

ICAO Action

Amendment 16 to Annex 13 — *Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation*, upgrades Recommendation 5.4.3 to a Standard and will become applicable on 8 November 2018. Standard 5.4.3 reads that “A State shall ensure that any investigations conducted under the provisions of this Annex have unrestricted access to all evidential material without delay.” And Standard 5.6 states that “The investigator-in-charge shall have unhampered access to the wreckage and all relevant material, including flight recorders and ATS records, and shall have unrestricted control over it to ensure that a detailed examination can be made without delay by authorized personnel participating in the investigation.”

Annex 13, 5.18 provides for the participation of accredited representatives appointed by the various States taking part in an investigation. Accredited representatives are entitled to appoint advisers who, in turn, would be able to obtain relevant information stemming from the aircraft manufacturer, type certification holder, operator, maintenance organizations and other information necessary for the investigation.

It is therefore believed that Annex 13 provisions, together with associated guidance material, provide the means to ensure that accident investigation authorities have timely access to relevant information and pertinent records necessary for the investigation.