



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)

RV3/DGAC - WP/08
19/09/2020

Agenda Item 3: Feedback on the progress and challenges in the implementation of CART recommendations and exchange of experiences

CHALLENGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND APPLICATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN AIR OPERATIONS

(Presented by Venezuela)

SUMMARY

This working paper discusses recommendations 4 and 5 of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) report resulting from the establishment and implementation of public health mitigation measures in air operations.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In response to the recommendations addressed to States in the report of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART), expressed through the CRRIC platform, and in order to contribute to the objectives of the State Safety Programme (SSP), the National Facilitation Plan, and the National Aviation Security Plan, Venezuela seeks to identify improvements during the implementation of these recommendations, as well as emerging threats, hazards and risks in the aviation industry sectors.

1.2 The eleven recommendations developed by the CART and the 174 measures on health issues in the context of aviation presented in the "Take-off" document have served for the adoption and implementation of preparatory measures for risk mitigation against COVID-19 infections and concrete actions on the impact that this pandemic has had on air operations and related aeronautical activities of the industry.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 During the establishment and implementation of public health risk mitigation measures, based on the information contained in the document entitled "Take-off: Guidance for air travel through the COVID-19 health crisis", the following aspects of interest were identified:

- a) Although the biosafety protocols being developed focus on pre-flight, in-flight and post-flight operations, the need has been identified to establish specific biosafety protocols for settings where aeronautical activities in support of air transport are carried out (e.g., control towers, CNS stations, meteorological service units, hangars, workshops, aeronautical maintenance laboratories, among others).

- b) While measures and alternatives are adopted to avoid human interaction in activities such as training, auditing and oversight, including the activities of Aeronautical Authority inspection personnel, it is desirable to design harmonised protocols for such interaction.
- c) The guidance is addressed to commercial aviation, and there is a need for additional guidance, harmonised among the States, to set the conditions during the start of general aviation operations.
- d) While screening, test application/request (PDR/PCR) and quarantine measures during the departure and arrival of passengers at the airport are determined by the public health authorities of each State, it is important to create spaces for the exchange of information among States to learn about successful measures or methods and to build the confidence of both civil aviation and public health authorities of other States.
- e) In order to avoid duplication of efforts and to create a passenger safety matrix, efforts should be made to harmonise, as far as possible, the monitoring and control of prevention and epidemiological oversight processes among States.
- f) Updates of the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on COVID-19 risk analysis and prevention should be assessed and included in the CART "Take-off" document as recommended measures for global civil aviation. The document should include links to other WHO documents or information.

2.2 If harmonisation of public health risk mitigation measures is achieved in the Region, based on the information contained in the "Take-off" document, the following is proposed:

- a) Examine on a regular basis, with a group of experts in the Region, the need for continued implementation of mitigation measures as the risk of spreading COVID-19 decreases.
- b) Establish monitoring and control visits by ICAO-WHO-PAHO to airport entry points in the various States that have reported ongoing air operations, in order to assess the progress made that could serve other States, or correct gaps, to facilitate the return to air operations.

3. **SUGGESTED ACTION**

3.1 The Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of the SAM Region is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information presented in this working paper.
- b) Use the experience gained and the information provided in this working paper for improving or incorporating the public health guidelines presented by the CART.
- c) Consider that the start of air operations is linked to the start and effective maintenance of supporting aeronautical activities.
- d) Generate regional spaces for the exchange of experiences and information, in order to assess and improve the measures adopted by States.