*International Civil Aviation Organization*
CAR/SAM REGIONAL PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (GREPECAS)
**Fifth Meeting of the GREPECAS Aerodromes and Ground Aids / Aerodrome Operational Planning Subgroup (AGA/AOP/SG/5)**
Montevideo, Uruguay, 20 to 24 November 2006

**Agenda Item 3: Review of AGA deficiencies**
**3.5 Aerodrome Certification/Safety Management Systems (SMS)**

# EXPERIENCIES IN AERODROME CERTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SMS IN CUBA

(Presented by Cuba)

**SUMMARY**

This working paper presents the experiences of Cuba in the implementation of the aerodrome certification process.

**References**:

- Aerodrome Regulations of the Republic of Cuba
- Aerodrome Certification Manual. Document of the Aerodrome Bureau IACC. May/2003
- Reference guide for the implementation of safety management systems (SMSs)
- Annex 14, Volume I - Aerodrome design and operation

## 1. Introduction

1.1 As the States already know, ICAO has expressed the need to start laying the foundations for the implementation of an aerodrome certification process, as set forth in Annex 14, Volume I, item 1.4.1 **"As of 27 November 2003, Sates shall certify aerodromes used for international operations in accordance with the specifications contained in this Annex as well as other relevant ICAO specifications through an appropriate regulatory framework". Paragraph 1.4.3 "The regulatory framework shall incluye the establishment of criteria for the certification of aerodromes" and paragraph 1.4.6 indicates "As of 24 November 2005, a certified aerodrome shall have in operation a safety management system".**

1.2 The Institute of Civil Aeronautics of Cuba has worked systematically to meet all of ICAO standards and recommended practices. To that end, it was proposed that the main objective should be to create a regulatory framework for the implementation of aerodrome certification.

## 2. Analysis

2.1 Since the year 2000, the Civil Aeronautics Authority of Cuba, together with ECASA (Cuban Airport and Aeronautical Service Company), started preparing the dossiers for the 10 international airports that carry out this type of operations.

2.2 The airports that have been certified in Cuba include the following:

- "Ignacio Agramonte" International Airport in Camagüey. **Certified in January 2001**
- "Juan Gualberto Gómez" International Airport in Varadero. **Certified in January 2001**

2.3 Cuba developed its Certification Manual in May 2003, which was circulated to all aerodrome operators to let them know the procedures for the implementation of the Certification Process. Although the work became official on the aforementioned date, the technical personnel working directly in the aerodromes had received training prior to that date.

2.4 All international airports have the documentation of the complete Aerodrome Dossier. The inspection for their possible certification has been scheduled based on the plan approved by the Institute of Civil Aeronautics (IACC) every year.

2.5 The problems and most frequent deficiencies that prevent aerodrome certification include:

- Pavement aging.
- Drainage problems.
- Lack of systematic aerodrome maintenance procedures.
- Non-compliance with the standards contained in the Aerodrome Regulations.

2.6 Nevertheless, note should be taken of the systematic control applied in all aerodromes through the monitoring of friction coefficient and runway profile indices, which reveal aerodrome deficiencies and most vulnerable areas.

2.7 We must also mention the implementation of the PCI method, which provides important runway data for purposes of maintenance planning.

2.8 Regarding the implementation of a Safety Management System, the documentation and skilled personnel required for that process were lacking until June 2006, when a seminar was offered in Cuba by Dr. Samuel Cardoso, ICAO Regional Officer, and, based on a "Reference guide for the implementation of airport safety management systems", steps were taken to train airport operators in the country.

2.9 Through the action plans implemented during the Certification Process, the deficiencies identified in the aerodromes have been eliminated to a large extent. One of the immediate tasks to be undertaken in relation to the Certification Process is the implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS). Currently, we have the skilled personnel to do it, and the implementation of SMS at the airports is under way.

## 3. Conclusions

3.1 The Aerodrome Certification process, which includes the implementation of procedures for controlling and updating the technical information for aerodrome operation, as well as the inspection of facilities to check their technical condition, has permitted the attainment of high quality levels to ensure flight safety, and has created the objective conditions for the implementation of aerodrome SMS. SMS structure includes a set of risk control and management subsystems to ensure safe air operations.

**4. Suggested action**

4.1 The Meeting is invited to take note of, review and comment on this working paper.

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