficiencies have a negative impact on safety. This process is established in the uniform methodology for the identification, assessment and reporting of air navigation deficiencies approved by the ICAO Council.

1.3 It has been recognised that in many cases these deficiencies are a result of inadequate and ineffective airfield maintenance programmes. It is expected that State certification of aerodromes and ICAO audits will focus greater attention on ensuring the timely correction and future prevention of aerodrome deficiencies. This will contribute significantly to enhancing the level of safety of aircraft operations at aerodromes in the Region.

2. Background

2.1 Amendment 4 to ICAO Annex 14 Volume I, which became applicable on 1 November 2001, includes, amongst others, a new requirement for the certification of aerodromes. The new requirement is for States to certify aerodromes in accordance with the specifications in Annex 14 Volume I, as well as other relevant ICAO specifications and national regulatory framework. The certification is based on the submission of an aerodrome manual and evidence of having an aerodrome safety management system. These requirements were introduced as recommended practices applicable from 1 November 2001 and will become Standards on 27 November 2003 for State certification of international aerodromes and on 24 November 2005 for aerodromes to have safety management systems.

2.2 The new ICAO Manual on Certification of Aerodromes (Doc. 9774) was published in October 2001. The manual provides guidance for States (and aerodromes) on implementing the new Annex 14 requirements related to the certification of aerodromes. The manual includes chapters on aerodrome certification regulatory system, model regulations, procedures and functions of a regulatory authority. In addition, typical contents of an aerodrome manual, a sample application form and aerodrome certificate, as well as references of those States which have established their national aerodrome certification systems, are provided in the manual.

2.3 The ICAO Assembly at its 33rd Session, held from 25 September to 5 October 2001, adopted the resolution A33-8 on the continuation and expansion of ICAO USOAP. The Assembly resolved that the ICAO USOAP be expanded to Annex 14 Aerodromes with these audits to commence as of 2004.

3. Discussion

3.1 The E/CAR DCAs at their 16th meeting held from 4 to 7 December 2000 adopted Conclusion 16/16 on Certification of Aerodromes. This conclusion committed States to the early preparation for and implementation of the new requirement for States to certify aerodromes.

3.2 Furthermore, on the basis of draft Conclusions 1/4, 1/5 and 1/6 developed by the GREPECAS Aerodromes and Ground Aids/Aerodrome Operational Planning Subgroup at its 1st meeting held from 12 to 15 June 2001, GREPECAS at its 10th meeting held from 23 to 27 October 2001 adopted Conclusions 10/44, 10/45 and 10/46 on Aerodrome Certification Implementation, Aerodrome Certification Workshop and Sharing of Information on Aerodrome Certification, included in **Appendix A** to this paper to facilitate their reference.

3.3 Several States in the Region have commenced, and some have completed, implementation of the new requirement for States to certify aerodromes. It is suggested that States which have not commenced, or are in the process of implementation, consult with those other States which have established an aerodrome certification system, as well as with the ICAO Regional Office and the new Manual on Certification of Aerodromes, for additional guidance, if required.

3.4 Furthermore, ICAO held an Aerodrome Certification Workshop from 13 to 16 May 2002 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, for English language States in the CAR/SAM Regions. The workshop was directed by the AGA Section of ICAO Headquarters and coordinated by the ICAO Regional Offices for the NACC and SAM Regions. The workshop presented the new ICAO Manual on Certification of Aerodromes and included an aerodrome certification application evaluation exercise. States which attended took advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the workshop to obtain useful additional guidance, clarifications and exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience on aerodrome certification.

4. Conclusion

4.1 It is recommended that States continue to take advantage of the guidance and assistance available from ICAO and States in the Region to implement the new requirement for States to certify aerodromes and in preparation for the ICAO USOAP audits of aerodromes to commence in January 2004.

5. Action by the Meeting

5.1 The Meeting is invited to note the contents of this paper and take any action it considers appropriate to further encourage regional cooperation and the timely implementation by States of the new aerodrome certification requirement. Furthermore, it is requested that States participating in this meeting complete the form included in **Appendix B** to this paper with information corresponding to their respective State, and return the form to the Secretariat during the Meeting to enable the results to be presented in the meeting report.

APPENDIX A

GREPECAS/10 CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO AERODROME CERTIFICATION

CONCLUSION 10/44 AERODROME CERTIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION

That States,

- a) should urgently commence preparations for the implementation of the certification of aerodromes in order to be compliant with the new SARPs by 27 November 2003; and
- b) provide an implementation status report to the 2nd AGA/AOP/SG Meeting.

CONCLUSION 10/45 AERODROME CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

That ICAO hold a workshop on aerodrome certification for the CAR/SAM Regions by June 2002.

CONCLUSION 10/46 SHARING OF INFORMATION ON AERODROME CERTIFICATION

That,

- a) States with aerodrome certification systems provide information on these, in electronic format, to the ICAO Regional Offices; and
- b) the ICAO Regional Offices distribute this information to all States and International Organisations in the CAR/SAM Regions.
