

**National Air Transport
Facilitation Program
Kingdom of Bahrain**

Introduction:

Speed is the comparative advantage of air transport on all other modes of transportation.

The success of state depends on the balance between security standards and facilitation.

Aviation security and facilitation can be achieved by acquiring modern technology - staff training - cutting out unnecessary procedures .

International requirements

Air Transport Facilitation are associated closely to the following Articles in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago, 1944)

Article 10: Landing at Customs Airport.

Article 11: Applicability of air regulations.

Article 13: Entry & Clearance regulations.

Article 14: Prevention spread of disease.

Article 24: Customs duty.

Article 29: Documents carried in aircraft.

Article 35: Cargo restrictions

Air Transport facilitation program:

Standard No. 8-17 (Annex 9)

(Each Contracting State shall establish a national air transport facilitation programme based on the facilitation requirements of the Convention and of Annex 9 thereto).

The goal of the program:

Standard No. 8-18 (Annex 9)

(Each Contracting State shall ensure that the objective of its national air transport facilitation programme shall be to adopt all practicable measures to facilitate the movement of aircraft, crew, passengers, cargo, mail and stores, by removing unnecessary obstacles and delays).

National Air Transport Facilitation Committee

Standard 8-19 (Annex 9):

(Each Contracting State shall establish a National Air Transport Facilitation Committee, and Airport Facilitation Committees as required, or similar coordinating bodies).

The importance of the national program for Air Transport Facilitation:

- * This program is a legal tool to achieve cooperation between all parties to the air transport industry.
- * The program identifies the responsibility for Civil Aviation Affairs facilitation in coordination with other government authorities, airport operators and aircraft operators both within its own jurisdiction, as well as to determine the responsibility of each party in order to avoid conflicts of competencies.
- * Avoid any unnecessary delays.

* Take appropriate decisions in a timely manner.

* Maintain a balance between security and facilitation to be the main priority for aviation security.

Note: There is no contradiction between the national programme for aviation security and the national Air Transport Facilitation program each has his own goals.

The contents of the program

Chapter 1 Definitions

Chapter 2 Legislation

Chapter 3 Bodies responsible for the implementation

Chapter 4 Facilitation of passports - Immigration

Chapter 5 Facilitation relating to customs

Chapter 6 Facilitation of international airports

Chapter 7 Facilitation of Airlines

Chapter 8 Facilitation of security

Chapter 9 Facilitation of public health and veterinary and agricultural quarantine

Chapter 10 Facilitation of Civil Aviation Affairs

Chapter 11 Program and National Air Transport Facilitation committee

Chapter 12 Attachments

Chapter 1: Definitions:

The definition of technical terms used in the program according to the specific meanings assigned to them in the annexes to the Chicago Convention, 1944.

Chapter 2: Legislation:

This chapter deals with the laws and regulations of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of Civil Aviation, including agreements in force.

Chapter 3: The Authorities Responsible for Implementation:

Chapter namely agencies responsible for the implementation of the program:

- Civil Aviation Affairs as the regulator of the sector and overseeing the application of national and International

regulations:

- Bahrain Airport Company (The operator of the airport)
- Ministry of Interior (Passports - Customs - police).
- Post
- Quarantine.
- Animals & Plants Quarantine
- Airlines.

Chapter 4 : Facilitation of passports and immigration :

This chapter deals with the procedures to be followed to ensure completing of the proceedings inside the international airports as soon as appropriate & required efficiency, including:

- * Acceptance of electronic documents.
- * A commitment to the goal of completing the inspection procedures for the purposes of the passport in 60 minutes for the aircraft to departure, 45 minutes for the Arrival.
- * Issuing machine readable passports , according to ICAO Document No. 9303 .
- * Simplified procedures for Visas .
- * Do not ask the crew visas.
- * Special procedures of inadmissible persons and deportees.
- * Facilitation of the entry of search and rescue teams .

Chapter 5: Facilitation on customs:

Chapter deals with the procedures to be followed to facilitate the entry of individuals and their luggage's, cargo and release of cargo imported consignments and clearance as well as spare parts and equipment for aircraft and materials used in the operation of aircraft.

Chapter 6: Facilitation of International Airports:

Chapter deals with facilitation to be followed in the international airport, and relevant to each of:

- The entry and departure of passengers and their luggage.
- Services related to the movement.
- Arrangements for the conduct of the movement at the airport.
- Aircraft parking.
- Passengers and crew members and luggage on departure and arrival.
- Passengers and crew members Transients and converters.
- Facilitation and services in the various terminals.
- Equipment for the handling of cargo and mail and clearance.
- Equipment of public health, quarantine, livestock and agricultural.
- Equipment replacement currency.
- Passengers who need special assistance (disabled)

Chapter 7: Facilitation of Airlines:

The procedures to be followed by the airlines to facilitate the movement of air transportation and cooperation with the airport and other stakeholders.

Chapter 8: Facilitation of security:

Facilitate arrival and departure of the aircraft:

- Passengers and their luggage.
- Luggage.
- Inadmissible persons.
- The implementation of all measures contained in the national aviation security program.

Chapter 9: facilitation, public health and veterinary quarantine:

All the necessary measures to facilitate the operations of air transport, including - vaccination certificates - health measures, etc.

Chapter 10: Civil Aviation Affairs and its role in air transport facilitation:

Chapter deals with the part of the Civil Aviation Affairs to facilitate the movement of air transport, especially:

- Issuance of aircraft permits.
- Inspection of the aircraft.
- Private airports.
- Supervisory and coordinating role of the Civil Aviation Affairs.
- The investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents.

Chapter 11 : Programs and national facilitation committees:

Chapter pointed to the legal reference for the need of the establishment of the National and Airport Facilitation Committees.

Conclusion

1. The national air transport facilitation program is one of the international requirements to be implemented under Chapter 8 of Annex 9 to Chicago Convention, 1944.
2. The program is an important tool to achieve the coordination and cooperation between all government and non-governmental organizations.
3. Failure to adopt the program will be a weak point in any Aviation Security audit.

4. The program is considered an important mechanism for achieving a balance between security and facilitation and identifies the roles and responsibilities of each party.

5. The National Facilitation Committee will have an important role to play in facilitating the movement of air transport and the simplification of procedures.

Thank You