



International Civil Aviation Organization

CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS)

Sixth Meeting of the GREPECAS Aerodromes and Ground Aids/Aerodrome Operational Planning Subgroup (AGA/AOP/SG/6)

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Agenda Item 6 Review of other technical matters

6.2 Proposed amendments to Annex 14, Volumes I and II derived from the recommendations of the First Meeting of the Aerodrome Panel.

REVIEW OF OTHER TECHNICAL MATTERS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

In June 2007, the Air Navigation Commission reviewed the proposals of the first meeting of the Aerodrome Panel (AP/1) and the Secretariat to amend the standards and recommended practices (SARPS) of Annex 14 – Aerodromes, Volume I – Aerodrome Design and Operations and Volume II – Heliports.

This working paper summarises the content and scope of the proposed amendments, which cover a variety of topics.

References:

- State letter AN 4/1.1.50-07/54 dated 20 August 2007, which sets forth the proposed amendments to Annex 14, Vol. I and Vol. II; and
- State letter dated 7 December 2007, which sets forth the proposed amendment to Annex 14 aimed at harmonising and expanding SMS provisions.

1. Introduction

1.1 In order to preserve international air navigation safety and regularity, it is felt that contracting States must meet the specifications of international standards in a uniform manner and comply with the recommended international practices.

1.2 The amendments to the international standards and recommended practices contained in ICAO Annexes originate in the proposals made by the signatory States of the Convention on International Civil Aviation and by international organisations directly related to the international air transportation industry. The purpose of introducing new standards and/or recommendations is to give to certain practical recommendations the category of a standard, or to adapt current SARPs requirements to the changes resulting from the introduction of new generations of aircraft which impact existing aerodrome facilities when the size and/or weight of said aircraft exceed the design parameters used in the planning and development of a given aerodrome. Consideration should also be given to the modification of policies, strategies, and safety management system tactics by the organisations that provide aeronautical services.

2. Development

2.1 *Proposal of amendment to Annex 14, Volume I*

2.1.1 The proposal covers a series of topics, including the revised provisions on the F code letter concerning the physical characteristics of the aerodrome, visual aids, and rescue and fire fighting services, in relation to the elimination of the provision currently contained in paragraph 9.2.3 of the Annex, on the reduction of the level of protection at an aerodrome, which is based on the frequency of movements of aircraft larger than those normally operating at the aerodrome. Recent statistics on aviation accidents resulting in fire support the elimination of the existing provision with a view to enhancing the safety of aircraft occupants.

2.1.2 As to aerodrome certification, the proposal of amendment introduces two new specifications on the safety evaluations that would take place when planning any change in aerodrome facilities: coordination with all aerodrome entities, the implementation of a safety reporting system, and the requirement of having a safety training programme. This proposal is not part of the consultation process with the States and international organisations, since the general objective is the harmonisation of SMS provisions and would not add anything new to said provisions. ***The expected effective date for the amendments to Annex 14, Volume I, is 20 November 2008.***

2.2 *Proposal of amendment to Annex 14, Volume II*

2.2.1 The proposal of amendment is mainly related to the physical characteristics of heliports on the ground, offshore helidecks, and heliports onboard ships, as well as to the specifications on obstacle limitation surface, and signalling in offshore heliports. ***The expected effective date for the amendments to Annex 14, Volume I, will be 20 November 2008.***

2.3 *Proposal of amendment to Annex 14, Volume I, to harmonise and expand SMS provisions.*

2.3.1 The proposed amendment revolves around the introduction of two frameworks: one for the implementation and maintenance of the safety programme of a State, and the other for the implementation and maintenance of the safety management system (SMS) of a service provider. The proposal includes an appendix to be included in Annex 14, which describes a framework for the SMS of a service provider. The framework is aimed at achieving a consensus on SMS standardisation, providing a guide for SMS implementation by service providers and the development of guidelines on SMS regulation by ICAO and SMS regulation at national level by the States. The framework is based on the analysis of best practices applied by the companies of the sector, the latest developments in the States, and on the comments made by State representatives during the more than 55 SMS training courses provided between May 2006 and November 2007. ***The expected date of application of the amendments to Annex 14, Volume I, is 19 November 2009.***

3. **Discussion**

3.1 The aforementioned proposals of amendment envisage major changes to aerodrome safety design and management concepts. Considering that the safety oversight function of a State is part of its safety programme, the objectives of the oversight function are met through administrative controls (inspections, audits, and surveys) periodically conducted by civil aviation authorities. Said proposals must be considered at the time of the aerodrome certification process, which includes the implementation of a safety management system.

4. **Suggested action**

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