



*International Civil Aviation Organization*  
South American Regional Office  
**Second Virtual Meeting of Civil Aviation General Directors of the South American Region on the Response to COVID-19**  
(Lima, Peru, 22 May 2020)

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**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ON AVIATION SECURITY MEASURES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

(Presented by Venezuela)

**SUMMARY**

In order to ensure safe, efficient and continuous operations, the professional aeronautical personnel must be duly protected against the risks of COVID-19. Accordingly, it is suggested that supplementary activities be implemented in addition to the daily aviation security measures adopted in airport operations.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The international aviation industry is facing a profound crisis because of the high level of spread of COVID-19. However, despite the high degree of systemisation of the civil aviation activity, human participation will always be necessary for management, operations, maintenance, oversight, etc.

1.2 In this sense, professional aviation personnel must be duly protected against the risks of COVID-19 in order to ensure safe, efficient and continuous operations, since it takes time to select, train, certify and provide the experience required in the aviation industry to replace the personnel that may be affected by this virus.

**2. Discussion**

2.1 Civil aviation security activities are part of the services to be provided in air operations, both at airports and during flights. In this sense, daily aviation security measures should be supported by supplementary actions to reinforce the protection of security operators from the possible risk of infection by COVID-19, and to prevent these airport officials from becoming a means of spreading the aforementioned virus.

2.2 Some of the supplementary considerations in addition to aviation security measures include:

a) Aviation security (AVSEC) personnel:

- a. Provide, require and supervise AVSEC personnel on the proper use of the biosafety protection equipment required for their operations;
- b. In accordance with the reactivation plans developed by each State, consideration should be given to granting temporary extensions to competence certificates of AVSEC personnel and AVSEC instructors, by the responsible authority, during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- c. In compliance with the regulations of each State, consider temporarily extending the validity of security training courses during the COVID-19 pandemic, or consider alternative methods for the provision of such training (on-line courses, etc.);
    - d. Instruct AVSEC personnel on the supplementary methods to be applied during the different air operation reactivation phases (contamination hazards, disinfection of aircraft, cargo, airport areas, handling of passengers and their baggage, cargo, etc.).
  - b) Screening of passengers and their hand baggage, as well as the screening of non-passengers and their belongings entering the restricted security zones (RSZ):
    - a. Promote the use of non-intrusive screening methods (X-ray, walk-through and hand-held metal detectors, body scanning systems, explosive trace detector, trained dogs, etc.) on passengers and their hand baggage, as well as non-passengers and their belongings entering the RSZ.
    - b. States that apply restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols carried by passengers, should consider giving temporary exemptions in the case of alcohol-based gels or similar products carried by passengers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - c) Exchange of information:
    - a. Foster the timely exchange of information between stakeholders—airport operators, aircraft operators, health, migrations, State security organisations, among others, so that the measures to be implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic will not affect the performance of all those involved in the operations. In this regard, coordinated meetings among airport security and facilitation committees should be reinforced.
  - d) Surveillance at airports:
    - a. Reinforce surveillance activities using closed-circuit television (CCTV) in the different airport areas, with special emphasis on access control points;
    - b. Increase patrols on the airside, landside, and in priority and vulnerable facilities; coordinate the participation of State security organisations, conducting activities on a random and unannounced basis.
  - e) Security quality control:
    - a. Increase quality control measures applied by the appropriate authorities of each State to ensure compliance with the requirements of national civil aviation security programmes (PNSAC);
    - b. Request the different aircraft operators, airports and those liable to implement international quality control programmes to reinforce their surveillance activities in order to ensure the quality of security services in operations.

### **3. SUGGESTED ACTION**

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

- a) take note of the information presented in this working paper; and
- b) provide feedback on the supplementary activities, in addition to civil aviation security measures, to be carried out during the COVID 19 for the protection of AVSEC personnel.

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