



INFORMATION PAPER

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**Thirty Eighth Regional Aviation Safety Group — Pan America
Executive Steering Committee Meeting
(ESC/38)**

Lima, Peru, 24 to 25 May 2023

Agenda Item 2: Safety management process within RASG-PA

NACC ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION (AIG) TURNKEY PROJECT

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to report on the implementation status of aviation accident and incident investigation (AIG) in the CAR region through the NACC AIG Turnkey Project.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Capacity and efficiency in the investigation of accidents and incidents.
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<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 13 "Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation"
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1. Introduction

1.1 In the context of the NACC States, the available data indicates the existence of some important deficiencies in the area of accident and incident investigation (AIG), especially in Central America and the Caribbean (CAR). The first notable deficiency concerns the lack of independence of the investigative authority, as only 5% of States in the NACC region have a fully independent authority and are in a position to initiate investigations without interference.

1.2 Another concern is closely related to the previous one and refers to organization and staffing. Unfortunately, only a few States in the region assign adequate personnel (in quantity and quality) to meet AIG requirements. In most cases, being under the CAA is a large contributor, as investigative activity is generally not seen as a CAA priority for resource allocation when contesting other areas of authority.

1.3 The third major concern is related to the conduct of the investigation and is mainly based on the lack of adequately implemented documentation (procedures, guidance material, policies, etc.). As a result, the CAR region presents a significant gap between desirable and existing investigation services.

1.4 In response to this scenario, the ICAO NACC office developed the NACC AIG Turnkey Project, whose implementation started in 2022.

2. Evolution

2.1 The purpose of the Turnkey Project is to foster the development of the necessary elements to allow States to comply with all the obligations related to the AIG arising from the Chicago Convention and its Annex 13.

2.2 The Project is being sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States, Transport Canada and Project RLA09801 - Multi-Regional Assistance Program for Civil Aviation (MCAAP), and has been structured in two phases, as follows:

- Phase 1 – a series of five training sessions; and
- Phase 2 – a series of three on-site assistance missions tailored to each participant State.

2.3 Phase 1 has been completely implemented by early 2023, and the Project is currently implementing its phase 2, with Belize being the first State to receive the on-site missions, that so far covered:

- a. the review and development of a proposed amendment to the Civil Aviation Law that meets the requirements of Critical Element (CE) 1, primary aeronautical legislation;
- b. the review and development of a proposed amendment to the AIG regulation (BCAR 13) that meets the requirements of CE-2, operating regulations;
- c. support in the planning of important systems and processes;
- d. the development of various procedures;
- e. the development of templates and support formats for the different AIG processes;
- f. guide the State regarding specific research topics that involve other states; and
- g. evaluate the facilities, equipment and means of communication and transportation, offering the pertinent recommendations.

2.4 Belize was chosen as the first State to receive assistance missions from phase 2 of the Turnkey Project.

2.5 With the third and final mission to Belize, it is intended that the State will successfully conclude the establishment and implementation of changes related to Critical Elements 1 and 2 in AIG, as well as the various processes and procedures studied throughout the Project.

2.6 In 2023, another six assistance missions to other Central American and Caribbean States are still planned.

2.7 The participating states of the AIG Turnkey Phase 1 are committed to apply the knowledge acquired and develop the modifications to the AIG regulation, guidance, and procedures, in a way to reflect this progress as part of the improvements to AIG compliance.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The NACC AIG Turnkey Project has followed a path that went from theory to practice, supporting the States of the CAR region in understanding the requirements related to the investigation of accidents and incidents, in order to allow them to develop and implement all the elements required for AIG.

3.2 Completion of the Project is scheduled for 2025, but is subject to the availability of financial resources.