



Agenda Item 7: Other business

LICENSING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IN THE OECS

(Presented by the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority)

SUMMARY

This information paper informs the E/CAR WG of the ECCAA's progress towards the licensing of Air Traffic Controllers in the States/Territories of the OECS.

1. Introduction

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1.1 Notwithstanding the exemption in Annex 1 (4.3.1) with respect to air traffic controllers that are government employees, air traffic controllers in the OECS have actually been required to be the holders of valid air traffic controller's licenses since passage of the Civil Aviation Regulations of the States of the OECS (circa 1996), and continue to be so required by the current OECS Civil Aviation Regulations 2004.

2. Discussion

2.1 Implementation of the program for the licensing of most of the Air Traffic Controllers in the OECS was hampered by various factors over the years, including, to a large extent, the basic cost-implications of the medical certification of controllers, along with a lack of resident Aviation Medical Examiners. Only one OECS State currently provides medical certification for its controllers conducted by a resident AME.

2.2 An effort was made in 2003 to resolve this situation, however this proved unsuccessful, and thereafter efforts continued at various times to find an acceptable solution.

2.3 The ECCAA has now made the decision to proceed with an interim methodology for the conduct of medical assessments by the temporary utilization of non-AME certified doctors to conduct medical assessments in accordance with the basic Class 3 medical requirements of Annex 1 where necessary, issuing a waiver in this regard for a period of 1 year only to those States that require this facilitation.

2.4 In the meantime, in accordance with the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order, and in conjunction with Air Safety Support International, the controllers in the British overseas territories of Anguilla and Montserrat are already licensed - albeit with temporary medical-certification exemptions. Their medical certification process is required to be completed by the end of October this year.

2.5 It is hoped that this initial program for the licensing of the remaining Air Traffic Controllers in the OECS will be completed by December 2006.

3. Suggested action

3.1 The meeting is invited to take note of the information provided in this paper.

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