



ARAC

CIVIL AVIATION
REGULATIONS

Harmonization of Civil Aviation Regulations in Central America



COCESNA – Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services (est. 1960)

Principal Specialized Agencies

ACNA – Air Navigation Services

ACSA – Aviation Safety Oversight and Technical Assistance

ICCAE – Aeronautical Training and Instruction

GRIAA – Accident and Incident Investigation

GMA – Environmental Management



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Central American Agency for Aviation Safety

 **Flight Operations and Air Operations (OPS)**

 **Air Navigation Services (ANS)**

 **Airworthiness (AIR)**

 **Air transport, handling and storage of dangerous goods**

 **Safety Management System (SMS)**



 **State Safety Program (SSP)**

 **Regulation and Procedures Development**

 **Licenses (PEL)**

 **Aerodromes (AGA)**

 **AVSEC**



Key Milestones and Achievements in Regional Regulatory Harmonization

Initial Situation in 1999

In 1999, all Central American States were under FAA IASA Category 3, restricting air operations in EEUU.

Establishment of ACSA in 2000

ACSA was established to assist COCESNA Member States in meeting international obligations, albeit with limited harmonization.

Progress in IASA Certification

Costa Rica and El Salvador achieved IASA Category 1 status, enhancing regional aviation safety.

Establishment of the Regional System in 2004

The original RAC 11 was approved, establishing a regional regulatory system with some national variants.

ACRONYMS

COCESNA

ACSA

— Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services

— Central American Agency for Aviation Safety



PRINCIPLES OF HARMONIZATION AND OPENNESS TO OTHER STATES

Harmonization System

The ARAC System is designed to harmonize civil aviation standards in Central America and facilitate regional cooperation.

Openness to Other States

The system is open to the participation of other States interested in integrating and collaborating on common standards.

SARPs Compliance

Harmonization is based on strict compliance with SARPs to ensure safety and efficiency in aviation.

DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF REGULATORY HARMONIZATION

Concept of Harmonization

Harmonization means bringing different regulatory systems closer together to make them equivalent or identical.

Main Objective

It seeks to eliminate differences to facilitate cooperation and compliance between regulatory systems.

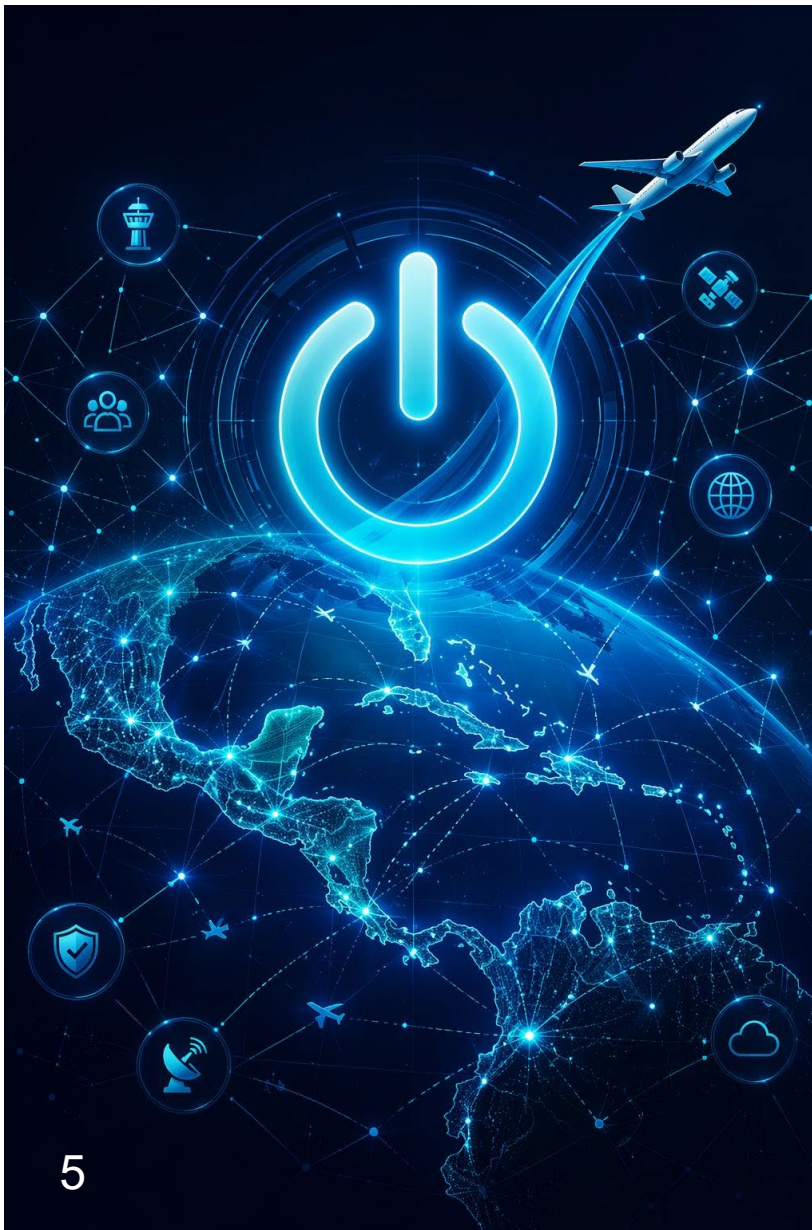




ARAC SYSTEM

The ARAC initiative was established to modernize and strengthen the Central American regulatory harmonization system in response to the continuous evolution of ICAO SARPs and regional aviation oversight needs. The project aims to improve regulatory coordination, efficiency, and sustainability through a more efficient and harmonized framework for civil aviation regulations across the region.

2005



REACTIVATION

The **ARAC** initiative was reactivated through a coordinated technical effort between **ACSA** and international technical support organizations. The project focused on reestablishing the regional regulatory harmonization framework and developing a modernization roadmap for the **MRAC/RAC** system.

2026

MRAC – Master Civil Aviation Regulation
ARAC – Harmonization of Civil Aviation Regulation

HARMONIZED REGULATIONS

The current objective of the project is to establish a more efficient, coordinated, and sustainable regional regulatory framework capable of supporting the timely development, amendment, adoption, and implementation of harmonized civil aviation regulations across the Central American region.



- Reactivation of the MRAC system based on and improving the existing historical documentation (RAC 11 and associated documents).
- Development of a regional roadmap for the re-implementation of the harmonized regulatory process.
- Technical review of the existing regulatory model and identification of gaps and improvement opportunities.
- Evaluación de los instrumentos jurídicos regionales y coordinación con organismos de integración para fortalecer la gobernanza del sistema MRAC



Technical Component

- Development of the ARAC roadmap
- Recovery and review of historical MRAC documentation
- Strategic review and modernization of RAC 11
- Regional technical coordination and harmonization activities
- Development of mechanisms for regulatory implementation and sustainability



Legal and Institutional Component

- Legal assessment of RAC 11 applicability within Member States
- Analysis of regional legal instruments supporting the MRAC system
- Coordination meetings with SICA and SIECA
- Evaluation of mechanisms to strengthen the regional approval process
- Support for COMITRAN integration and regulatory governance initiatives

ACRONYMS

SICA

SIECA

COMITRAN

— Central American Integration System

— Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration

— Council of Ministers of Transport of Central America





GENERAL COMMITMENTS

Key general commitments

Collaboration in safety and efficiency to develop regionally standardized regulations and documents.

Approval and regulatory process

Approval and adoption of regulations through entities such as COCESNA, CT, and CD to ensure compliance.

CAA commitments

Active participation, issue reporting, regulatory compliance, and follow-up on consultations for effective management.

CD – Board of Directors
CT – Technical Committee

Current Project Status

STRATEGIC PLANNING

COMPLETED

Regional roadmap

Full development of the roadmap for modernization and streamlining of the RAC System

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

COMPLETED

MRAC strategic review

Assessment of the MRAC framework and its regional implementation mechanisms

INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

COMPLETED

COCESNA–SICA coordination

Official Letter DE-CEO-0334/2026 sent to SG-SICA — Proposed meeting: May 5, 2026

REGIONAL COORDINATION

IN PROGRESS

Streamlining mechanisms

Coordination to establish agile amendment and entry-into-force processes for MRAC

2

HARMONIZATION AND COMPLIANCE

IN PROGRESS

Regulatory strengthening

Improvement of compliance with Critical Elements assessed by ICAO and FAA standards

3

CURRENT STATUS — MAY 2026

COMPLETED

Coordination of meeting with SIECA

Objectives: 1. Eliminate the need for advisory opinions. 2. Empower COCESNA through the Board of Directors for the approval of regulations. 3. Include COCESNA on the COMITRAN agenda.

CURRENT STATUS — SEPT 2026

IN PROGRESS

Alternative route after COMITRAN meeting

The meeting with COMITRAN was held and clarified the scope of the regional decision-making process. Efforts are now channeled through an alternative route.

NEW MRAC ROADMAP

Phase 1

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION No. 02- 2006 (COMITRAN XXVI)

Prepare a package of amendments to RESOLUTION No. 02-2006 (COMITRAN XXVI) authorizing additionally the COCESNA Board of Directors to adopt and bring into force and applicability the MRAC through publication in the SICA Official Gazette and the Gazettes of its member countries.



Phase 2

APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION COMITRAN

To be included in the agenda of the next meeting of COMITRAN the approval of the amendment to resolution RESOLUTION No. 02-2006 (COMITRAN XXVI).



Phase 3

MRAC REVIEW

COCESNA/ACSA, once the amendment is in force, shall carry out the MRAC review and prepare their amendments together with the Working Groups of the COCESNA Member States.



Phase 4

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL

The COCESNA Technical Committee reviews the MRAC prior to their submission to the COCESNA Board of Directors.



Phase 5

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION COCESNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submit the MRAC for approval and adoption by the COCESNA Board of Directors, ordering their submission to the SICA General Secretariat for publication.



Phase 6

SICA AND INTERNAL PUBLICATION

SG/SICA publishes, and the internal process is carried out within each country for publication in the official gazette of each Member State.



Phase 7

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Once the SICA and internal publication process is completed, the MRAC shall enter into force and become applicable.



01

Evolution of the ARAC System

The ARAC System has evolved to harmonize civil aviation regulations in Central America, enhancing regional cooperation and building a structured framework for safety oversight.

02

Benefits of Harmonization

Harmonization ensures common regulations, promoting safety, efficiency, and sustainable development across the regional civil aviation sector.

03

Future Challenges

The continued evolution of the ARAC System is crucial for addressing future challenges and ensuring the growth of Central American aviation.



ARAC

CIVIL AVIATION
REGULATIONS

Thank you