



International Civil Aviation Organization
South American Regional Office

**Third Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of the
South American Region on the Response to COVID-19**
(Lima, Peru, 22 September 2020)

Agenda Item 2: Progress of the activities of SAM strategic framework in response to COVID-19

**RECOGNITION OF EQUIVALENCE OF SECURITY MEASURES - SINGLE SECURITY
CONTROL IN TIMES OF COVID-19**

(Presented by the Aeronautica Civil of Colombia)

SUMMARY

The International Civil Aviation Organization - ICAO has urged States to have international instruments for mutual collaboration that allow cooperation between States in a determined and permanent commitment to technical exchange and recognition of the equivalence of security measures of civil aviation, leading to a better reallocation of facilitation resources in the delivery of civil aviation security services for air operations, increasing the satisfaction of international air transport users.

The implementation of the single security control is based on the recognition of the equivalence of security measures, to avoid unnecessary duplication of security controls, minimize contact between people, avoid the risk of contagion in the connections between related States, obtaining in this way benefits for aviation security, public health, for industry and for air transport users.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Acknowledging that globalization has contributed to the development and growth of the economy of the States, where commercial air transport has been decisive in achieving these objectives, promoting tourism, connectivity, the proximity of countries that share a continent, the development of commercial agreements and the exchange of goods, without ignoring that there are risks, the civil aviation security systems of the States have been guaranteeing based on best practices and the application of common standards to respond to these challenges allowing achieving mutual trustworthiness and inviting a further step towards validation.

1.2 The International Civil Aviation Organization - ICAO, has encouraged States to enter into collaborative arrangements for the recognition and reciprocal acceptance of equivalent security measures between States, based on risk and oriented towards results, through the conclusion of unilateral, bilateral agreements and / or multilaterals based on the principle of responsibility for the implementation of the single security control, in order to increase the sustainability of the aviation security system avoiding the unnecessary duplication of security controls.

1.3 The international provisions established through Annex 17 - Security to the Convention on International Civil Aviation establish standards and recommendations, which allow States to carry out processes of recognition of equivalences of security measures of other States, guaranteeing that the security measures applied in one State are equivalent to the security measures applied in another State (ies), in order to avoid re-inspection of passengers, hand luggage, hold luggage and cargo in transshipment processes.

1.4 Standard 4.4.3 establishes that "Each Contracting State shall ensure that transfer passengers of commercial air transport operations and their cabin baggage are screened prior to boarding an aircraft, unless it has established a validation process and continuously implements procedures, in collaboration with the other Contracting State where appropriate, to ensure that such passengers and their cabin baggage have been screened to an appropriate level at the point of origin and subsequently protected from unauthorized interference from the point of screening at the originating airport to the departing aircraft at the transfer airport. "

1.5 Standard 4.5.4 establishes that "Each Contracting State shall ensure that transfer hold baggage is screened prior to being loaded onto an aircraft engaged in commercial air transport operations, unless it has established a validation process and continuously implements procedures, in collaboration with the other Contracting State where appropriate, to ensure that such hold baggage has been screened at the point of origin and subsequently protected from unauthorized interference from the originating airport to the departing aircraft at the transfer airport".

1.6 Standard 4.6.9, establishes that "Each Contracting State shall ensure that transfer cargo and mail has been subjected to appropriate security controls prior to being loaded on an aircraft engaged in commercial air transport operations departing from its territory"

1.7 Recommendation 4.6.11, establishes that "Each Contracting State should establish appropriate mechanisms to confirm that transfer cargo and mail entering its territory has been subjected to appropriate security controls".

1.8 Recommendation 2.4.10, establishes that "Each Contracting State should consider entering into collaborative arrangements in order to increase the sustainability of the aviation security system by avoiding unnecessary duplication of security controls. The arrangement should be based on verification of equivalence of the security outcome ensured by the application of effective security controls at origin".

1.9 Additionally ICAO has made to the States guidance material related to the single security control in Doc. 8973 - Aviation Security Manual, among which is the numeral 11.10.1.1, that establishes "States may consider recognizing the aviation security systems of other States, when found to be equivalent and consistent with their risk assessment, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of security controls and increase the global sustainability of the security system of aviation".

1.10 The impact of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 on global air transport is unprecedented and has called on us as States to explore alternatives in the application of civil aviation security inspection processes and procedures, in order to reduce the risk to public health of air transport users, avoid contact as much as possible and respect social distancing, as well as the protection of aviation workers, without being detrimental to the safety of civil aviation.

2. ANALYSIS AND ADVANCES OF THE SINGLE SECURITY CONTROL IN COLOMBIA

2.1 ICAO and other international organizations such as the International Air Transport Association - IATA and the Airports Council International - ACI, have visualized the global benefits that can be offered to the civil aviation system, regarding the implementation of recognition of equivalences of civil aviation security, such as: improvements in the quality of service, time savings and reduction of inconvenience for passengers, faster passenger transfers, less lost luggage, faster and more viable transport of cargo, optimization of the airport capacity (adjusting infrastructures and at the same time complying with civil aviation security regulations), reduction of connection times and optimization of the resources of the airlines.

2.2 The implementation of the single security control must be strengthened at the global level, recognizing that time and resources are two fundamental components that are part of the global commercial aviation activity and that they must be optimized more and more in the perspective of increasing air operations.

2.3 The civil aviation security system of the Member States must prove to be increasingly efficient and sustainable, avoiding duplication of efforts and optimizing personnel, infrastructure and technology at the service of air transport users; as well as, harmonizing the practice of security and the facilitation of air transport.

2.4 The implementation of the recognition of equivalence of security measures increases collaboration, mutual understanding and the exchange of information on aviation security procedures between States, through concerted cooperation through agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) unilateral, bilateral or multilateral on the single security check.

2.5 In follow-up to Conclusion RAAC/16, of the Sixteenth Meeting of Civil Aviation Authorities, held in Lima, Peru, from December 6 to 7, 2018, which urges the Authorities to continue their efforts to the implementation of the recognition of equivalences; On December 6, 2019, within the framework of the First International Forum on new approaches to Facilitation and Civil Aviation Security, held in Bogotá DC, Colombia, the need to continue the work that is being carried out to this implementation.

2.6 Consequently, the Civil Aviation Authorities of the States of Colombia, Chile and Peru decided to structure an international collaboration instrument of permanent support that would allow us to formalize the implementation of the recognition of equivalence of security measures, to address common connectivity problems at the international airports El Dorado Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento in Bogota DC, Colombia, Arturo Merino Benitez in Santiago de Chile and Jorge Chavez in Lima, Peru; and apply security measures to mitigate risks against civil aviation under the framework of the balance of security and facilitation, achieving mutual benefits that allow increasing the sustainability commitments of our civil aviation security systems in the South American Region, the which is in the process of subscription by the parties and upcoming implementation; expanding the possibility to other States.

2.7 Additionally, with the implementation of this initiative, security measures would be reconciled with the public health guidelines promulgated by the World Health Organization - WHO, aimed at the air transport sector and mitigating risk points associated with Biosafety protocols. as a pandemic control.

3. **SUGGESTED ACTION**

3.1 The Third Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of the South American Region on the Response to COVID-19 is invited to:

- a) Encourage the Directors General of Civil Aviation of Peru and Chile to formalize the aforementioned MoU within the framework of this meeting, with the digital subscription, taking advantage of the technologies;
- b) encourage other States to join this initiative and promote the signing and implementation of this agreement on the single security control, in accordance with the relevant SARPs and guidance texts, in order to increase the sustainability of the security of aviation through collaboration and the proper use of resources;
- c) join efforts to face the new challenges that the pandemic caused by COVID-19 is producing; and
- d) take note of the content of this working paper.

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