



## ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

### TECHNICAL COMMISSION

#### Agenda Item 33: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY AND PREVENTION INSPECTORS OF RESCUE AND FIRE SERVICE IN RISK MANAGEMENT

(Presented by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and supported by the Dominican Republic and Panama)<sup>2</sup>

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Venezuela has an interest in the implementation of risk management strategies with the active and leading participation of Safety and Prevention Inspectors assigned to the Rescue and Firefighting Service (RFFS) as an appropriate response to the objectives related to safety and implemented through continuous surveillance or support to achieve and maintain proper safety conditions in facilities, commercial premises, workshops, hangars, offices, and in general any activity that has or may have an effect on safety.

The purpose of the RFFS is to save lives in the event of an aircraft accident or incident at an aerodrome or in its vicinity. In Venezuela, as set out in the Public Safety provisions of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and in the Act establishing the Firefighting Service and the Firefighter Corps and Civil Emergency Administration, the RFF services are given an important role in safety, as they are responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcing the national technical safety regulations issued by the competent authorities in the area of fire prevention and protection, and emergencies or damage-causing incidents, through ordinary and extraordinary safety inspections carried out in public or private buildings, aircraft, ships, boats, trains or any other means of mass passenger transport, regardless of the use for which they are intended in different areas of expertise. In Venezuela, the rigorous prevention activities carried out by Firefighter Inspectors have had good results in helping to maintain a low level of occurrence of fires, incidents and accidents causing damage at airports.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to:

- a) take note of the information presented in this working paper; and
- b) acknowledge the importance of Safety and Prevention Inspectors carried out by the RFFS through the Aeronautical Firefighters as a valid risk management strategy for providing ongoing support and maintaining safety.

<sup>1</sup> Spanish version provided by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>2</sup> Member States of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC).

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to the Strategic Objective of Safety
<i>Financial implications:</i>	n/a
<i>References:</i>	Annex 14 – <i>Aerodromes</i> Annex 19 – <i>Safety Management</i> Doc 9137, <i>Airport Services Manual: Part I</i> NFPA 1031, 2014 Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner, establishes the knowledge and competencies for Firefighter Safety and Prevention Inspectors NFPA 415 Standard on Airport Terminal Buildings NFPA 16 Installation of Sprinkler Systems NFPA 101 Evacuation systems required for terminal buildings NFPA 407 Standard for Aircraft Fuel Servicing NFPA 409 Standard on Aircraft Hangars

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Airports often have particular and special risks and characteristics, and the high volume and diversity of materials and equipment and high concentration of people present at certain times mean that States should seek to have in place efficient and verifiable safety and prevention systems that are subject to continuous improvement; regulations in this area are important, but it is also necessary to have professional specialized personnel in order to ensure, with oversight and monitoring, full compliance with those regulations. RFF services are known worldwide more for their reaction to adverse events than for their preventive activities, yet these activities have been taking on ever greater importance in view of the excellent results obtained in terms of safety and the prevention of fire and/or accidents at airport facilities.

1.2 It is a universally accepted reality that prevention is more cost-effective than having to take action in an emergency, even if everything necessary is in place to deal with adverse events. Analysis and identification of current and future risks in airport facilities and activities are usually vital in preventing fires and/or accidents, and this has a positive impact on the improvement of safety. The Aeronautical Firefighters of RFF services have an advantage over other professionals in the field of prevention because they are very familiar with the airport environment and its dynamics, and therefore the preventive work of the Fire Safety and Prevention Inspectors adds value to that activity.

1.3 The Firefighter Safety and Prevention Inspector spends a great deal of time at airport facilities as that is the workplace, enabling the inspector to have ongoing contact with sensitive safety matters. This professional is knowledgeable about the applicable international standards issued by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), such as NFPA 415 Standard on Airport Terminal Buildings, NFPA 16 Installation of Sprinkler Systems, NFPA 101 Evacuation systems required for terminal buildings, NFPA 407 Standard for Aircraft Fuel Servicing, NFPA 409 Standard on Aircraft Hangars, and ICAO standards relating to Rescue and Firefighting Services in Annex 14, Document 9137 and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), Annexes and Documents.

1.4 In addition to this knowledge, the Firefighter Safety and Prevention Inspector has the competencies and experience to recommend and follow up on guidelines that are provided to companies and institutions on safety and fire and/or accident prevention in airport facilities in order to guarantee the

highest standards of Safety in offices, movement areas, terminals, hangars, workshops, runways and in general in all permissible facilities at the airport.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In Doc 9137, *Airport Services Manual: Part 1*, in chapter 10 on Personnel, paragraph 10.3, ICAO sets out the subsidiary duties of RFF personnel, indicating these “could include fire prevention inspections, fire guard duties or other functions for which their equipment and training make them particularly suitable”.

2.2 Similarly, the NFPA 1031 standard, 2014 edition, Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner, establishes the knowledge and competencies for Fire Safety and Prevention Inspectors.

## 3. ANALYSIS

3.1 The implementation of standardized fire and/or accident safety and prevention programmes managed by Aeronautical Firefighters in the person of the Safety and Prevention Inspector is a proposal that has had excellent results in risk management and Safety enhancements. The Aeronautical Firefighter is a professional who has a great deal of credibility and trust within the airport environment and has the appropriate training and competencies to guide the implementation of strategies and actions to achieve high quality standards that translate into:

- a) inspections with the aim of analysing the safety status of facilities and processes, workplaces, machinery and workers, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of the management of fire and accident prevention measures;
- b) analysis of the construction conditions and activities carried out in a building or part thereof, in order to detect any situation that may pose a risk and prepare a report setting out all necessary actions to eliminate the hazard; and
- c) development of information campaigns to promote safety and fire prevention, a process that should involve, to the greatest extent possible, users, workers, business owners, administrators, officials and in general all those involved in airport activities.

## 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 As a Signatory State, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches great importance to this working paper and presents it for analysis and possible adoption by States for the implementation of Safety and Prevention Inspectors of the Rescue and Firefighting Service in risk management, as a valid alternative to raise and maintain high safety standards in the area of fire and/or accident prevention at airport facilities.

4.2 The adoption of the proposal contained in this working paper could allow States for which it is feasible to implement Aeronautical Firefighter Inspectors to develop and support a risk management strategy geared towards safety and fire and accident prevention at airport facilities.