



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

(NACC/WG/AGA/TF/4) — WP/07
27/07/2026

Fourth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) Implementation Task Force Meeting (NACC/WG/AGA/TF/4)

Virtual phase: 30 June – 18 August 2026
Mexico City, Mexico, 19 - 21 August 2026

Agenda Item 3: NACC Region AGA/AOP Programme update
3.2 AGA/TF sub-groups, action groups and ad-hoc

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARICOM AGA REGULATORY HARMONIZATION ACTION GROUP

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Working Paper proposes the establishment of a CARICOM AGA Harmonisation Action Group to facilitate a structured, coordinated, and sustainable approach for CARICOM States to develop, agree, and implement harmonised aerodrome regulatory frameworks and technical solutions.

While the revised AGA/TF Terms of Reference reposition the Action Group as a results-driven implementation and harmonisation mechanism, practical implementation across CARICOM States remains fragmented due to differences in regulatory frameworks, varying levels of effective implementation (EI), and limited technical resources.

The proposed Action Group aims to provide a practical regional mechanism to:

- develop harmonised regulations and guidance material;
- agree on common implementation approaches;
- leverage regional organisations such as CASSOS and ECCAA; and
- support coordinated implementation at State level.

This initiative directly supports ICAO Strategic Goals and the “No Country Left Behind” initiative by enabling collective implementation, resource optimisation, and measurable improvement in AGA performance across CARICOM States.

Action:	Under Section 3
Strategic Goals:	• Every Flight Is Safe and Secure • Aviation Delivers Seamless, Accessible, and Reliable Mobility for All • No Country Left Behind

1 Introduction

1.1 The Chicago Convention establishes, under article 37, requires States to undertake collaborative efforts to secure the highest level of uniformity in regulations, standards, procedures in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve air navigation.

1.2 In addition, this uniformity also facilitates the resolution of safety issues and the exploitation of economies of scale, which are much needed in Regions with scarce technical resources.

1.3 In the CARICOM sub-region, implementation of ICAO Annex 14 provisions and related AGA requirements continues to face challenges, including:

- fragmented regulatory frameworks;
- duplication of effort in regulatory development;
- varying levels of State maturity and EI performance; and
- limited availability of technical expertise.

1.4 Existing regional organisations, such as CASSOS and ECCAA, provide a strong foundation for cooperation; however, a structured technical mechanism dedicated to harmonised regulatory development and implementation is currently lacking.

1.5 In line with the AGA Programme's shift towards project-based, results-oriented implementation, there is a need to establish a focused mechanism to drive harmonisation across CARICOM States.

2 Discussion

2.1 Harmonisation of aerodrome regulations and procedures is critical to:

- ensure consistent application of ICAO SARPs;
- facilitate mutual support and shared inspector resources;
- reduce regulatory development burden on individual States; and
- improve safety oversight effectiveness.

2.2 The establishment of a CARICOM AGA Harmonisation Action Group under the AGA Task Force would provide:

- a structured platform for **joint development of model regulations and guidance**;
- a coordinated approach to **adoption and implementation at national level**;
- alignment with RSOOs (CASSOS) to ensure **sustainability and ownership**; and
- a mechanism to translate AGA/TF outputs into **practical implementation at State level**.

2.3 The Action Group would operate as a thematic mechanism under the AGA/TF, aligned with its harmonisation function, and contributing directly to programme deliverables and performance indicators.

2.4 The proposed approach supports:

- **regional standardisation,**
- **resource optimisation,** and
- **accelerated implementation,**

while avoiding duplication and ensuring consistency across the sub-region.

3 Suggested action

3.1 The AGA/TF4 Meeting is invited to:

- a) **Endorse** the establishment of a CARICOM AGA Harmonisation Task Force;
- b) **Agree** on its objective, scope, and Terms of Reference as outlined in the Appendix;
- c) **Encourage** CARICOM States, CASSOS, ECCAA, and relevant stakeholders to actively participate; and
- d) **Request** the Secretariat to coordinate the initiation of the Task Force, including the development of an initial work plan and deliverables.

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APPENDIX A**NACC AGA TASK FORCE (NACC/WG/AGA/TF)
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CARICOM HARMONIZATION ACTION GROUP****1. OBJECTIVE**

To establish a structured regional mechanism for CARICOM States to develop, agree, and implement harmonised aerodrome regulatory frameworks, guidance material, and implementation solutions, ensuring consistent application of ICAO Standards and improved regional performance.

2. SCOPE

The Action Group shall focus on:

- harmonisation of AGA regulations and technical requirements;
- development of model regulations, guidance material, and inspector tools;
- support to aerodrome certification and operational implementation; and
- coordination with regional organisations for implementation.

3. CORE FUNCTIONS

The Action Group shall:

- a) Regulatory Harmonisation - Develop and agree on harmonised:
 - model AGA regulations;
 - technical guidance material;
 - certification frameworks; and
 - inspection procedures.
- b) Joint Development and Agreement - Provide a platform for CARICOM States to:
 - review and agree on common regulatory approaches;
 - validate technical content; and
 - promote regional ownership of outputs.
- c) Implementation Support - Support States in:
 - adopting harmonised regulations at national level;
 - implementing certification and operational requirements;
 - leveraging peer support and regional expertise.
- d) Coordination with RSOOs - Coordinate closely with CASSOS, ECCAA, and other partners to:
 - ensure alignment with existing frameworks;
 - avoid duplication; and
 - support sustainable implementation.
- e) Project-Based Delivery - Deliver outputs through structured work items with:
 - defined deliverables;
 - responsible leads;
 - timelines; and
 - measurable outcomes.

f) Performance Monitoring - Track progress on:

- adoption of harmonised regulations;
- aerodrome certification;
- implementation indicators aligned with AGA Programme.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- CARICOM States
- CASSOS, ECCAA
- ICAO (Secretariat)
- Other stakeholders (ACI, airport operators, experts), as appropriate

Members should be empowered to contribute to technical discussions and support implementation.

5. WORKING METHODS

- Operate under the **NACC/WG/AGA Task Force framework**
- Use a combination of:
 - virtual meetings;
 - targeted working sessions;
 - asynchronous collaboration
- Work through **thematic work packages** (e.g., certification, ARFF, RST, operations), in coordination with other Action Groups
- Use English language as the main
- Report progress to the AGA/TF through defined deliverables and indicators

6. DELIVERABLES (INITIAL)

- Harmonised **model AGA regulation package**
- Common **aerodrome certification framework**
- Inspector guidance and tools
- Implementation roadmap for CARICOM States
- Progress reports linked to AGA Programme KPIs

7. DURATION

The Task Force shall operate as an ongoing mechanism aligned with the AGA Programme work cycles, with periodic review of its effectiveness and outputs.